

LO & BEHOLD

NOVEMBER 2009

Upcoming Worship Services

Grace Church's
5 pm **Taize Holy Eucharist**
will not be held on

Sunday, November 22 and Sunday, November 29
so that Grace Church can participate fully
in the following Community Worship Services

Paducah Cooperative Ministry's **Annual Community Thanksgiving Service**



Sunday Evening

November 22

6:30 p.m.

Hosted by

Temple Israel

333 Joe Clifton Drive

*An interfaith celebration of
unity, joy and thanksgiving.*

Please join us!

Journey to the Manger *on the 32nd Annual*

Advent Walk

Sunday, November 29

2:00 p.m.

beginning at St. Francis de Sales at 6th and Broadway



Advent is a season of preparing for the celebration of Christ's presence and we walk together in ecumenical celebration, journeying toward the manger, in anticipation of His joyous arrival. Join us at 2:00 PM on Sunday, November 29, as we gather with our downtown neighbors for the 32nd Annual Advent Walk. This progressive service will begin at St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church, then process to First Presbyterian, Broadway Methodist, Grace

Episcopal, and Washington Street Missionary Baptist. Washington Street will host a reception following the service.

Order Your Poinsettias



It's time to start thinking about reserving poinsettias for the Christmas services. If you would like to order a poinsettia in thanksgiving or in memorial, please fill out an order form found on the board next to the Vesting Room or contact the church office. the cost for poinsettias is \$18, and the deadline for ordering is Thursday December 17.

Christmas Pageant Sign-up Today



The Christmas Pageant is just around the corner and we need **CAST MEMBERS!** Please let us know if your children will be participating in the show (to be presented at the 4:00 Christmas Eve service). We are hoping to get a preliminary count for casting purposes. Rehearsals will be after church during Sunday School time on the first 3 Sundays in December. The script is set, the costumes are ready, the set is built. We just need **YOU!** The sign up sheet is in Fletcher Hall.

A Letter from Ellen

Dear Grace Church,

I began my ministry here at Grace June 1st 2006. Per and I left Virginia Theological seminary and headed straight for western Kentucky. I was as fresh and green as they come. Whether you know it or not, since then you have been forming me as a priest and pastor in ways that will impact my ministry 30 years from now. One of the great gifts Grace has given me is the chance to create new ministries like Pub Theology and the Evening Taíze Service. Thank you for giving me opportunities to stretch myself and minister here at Grace.

As many of you know, in 2008 I entered the Shalem spiritual direction program and have been practicing Spiritual Direction here ever since. In recent months I have been feeling a yearning to increase my skills and receive training to become a therapist. The Louisville Presbyterian Seminary offers a program where one can receive their Doctor of Ministry degree (D.Min) while also receiving training and education to become a Marriage and Family therapist. I applied to this program and was accepted. I already have my first paper due December 28th.

As many of you know, I have been involved in three different ministry contexts. I have also been serving Trinity and St. Paul's Episcopal Church as their vicar. Unfortunately I am not able to continue full time parish ministry while pursuing my education. Therefore I am officially resigning from Grace as assistant rector, but will continue my presence here as a spiritual director. Per and I will remain here in Paducah, as I pursue my degree.

I grieve at not being able to continue my ministry here at Grace, but I have also come to realize that there is not enough time in the day to do all that I wish to do. I look forward to continuing my presence here as a spiritual director. Thank you for all the support and encouragement you have given me these past few years. I am excited to watch Grace Church continue to grow and thrive in the love of Jesus Christ.

God's Peace,
The Rev. Ellen Ekevag

The next Vergers Breakfast will be on December 13 in honor of Ellen's ministry at Grace.

Three Reasons for Rejoicing

Most often when we offer walk-in assistance, we never hear how things turn out. This month, however, we've had the pleasure of knowing that the small boost we were able to offer made a difference for three people. Listen to their stories and rejoice that Grace Church is here not only for its members, but for all God's children.

Last Sunday a grocery bag containing a hymnal and a prayer book appeared on the church's front porch. The accompanying note said, "I borrowed these in a time of need several years ago. Unfortunately, one was damaged. I have replaced it and hope it is sufficient. I apologize for keeping them so long." Rejoice that the words of the prayer book and hymnal comforted this stranger and that she cared enough to return them.

During the coldest week so far this fall, a couple of newcomers to Paducah came by. They were trying to set up housekeeping and had not been able to pay the deposit to turn on the gas heat in their apartment. They had searched in vain for an inexpensive electric heater. Both were shivering and sick with colds. While they warmed up in our kitchen with hot cups of coffee, we made a few calls to verify their story, then offered them one of the space heaters we use occasionally to supplement the heat in the library. They gratefully and promised to return the heater as soon as their situation improved. Sure enough, a couple of weeks later they came through the door again smiling broadly and carrying the heater. I'm not sure whether the heater, the conversation, or the dignity with which they were treated was the most important gift we offered. When they were almost at the end of their coping skills, Grace Church was here for them. Rejoice that they found warmth within our walls.

One Tuesday morning, we met a young man living in his broken-down van because of a multitude of problems. His mother, an Episcopalian in another state, suggested he come to Grace for help. Several of our staff members and their spouses helped the young man get his van repaired, find shelter space, and engage in a bit of problem-solving. His mother's church sent some money which we disbursed for gas. Several weeks later, this young man still has much to work out, but he has found a job and affordable housing. Rejoice that his life is back on the right track because Grace Church took time to pay attention.

"What difference would it make if Grace Church ceased to exist?" For these three individuals and for the frantic mother trying to help her son from a thousand miles away, the answer is clear.

Libby+

Acolytes...Respect

At a recent meeting of Acolyte/Youth Group parents, one parent mentioned that when a member of the congregation reprimands an acolyte following the service, the criticism can be humiliating and leave lasting effects on the acolyte's self esteem. PLEASE understand that most of our acolytes are children. They are learning, and they are struggling to understand how to help the clergy and serve God at the altar. I don't believe the same admonishments are handed out when a layreader mispronounces a word or a soloist hits a wrong note. Please tell our young people what they do RIGHT, and let your adult acolyte leaders guide them at the APPROPRIATE time when they make a mistake. I thank God that our children are willing to serve, that they are interested in learning the liturgy of our church, and that they attend Grace Church faithfully. God knows that they are trying.

– Julie Jaeger

Acolyte Christmas Candle Sale

Let your light shine!! Acolytes will sell Christmas candles again this year. The sale will begin on December 13th during the Vergers Breakfast and following the 9:45 service. Proceeds from the sale of the candles will be donated to a charity of the acolytes' choosing.

Tacos and Candles



Calling all acolytes! Please meet in the Parish Hall after the 9:45 service on December 6. We will enjoy some tacos and assemble our Christmas Candles for the Acolyte Advent Fundraiser. Please see the ballot box

in the Vesting Room to vote on where you'd like to donate the proceeds!

Genealogy Class Coming in December

Grace Church's resident expert in genealogy, Stefan Jagoe, will offer a three week series on finding your family roots on Thursday evenings, December 3, 10, and 17. He will be joined by the Rev. Libby Wade, who will offer brief reflections on the genealogies of Jesus found in the opening chapters of Matthew and Luke. We will meet in the Adult Library at 6:00 p.m. Stefan and Libby expect this class to be lively and illuminating. Please join us!

Godly Play Workshop

Wednesday, November 18, 5:15 p.m.

Grace Church Parish Hall

**Workshop Leader: The Rev. Lois Howard,
Certified Godly Play Trainer &
Deacon in the Diocese of Lexington**

Godly Play is a deeply spiritual and highly creative approach to Christian education for young children. Drawing on techniques and principles of Montessori education, Godly Play teaches children the art of using religious language – parable, sacred story, silence and liturgical action – helping them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives. The method employs specific visual, tactile objects to draw listeners more deeply into a wide selection of carefully told Bible stories. The Rev. Lois Howard is an experienced Godly Play leader who has studied with the Rev. Jerome Berryman, the Episcopal priest and teacher who developed Godly Play in this country. A letter has gone out to all parents of 2-6 year olds in this congregation, but we also want to extend the invitation to attend this workshop to anyone who is interested in knowing more about Godly Play. Child care will be provided if requested and supper will be served. We believe you will be deeply moved by Lois Howard's telling of one or two Godly Play stories and we would like to share with you our plans for Godly Play as part of the Sunday night worship services in Advent and our hope to begin a Godly Play classroom for 3-6 year olds at Grace Church in 2010. Please reserve your spot for supper and/or child care by e-mailing Libby (libby_wade@yahoo.com) or calling the church office by Monday, November 16.

-- Will Black & Libby Wade

Good News Time for Young Children

Thanks to Janie Harris, Grace Pittard, and Emily Williams for volunteering to lead Good News Time in November. Volunteers are desperately needed if this special time for children during the sermon time of the 9:45 a.m. service is to continue. If you can give one or more Sundays, please sign up on the center table in Fletcher Hall.



Thanks to Volunteers

- ...Elizabeth Dorsey has been updating the "apples" with children's names in the Treehouse Library and has agreed to be our new Treehouse Library Coordinator.
- ...Genie Drossos, Phil Counts, and Carl Harris have agreed to be our Fall Stewardship Team.
- ...Johnny Ross is the chair of the Vestry Nominating Committee which is composed of outgoing vestry members Henry Barbour, Gerry Gutfreund, Justin Hancock, and Carol Ann Narozniak.
- ...Maurie McGarvey is a new member of the Personnel Committee.

Upcoming Advent/Christmas Events



Decorating the Chrismon Tree, Nov. 29, after the services

The Chrismon Tree will be up and the lights will be on, but we'll need your help putting the Chrismons on the tree so it's fully decorated in time for the Advent Walk that afternoon. All are invited to stay after the services on November 29 to put a couple of Chrismons on the tree.

Christmas Parade, Dec. 5, 5:00 pm

Paducah's Annual Christmas Parade will begin working its way up Broadway at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 5. The church lot is a great place to park and the front steps of the church are a great place to watch the festivities. We'll have coffee and hot chocolate. Come join us!



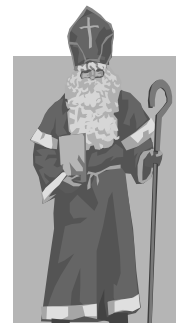
Giving Tree, Dec. 6, during the services

The Chrismon Tree is absolutely gorgeous with its lights and sparkly ornaments; however, the most beautiful tree in the church on Sunday, December 7, will be our naked Giving Tree. On that Sunday a small tree in the church will be decorated with ornaments containing the wishes of folks from the PCM Shelter. Help them by taking an ornament and buying a couple of gifts to help make their holiday a little brighter. Of course, our goal is to completely "undecorate" the Giving Tree, and in this instance, a bare tree speaks volumes about the grace of the Spirit in the midst of the bustle of the Christmas season. The gifts will be given to the residents at the "PCM Night at the Movies" on Tuesday, December 21 (see article on page 5).



St. Nicholas Sunday, Dec. 6, during the the 9:45 AM service

On Sunday, December 6, we will celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas. Despite his busy schedule this time of year, Bishop Nicholas always saves a little time to visit us during the 9:45 service. He always likes to remind us that he strives to model his life after Jesus', and so, he has dedicated himself to giving gifts so that others may be better off. One custom says that children who leave their shoes out on St. Nicholas Day might find a treat in them later, so all kids are reminded to leave their shoes in the Langstaff Room before coming into church on Sunday -- St. Nicholas might just leave a little surprise in them for you.



Lessons & Carols, Dec. 6, at the 9:45 AM service

This service is surely aptly named...it is simply a service of Lessons & Carols. The first recorded Lessons & Carols service was held in 1880 at Truro Cathedral in England, created by the first bishop of that cathedral, the Rt. Rev. Edward White Benson, and has grown so popular that many Anglican/Episcopal churches throughout the Communion celebrate it during Advent. Simply stated, it is a service of nine scripture lessons, each followed by a carol, with each lesson and carol specifically chosen to speak toward the promises of God, the words of the prophets, and the advent of a Messiah.





Chrismon Sunday, Dec. 20, during the 9:45 AM service

On Sunday, December 20, we will celebrate Chrismon Sunday. It is a long standing tradition at Grace to present the children of the congregation with a miniature Chrismon during Advent.

Hanging of the Greens, Dec. 20, following the 9:45 AM service

The Hanging of the Greens will take place on December 20 following the 9:45 service. Having observed the season of Advent, the church will be ready to be decorated for the celebration of Christmas. All are invited to stay and lend a hand.



PCM Night at the Movies, Dec. 21, 6:00 PM

We will once again hold our PCM Christmas Night at the Movies. We have rented out Maiden Alley Cinema for the night of Monday, December 21st, and will be showing a film (to be determined), free of charge, for the PCM shelter residents and the PCM staff and their families. Popcorn, candy, and soda for everybody too!

There will be plenty of volunteer opportunities for Grace Church folks that evening not to mention the fact that we want Grace Church to come to the movie as well. If you have any suggestions for movies we should show that evening or ideas to make the night extra-special for the PCM folks, please give Matt a call in the office.



Christmas Pageant, Dec. 24, 4:00 PM



The pageant is one of our oldest parish family traditions, and we are all looking forward to it once again. Our retelling of the story is always filled with memorable moments! Rehearsals for the pageant start on Sunday, Dec. 6, during Christian Education time following the 9:45 service.

All those interested in being in the pageant are asked to sign up in Fletcher Hall or call the church office. All who have signed up to be in the pageant are asked to be at rehearsal. The Pageant with Holy Eucharist will be held on December 24, at 4:00 PM.

Christmas Eve Carol Concert

featuring the Grace Church Choir

December 24 at 10:45 PM

Followed by the

Festival Eucharist

at 11:15 PM



Voices from the Past—A Look at Grace Church's History

[Last month focused on the first records of Episcopal activity in Paducah beginning with Bishop Smith's visit in 1834 and ending with the departure of the Rev. Francis Nash in 1838 and the destruction by fire of the Paducah business district shortly thereafter. We now pick up the story eight years later.]

In 1846 the Rev. Nathaniel Newlin Cowgill came to Paducah from Hickman and set about organizing a parish. Taking L. M. Flournoy with him as lay representative, at the annual convention Mr. Cowgill asked for union with the diocese. There were then two communicants. By 1850, there were 20 communicants and the Rev. Caleb Dow had become Paducah's first Episcopal rector in residence. By the time the Rev. W. W. Dodge succeeded him in 1852, Grace Church had acquired a rectory for the priest's residence.

The Rev. Cowgill had formed the congregation at a meeting held in the home of Adam Rankin, at which there appears to have been some discussion of plans for a future church building. Services were held for some years in the McCracken County Court House, but on March 27, 1850 a lot was purchased on the west side of Market (now Second) Street between Washington and Clark, and by April 27, 1851, the first church had been built, paid for and consecrated.

"This building, which was built in Louisville and sent down the river by boat, was 30 by 60 feet," Fred G. Neuman related in his "Story of Paducah." The windows were diamond shaped and beautifully colored by Gen Lloyd Tilghman, who was a member...

"During the Civil War the Federal troops used the church as a hospital, the rector, the Rev. Thomas Pickett, meanwhile having cast his lot with the South. To make room for hospital cots it was necessary to put the plain little wooden benches in the yard, where army mules 'sharpened their teeth' upon their crude backs. The rectory adjoining the church became quarters for doctors and nurses.

"At the close of the war," Neuman continues, "the dilapidated building was returned to the congregation, now a scattered remnant. The benches were brought in and the congregation prepared for the first Easter services in three years....Women were decorating the neglected interior with a profusion of apple and cherry blossoms when the clatter of hoofs and the arrival of soldiers stopped them. They were told that President Abraham Lincoln had been assassinated and black draperies would have to be substituted. Whereupon trembling hands laid crepe over the gay colors." [adapted from the Centennial Celebration Booklet prepared by Mrs. Jack Shadle and Dr. Clark Hall in 1973] *Next month hear the story of Grace Church's move to its present location and the cholera epidemic of 1873.*

"Homelessness: A Little Problem"

**Homeless Awareness Forum at City Hall
Monday, November 16, 1:00 pm**

Governor Beshear has proclaimed the week of November 15-21 as Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week in Kentucky. On November 16, Mayor Bill Paxton will issue a similar proclamation for our city. The growing issue of hunger and homelessness in our region takes center stage at the Homeless Awareness Forum on Monday, November 16, 1:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. The forum will be presented by Paducah Cooperative Ministry's Homeless Advisory Council, joining hands with other community homeless services organizations in McCracken County to raise awareness of the startling homeless statistics being seen by these agencies. The Rev. Libby Wade chairs the Homeless Advisory Council and will welcome people to the Forum, which will include voices of people who have experienced homelessness, as well as statistics, agency displays, and ideas for action steps that might be taken by individuals, churches, or civic organizations. "Homelessness: A Small Problem," is the theme, underscoring the fact that families with young children are seen by many to be the fastest growing segment of the homeless population, both in the purchase region and nationwide.

Groceries for Good!

Coming up...Saturday, November 21

Please fill a grocery bag for your favorite Food Pantry at Super-Valu or Kroger Grocery Stores. Every little bit helps! Thank you!

**Grace PCM Food Pantry Item
for November/December is...
*PEANUT BUTTER!***

Baptism Dates

A number of people have expressed an interest in baptism for their children or grandchildren, but were not available on the dates originally published. If you or someone in your family would like to receive the sacrament of baptism, please speak with Libby Wade. It would be possible to schedule baptisms at one of our Wednesday services during Advent or on Sunday, December 20 or 27. The Feast of the Baptism of Jesus, which falls on Sunday, January 10, 2010 is also a traditional time for baptisms in our church.

Fundraising Update

The Special Offering for All Saints Center on Sunday, November 1 was \$1547. Thanks to Chris Black, Matt Jaeger, Roger Kellner, and Jim Wade who spoke about their experiences of All Saints and thanks to Grace Church parishioners for their generosity in financially supporting our diocesan camp and conference center.



Thanks to quizmaster Matt Jaeger for stumping, challenging, and intriguing us with trivia questions as 14 teams gathered in our parish hall for our first Trivia Night fundraiser. The room was filled with laughter as teams battled it out for the three top prizes of "dinner and a movie," as well as five door prizes. We appreciate those who played, those who contributed prizes, and those who brought the tantalizing snacks. In addition to enjoying a great evening of entertainment and camaraderie, we raised \$520 to support our general operating fund.

"Faces of Grace" 2010 Calendars are selling out almost as quickly as we can order them. To date, we have sold almost 100 calendars here at Grace. Bishop Gulick also placed an order for 75 calendars to be his Christmas gift to each of the clergy of the diocese. Calendars already ordered may be picked up this Sunday morning or from the church office Monday through Thursday. A limited number of calendars will be for sale in Fletcher Hall this Sunday and there is a sign-up list for new orders once the current supply has been exhausted. You may also order a calendar by calling the church office. Each beautiful calendar featuring faces from our stained glass windows costs \$15. They make wonderful gifts.

Our Kroger Gift Cards have passed the point at which we begin receiving a percentage. The income from that project should continue to provide a small monthly supplement to our general operating income. If you would like to purchase a card, please speak with Sherry Threlkeld on Sunday morning or during the week. Sherry is in the church office on Tuesdays and Thursdays most weeks. Cards cost \$5, but are preloaded with \$5 to spend at any Kroger and may be reloaded with any amount you choose at a Kroger service desk. The church receives a 5% rebate from purchases made with these cards. It's a win-win situation for everyone.

Financial Update

The financial status of Grace Church as of October 31, 2009 follows:

* Cash Flow

Revenues	\$321,680.21
Expenses	\$365,529.29

This results in a deficit of \$43,849.08 for the year to date.

* Budget Performance

Budgeted Revenues	\$370,944.50
Actual Revenues	\$321,680.21

This shows a shortfall of revenues of \$49,264.29 (13.3%) for the year to date.

* Expenses

Budgeted Expenses	\$381,464.60
Actual Expenses	\$365,529.29

This results in actual expenses being \$15,935 (4.2%) under budget for the year to date.

Please make an effort to keep your pledge/commitment to the church up to date so we can improve our financial status in revenues by the end of the year. Any questions...call Ken Schuppert, Treasurer.

Office Hours

Since September 2008, our office has been closed on Fridays. In case of a pastoral emergency, please call one of our clergy on their cell phones: Libby (270-519-6934) or Ellen (270-804-6484). In case of an emergency with the building or grounds, call Matt Jaeger (270-217-8690).

Sexton

We hope our sexton, Blaine Hebert, will be back at work soon. In the meantime, we ask your continued patience. We have focused the efforts of our part-time janitorial staff on maintaining clean restrooms and church. However, we have not always been able to provide as much help with setting up for meetings and events as when we are fully staffed. Carol Griffin and Robert and Shelia Odle have done their best to fill in the essential areas and some parishioners have also volunteered to help with tasks normally done by Blaine.

Gentle Reminder... If you are in charge of a meeting or activity, please remember to turn off lights and appliances and lock all the doors or make sure the last person to leave will do so. This will save money and ensure the safety of our property.

A Discussion of A Christmas Carol



All are invited to join the Faith in Fiction class for a discussion of Charles Dicken’s classic story A Christmas Carol on Sunday, December 6, following the 9:45 service. Maybe you read it every year, maybe it’s been a while, or maybe you’ve never read it. Whatever the case, find a copy of the story and come and join us. Our discussions are always lively and laugh-filled.

If you don’t have a copy of A Christmas Carol at home, you might try googling it. There are many free copies to read online.

Parish Family Update

For the birth of...

Ford Hagan Black, son of Lindsay and David Black, grandson of Nancy and Bill Black

John Ethan Manley, Jr., grandson of Joe and Pat Tarentino

Bring these children to love all, following the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

A Thanksgiving Prayer

O Lord, the Provider of all good things, we invite you to our tables as we gather.

We give thanks for your blessings which are so abundant to each one of us.

We remember those who have nourished us in the past and fed our souls through their wisdom.

Keep those who travel safe from harm.

As we feast with family and friends may we remember that all bounty comes from you.

Move our hearts to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, and reach out to those who suffer—remembering that in greeting them, we are meeting you.

Sustain us by your mercy and keep us steadfast as we await your presence . Amen.

by Julie Jaeger

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