

### January 2025 From the Desk of The Rev. Joe Pierjok

## Epiphany: A Season of Revelation and Light

Dear Beloved of Grace,

As we move from the celebrations of Christmas into the season of Epiphany, we find ourselves in a time of revelation, of seeing God's light in the world in new and transformative ways. Epiphany begins with the visit of the Magi, those wise travelers from the East, who followed a distant star to the Christ child. Their journey reminds us that seeking God often leads us on paths we might not expect, but that our willingness to follow that light can reveal the divine in surprising and powerful ways.

The word "epiphany" itself means "a manifestation" or "a showing forth." During this season, we are invited to consider how Christ is revealed to the world—not just in ancient times, but here and now, in our lives and in our world today. Each of us is called to be attentive to the presence of Christ in our midst, to recognize Him in places we may have previously overlooked. The challenge and beauty of Epiphany lie in opening ourselves to see beyond our everyday assumptions, to seek God's light in all people and situations.

As we journey through these weeks of Epiphany, I invite you to reflect on where God might be revealing something new to you. Is there a relationship in need of healing or renewal? A sense of calling or service that you feel nudged to explore? Or perhaps there is a place of darkness in the world that you are called to touch with compassion and love. Remember, the light that led the Magi to Jesus continues to shine for us, beckoning us to draw closer to God and to one another.

May this season be a time of deepened awareness, as we recognize God's presence and seek to reflect His light to those around us. Together, let us embrace the journey of Epiphany, welcoming the newness and wonder it brings into our hearts and into the world.

Blessings of light and revelation to you all,

Fr. Joe Pierjok+



# JANUARY <u>BIRTHDAYS</u>

- 1 Jennifer Lopez 2 Bill Phelps
- 3 Santos Lopez, Rev Joe Pierjok
- 4 Sarah Miles
- 5 Susan Bewick, Walker Lasley, Logan McGinnis, Viviana Tolle
- 6 Miao Miao Nelson, Claude Newport, Mike Robertson Sr, Sydney Harlin, Trenton Lynch
- 7 Barbara McPheeters, Amy Taylor, Barrett Cook, Lincoln Cook
- 8 Micah Grigsby, Victor Mora
- 9 Nancy Adams
- 10 Suzanne Baucom, Charlie Rogers, Jackson Slates
- 11 Dr Rich Williams
- 12 Mason Anderson, Mercedes Palma
- 13 Bill Wilson
- 14 Idell Looney, Edie Snow
- 15 Amelia Mertens 16 Owen Hess
- 17 Tracy Wilkowski, Alexis Slates, Knox Thompson, Maura Thompson
- 20 Lochlan Saiz
- 21 Taylor Grimes, Jack Slates, Joe Artym 23 Jay Lanham
- 24 Jim Seitz, Wyatt Hettinger

26 Raylan Grigsby 27 Marilyn Kelley 29 Jane Platt

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Bob & Susan Young
- 4 Loren & Glenda Erwin
- 8 Austin & Jennifer Rhymer
- 10 Mark & Suzanne Baucom
- 13 Steve & Debi Crandall Derek & Kame Metcalf

# **VESTRY**

The Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church met on Tuesday, December 17th. Reports were heard and received from Fr. Joe, Fr. Collin, Austin Rhymer, Junior Warden, and Larry McGuire, Treasurer. Mr. Rhymer noted that minor repairs are still underway around the church including the lighting in the back alley, and the wall repairs outside the restrooms off the Parish House. The carpet where the cabinets once were has been repaired. The Playground Committee has found options to consider for the replacement of the Tic-Tac-Toe rollers on the playground on the north end of the church grounds. This will be considered at the next vestry meeting. Two members of the Playground Committee have taken up the project of getting the backboard of the basketball hoop replaced. A bolt rusted through on the old one causing it to fall, and it is very clear that it needs total replacement. An update was given on the roof project. The project is underway, and by the time of you reading this article we expect it to be completely finished. The Vestry thanks the members of Grace for their flexibility during this time of construction. A member of this parish was voted on and approved to be nominated to the bishop to study for the vocational deaconate. The list of candidates running to be delegates was approved by the vestry and will be voted on at the January 18th Parish Annual Meeting . The Vestry voted on the assessment to the diocese. The assessment to the church will be \$65, 340. A decrease of \$2,465. The budget for 2025 was discussed, adjusted, and approved for consent at the Jan. 18th Annual Meeting.

### Update on 2024 budget:

At the end of November, the total YTD income was \$415,265.00 which includes pledge, nonpledge, bequests, and special offerings with total YTD expenses being \$506,779.00 resulting in a deficit of \$91,514.00. At the end of November, we budgeted for a deficit of \$59,346.00, therefore the church is \$32,168.00 behind budget.

### The PARISH PRAYER LIST

St Luke's: Ann Carter, Tom Huntley Oak Pointe: Richard Goolsby, 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 McPheeters, Gregg Vinson, Steve Wampler, Tracy Wilkowski, Vincent Wilkowski, Bill Wilson

*Current:* George Bates, David & Amanda Evans, Audrey Goolsby, Cecil Howard, Howard Family, Jim Hunter, Dennis Lane, Donald Manka, Maynard Mitchell, Gene Mitchell, Jane Mitchell, Gina Oehlschlager, Kristi Ogle, Mannie Orr, Connie Orr, Lauren Petticrew, Patsy Piercy, Caleb Porter, Suzy Seim, Michael Sparks, Carolyn Wyatt

Seminarian, Jory Mertens

## SAVE the DATE

TEA & THEE LADIES FELLOWSHIP Every Wed, 10 am

**BIBLE STUDY** <u>Every Thurs, 11 am</u> In-person or via Zoom

<u>QUILTERS</u> Every Thurs, noon

## FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP Every Thurs, 3 pm

Pull up a chair and make new friends!

### MEN of GRACE FELLOWSHIP 1st & 3rd Sat, Jan 4 & 18, 9 am

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

KNITTERS Second & Fourth Tues, Jan 14 & 28, <u>6 pm</u>

CAREGIVERS Third Tues, Jan 21, 2 pm

VESTRY <u>Third Tues, Jan 21, 5:30 pm</u>

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Jan 1: Offices Closed; Mass 6 pm; NO Youth Groups Jan 4: Deanery Meeting, Ozark MO 11am Jan 11: Happening for Youth; Women's Bible Study at Beth Kangs 10:30 am Jan 17: Celebration of Life, Hans Ytell 4—6 pm Jan 18: Annual Meeting 10 am El Nombre de Jesus.

Si alguna vez un nombre tuvo importancia, es el nombre de *Jesús*. La Escritura dice que Jesús ha recibido "un nombre que es sobre todo nombre, para que en el nombre de Jesús se doble toda rodilla de los que están en los cielos, y en la tierra, y debajo de la tierra" (<u>Filipenses 2:9-10</u>). ¿Por qué es tan poderoso el nombre de nuestro Señor? ¿Qué significa el nombre de *Jesús*?

El nombre *Jesús*, que fue anunciado a José y María por medio de los ángeles (<u>Mateo</u> <u>1:21; Lucas 1:31</u>), significa "Yahvé salva" o "Yahvé es la salvación". Traducido del hebreo y el arameo, el nombre es *Yeshua*. Esta palabra es una combinación de *Ya*, una abreviatura de *Yahvé*, el nombre del Dios de Israel (<u>Éxodo 3:14</u>); y el verbo *yasha*, que significa "rescatar", "liberar" o "salvar".

El nombre de *Jesús* era bastante popular en la Judea del siglo primero. Por esta razón, a nuestro Señor frecuentemente se le llamaba "Jesús de Nazaret", diferenciándolo de su casa natal, la ciudad de Nazaret en Galilea (<u>Mateo 21:11, Marcos 1:24, Lucas 18:37, Juan 1:45, Juan 19:19, Hechos 2:22</u>). A pesar de lo común, el nombre *Jesús* es muy significativo. Jesús fue enviado por Dios para un propósito particular, y Su nombre personal da testimonio de esa misión. Así como el Yeshua/Joshua en el Antiguo Testamento llevó a su pueblo a la victoria sobre los <u>cananeos</u>, el Yeshua/Jesús en el Nuevo Testamento llevó a Su pueblo a la <u>victoria sobre el pecado</u> y sus enemigos espirituales.

<u>Gálatas 4:4-5</u> dice, "Pero cuando vino el cumplimiento del tiempo, Dios envió a su Hijo, nacido de mujer y nacido bajo la ley, para que redimiese a los que estaban bajo la ley, a fin de que recibiésemos la adopción de hijos". Dios envió a Jesús para salvarnos (Juan 3:17). El significado del nombre de Jesús — "Yahvé salva" — revela su misión (salvar y liberar) y Su identidad como Salvador del mundo. Al mismo tiempo, el carácter común del nombre de Jesús subraya su humanidad y humildad. El Hijo de Dios se despojó de Su gloria para convertirse en un hombre humilde (Filipenses 2:6-8).

El nombre de Jesús es importante por su significado y por quién representa. Hay poder y autoridad en la persona de Cristo Jesús, y, por supuesto, la *persona* es designada por el *nombre*. Más que con otros nombres, asociamos el nombre de Jesús con Su carácter distintivo, Su calidad y Su obra, como se ve en las siguientes verdades bíblicas: La salvación es sólo en el nombre de Jesús: "Este Jesús es la piedra reprobada por no-sotros los edificadores, la cual ha venido a ser cabeza del ángulo. Y en ningún otro hay salvación; porque no hay otro nombre bajo el cielo, dado a los hombres, en que podamos ser salvos" (Hechos 4:11-12; véase también Juan 14:6; 20:31; Hechos 2:21; Joel 2:32; 1 Corintios 6:11; 1 Juan 2:12). 2024 was a busy year for Grace Church and 2025 is shaping up to be just as full! The following is a rundown of the calendar as it pertains to Youth and Education at Grace Church. I have also included a shoutout from Madi Kyger, Youth Group Volunteer, highlighting a couple of youth events.

On January 1<sup>st</sup> there will be no youth group, and the church offices will be closed. There will still be a 6pm Mass that evening. Wednesday nights return to our "normal" routine of Mass and Youth Group on the 8th. Beginning in February there will be an Adult Book Study group offered on Wednesdays. The book buying and corresponding sign-up sheet will be available to consider beginning in January, be on the lookout for that on the sign-up table. In March we will enter the season of Lent, Fr. Joe and I are working with the clergy of St. Philips, Joplin, for a special join Lenten Series, stay tuned for more details to come! On March 19th there will be no youth group because of Spring Break, and on April 16th there will be no youth group due to Holy Week services taking place. Looking to May we have our Senior Recognition and Youth Sunday on the 4th and the following week of the 11<sup>th</sup> will be the last Sunday School until summer break ends. May 14th will be the last youth group meeting before summer break. As dates change or more events are added the parish will be notified as soon as information is available. We are looking forward to yet another strong calendar year at Grace Church!

Fr. Collin

From Madi Kyger, Youth Group

Grace is hosting the Diocesan Youth event known as Happening. Happening #80 will be January 10th through 12th, here at Grace and Stephanie Palma will be the 'rector'! Cost is \$25\* and is open to youth in grades 9-12. College age and adults are also welcome to go through Happening. If you have been through a Happening and would like to help with Caritas or on Saturday evening, please contact Madi to work out details.

# \*if you can't afford the registration fee, please let Madi, Fr. Collin, or Fr. Joe know.

Register for Happening #80 here! <u>https://wemoyouth.diowestmo.org/</u> <u>happening/</u>

And finally, in February, we will have our annual dinner theater. Many of our youth are in the play, but we ask that those who aren't volunteer for a minimum of one night (there are four nights over 2 weekends). The dates are Feb 14th & 15th, and Feb. 21st & 22nd. Here is a link to sign up for nights you can work. If they change, please email or text Madi to let us know. <u>https://forms.gle/PWyDmVtUgpudF14y8</u>

Madi Kyger (madagaskar2006mk@gmail.com / 417-388-2349)

### MINISTERS of WORSHIP: JANUARY

Wed. Jan 1: 6 pm Reader: A. J. Rhymer Chalice: Austin Rhymer Sacristan: Fri, Jan 3: 10 am Reader: Zelma Watts Server: Mark Jones Sacristan: Sue Neely Sat, Jan 4: 9 am Sacristan: Jeanie <u>5 pm</u> Reader: Michael Goolsby Chalice: Michael Goolsby Sacristan: Jeanie **II CHRISTMAS** Sun, Jan 5: 8 am Reader: Shirley Gollhofer Prayers: Ashley Rouse Chalice/Server: Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer **II CHRISTMAS** Sun, Dec 5: 10:30 am OT: Barbara Mountjoy *NT/Chalice*: Elaine Wurst Prayers/Chalice: Mark Sponaugle Mentor: Tracy Wilkowski Server: Connor Wilkowski Cross: Owen Hess Torches: Elizabeth Frink & Allie Rhymer Sacristan: Debby Orr AV: Jennifer Rhymer Ushers: Larry & Ruth Hartman Flower Delivery: Gloria Gubser & Peggy Ralston Wed, Jan 8: 6 pm Reader/Chalice: Jory Mertens Sacristan: Zelma Watts

Fri, Jan 10: 10 am Reader: Carole Pryor Server: Mark Jones Sacristan: Sue Neely Sat, Jan 11: 9 am Sacristan: Debby Orr <u>5 pm</u> Reader/Chalice: Bill Putnam Sacristan: Jeanie Slates **I EPIPHANY** Sun, Jan 12: 8 am Reader: Ashley Rouse Chalice / Server: Prayers: Shirley Gollhofer Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer **I EPIPHANY** Jan 12: 10:30 am OT: Paige Rhymer NT: Michelle Theerman Chalice: AJ Rhymer Prayers/Chalice: Chuck Edds Mentor: Jennifer Rhymer Cross: Allie Rhymer Server: Brooklyn Rhymer *Torches:* Peyton Lynch & Carson Stremke Sacristan: Jennifer Rhymer AV: Elisa White & Alana Harris Ushers: Max Hill & Steve Erwin Flower Delivery: Zelma Watts & Julie Anderson Wed, Jan 15: 6 pm Reader/Chalice: Jon Haffner Sacristan: Debby Orr

Fri, Jan 17: 10 am Sacristan: Sue Neely Reader: Zelma Watts Server: Mark Jones <u>Sat, Jan 18: 9 am</u> Sacristan: Debby Orr <u>5 pm</u> *Reader/Chalice:* Michael Goolsby Sacristan: Debby Orr **II EPIPHANY** Sun, Jan 19: 8 am Reader: Shirley Gollhofer Chalice: Prayers: Mark Sponaugle Server: Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer **II EPIPHANY** Jan 19: 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 & Zach Hess Sacristan: Debby Orr AV: Jim Wakefield & Allie Rhymer Flower Delivery: Diann Ferguson & Cathy Thompson Wed, Jan 22: 6 pm Reader: Regina Newport Chalice: A. J. Rhymer Sacristan: Zelma Watts

Fri, Jan 24: 10 am Sacristan: Sue Neely Reader: Carole Pryor Server: Mark Jones <u>Sat, Jan 25: 9 am</u> Sacristan: Jeanie Slates <u>5 pm</u> Reader/Chalice: Bill Putnam Sacristan: Jeanie Slates **III EPIPHANY** Jan 26: 8 am Reader/Prayers: Ashley Rouse Chalice / Server: Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer **III EPIPHANY** Jan 26: 10:30am OT: Michelle Theerman NT: Nic Smith Chalice: Jennifer Rhymer *Prayers/Chalice:* Andy Lynch Mentor: Elaine Wurst *Server:* Trenton Lynch Cross: Walker Lasley *Torches:* Peyton Lynch & Carson Stremke Ushers: Jim Wakefield & Allie Rhymer Sacristan: Jennifer Rhymer AV: Mike Robertson & Brooklyn Rhymer Flower Delivery: <u>Wed, Jan 29: 6 pm</u> Reader/Chalice: Jory Mertens Sacristan: Zelma Watts Fri, Jan 31: 10 am Sacristan: Sue Neely Reader: Zelma Watts Server: Mark Jones

### **OLDE WORLD MARKET**

Grace Church, you did it again - you made our Olde World Market another tremendous success! There are so many moving parts to this project! We want to offer our sincere thanks to all those that made it happen: the vendors, those that donated money for wine, food or auction/ raffle items, the movers, the cooks and servers, those that placed and picked up our signs, the Men of Grace for a delicious lunch and their continued support, those that attended the Gala and came to shop on Saturday, those that handled ticket and raffle sales, and our clergy, our organizers and the Carthage community. Our teachers and students in Haiti also thank you!

The Haiti Committee

### WOMEN of the BIBLE, Session #3

Saturday, January 11, 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Women of the parish are welcome to join! Location will be at the Kang Household 716 Belle Aire Place, Carthage, MO 64836. Session will include light refreshments, informal discussion, and visiting. Please let Beth Kang know the woman (or two) you picked up to discuss - Call or Text Beth on her cell phone 916.494.8359 or email at <u>kang.beth@gmail.com</u> to RSVP.

# <u>ANNUAL MEETING</u> Sat, JAN 18, 2025, Parish Hall <u>10 am—1 pm Ministry Fair & Light Lunch</u>

Four new vestry members will be elected for 2025. The four member's pictures and bio are on the opposite page. Cindy Chilton, Austin Rhymer, Mark Sponaugle and Zelma Watts are the outgoing members. Be sure and let them know how much we appreciate them representing us this last year (2024)









### Clifton Kester

I've been a member of Grace for over 30 years. My wife Emily, sons Elliott, Owen and I attend Wednesday nights and Sunday's 10:30 service. Our boys are starting to get active with the Wednesday night youth while we enjoy the camaraderie of our good friends Jon and Serena. Grace means family and tradition, from our grandparents setting the stage to visiting Taize, France with Father Steve. Serving on vestry will assist me with giving back to what has been given to my family.

### Jennifer Rhymer

I grew up attending Grace Church. We left when we moved to Monett in 2004 but came back in 2017. I am proud to call Grace our home. What I love about Grace is the community and all the opportunities to serve. We attend the 10:30 service on Sundays as well as the Wednesday evening services. I am part of the youth group mentor team for the Jr. and Sr. High and have been a convention delegate for the past three years. I enjoy serving in many different aspects and look forward to representing you on

### Amanda Smith

I have been a member of Grace Episcopal Church all of my life. I am the 4th generation in my family to attend Grace. I attend the 10:30 service on Sundays with my husband Nic and my dad Steve Erwin. Grace has been a place of hope, peace and community throughout my life. I want to serve on vestry to give back to the church and community that mean so much to me.

### Michelle Theerman

I have attended Grace for a little over 2 years & was confirmed December 2023. I attend Sunday 1030 service as I am part of the choir. I enjoy cooking & crafts so I look for opportunities to participate in those areas of service. Grace to me is a place where all are welcome. I look forward to helping direct growth and participate more in the wonderful outreach projects of Grace.

# DAILY READINGS in JANUARY 2025

Wed, Jan 1: Numbers 6:22-27, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:15-21 Thurs, Jan 2: Genesis 12:1-7, Hebrews 11:1-12, John 6:35-42, 48-51 Fri, Jan 3: Genesis 28:10-22, Hebrews 11:13-22, John 10:7-17 Sat, Jan 4: Exodus 3:1-12, Hebrews 11:23-31, John 14:6-14 II CHRISTMAS, Sun, Jan 5: Jeremiah 31:7-14, Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a, Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 Mon, Jan 6: Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12 Tues, Jan 7: Isaiah 52:3-6, Revelation 2:1-7, John 2:1-11 Wed, Jan 8: Isaiah 59:15-21, Revelation 2:8-17, John 4:46-54 Thurs, Jan 9: Isaiah 63:1-5, Revelation 2:18-29, John 5:1-15 Fri, Jan 10: Isaiah 65:1-9, Revelation 3:1-6, John 6:1-14 Sat, Jan 11: Isaiah 65:13-16, Revelation 3:7-13, John 6:15-27 I EPIPHANY, Sun, Jan 12: Isaiah 43:1-7, Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 Mon, Jan 13: Isaiah 40:12-23, Ephesians 1:1-14, Mark 1:1-13 Tues, Jan 14: Isaiah 40:25-31, Ephesians 1:15-23, Mark 1:14-28 Wed, Jan 15: Isaiah 41:1-16, Ephesians 2:1-10, Mark 1:29-45 Thurs, Jan 16: Isaiah 41:17-29, Ephesians 2:11-22, Mark 2:1-12 Fri, Jan 17: Isaiah 42: 1-17, Ephesians 3:1-13, Mark 2:13-22 Sat, Jan 18: Acts 4:8-13, I Peter 5:1-4, Matthew 16:13-19 II EPIPHANY, Sun, Jan 19: Isaiah 62:1-5, I Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11 Mon, Jan 20: Isaiah 44:6-8, 21-23, Ephesians 4:1-16, Mark 3:7-19a Tues, Jan 21: Isaiah 44:9-20, Ephesians 4:17-32, Mark 3:19b-35 Wed, Jan 22: Isaiah 44:24-45:7, Ephesians 5:1-14, Mark 4:1-20 Thurs, Jan 23: Isaiah 45:5-17, Ephesians 5:15-33, Mark 4:21-34 Fri, Jan 24: Isaiah 45:18-25, Ephesians 6:1-9, Mark 4:35-41 Sat, Jan 25: Acts 26:9-21, Galatians 1:11-24, Matthew 10:16-22 III EPIPHANY, Sun, Jan 26: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, I Corinthians 12:12-31a, Luke 4:14-21 Mon, Jan 27: Isaiah 48:1-11, Galatians 1:1-17, Mark 5:21-43 Tues, Jan 28: Isaiah 48:12-21, Galatians 1:18-2:10, Mark 6:1-13 Wed, Jan 29: Isaiah 49:1-12, Galatians 2:11-21, Mark 6:13-29 Thurs, Jan 30: Isaiah 49:13-23, Galatians 3:1-14, Mark 6:30-46

Fri, Jan 31: Isaiah 50:1-11, Galatians 3:15-22, Mark 6:47-56

