

## Lo & Behold

December 2011



The Grace Episcopal Church Newsletter



Paducah, KY

### Parish Family

#### In Memoriam:

Roger Songer  
*(Dan Songer's brother)*

*"May he gaze upon you, Lord, face to face, and taste the blessedness of perfect rest."*

#### Joyously Announcing the Births of:

Annalea Grace Weckman  
*(Granddaughter of Sara & David Meyer)*

Helen Gray  
*(Granddaughter of Bobbye & Gary Gray)*

Ian Diego Velarde  
*(Grandson of Janet & John McCracken)*

*"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."*

### Order Your Poinsettias:

Believe it or not, Christmas is just around the corner! If you would like to order a poinsettia as a thanksgiving or a memorial, please complete the order form on the board next to the Vesting Room or contact the office. The cost is \$18 per plant and we'll need the orders no later than December 14 .

### The Church Is Alive!

After worship and Sunday School on a recent Sunday when almost everyone had gone home, I turned the corner from the kitchen to see Liam and his family at the other end of the corridor in Fletcher Hall. Liam came running to meet me holding up a picture he had drawn that day. It was a box-like structure with a steeple and cross on top. The box had eyes and a mouth, as well as arms and legs. Across the bottom of the page Liam had printed "I am the Church." "Look," he said with pride, "I am the Church!" "Wow," I replied, "You're absolutely right, Liam. You are the church. I am the church. We're all the church." Looking as if he were about to burst with excitement, Liam said, "But, Libby, there's more. I am the Church, and the Church is ALIVE!" What astute theological insights and accurate observations from a five year old!

Grace Church has been a stable healthy congregation for a long time, but this year the Holy Spirit is moving among us with a fresh liveliness. Attendance has been consistently higher all year. Children and youth now routinely make up 20-30% of our main Sunday congregation. Christian Formation classes and groups are stronger this fall than in several years. People are talking about their faith, working at articulating what they believe. Our outreach ministries are multiplying. Stewardship efforts seem to have turned a new corner. Our buildings are in almost constant use. It's not unusual to have multiple community and parish activities happening simultaneously in the evening and on Saturday. The parking lot frequently overflows. We enjoy each other's company across socio-economic and generational boundaries. We care for each other and for God's people outside our doors. Ideas are shared and acted upon by staff and many energetic volunteers. Goodness knows, there have been obstacles to overcome this year, but the church is alive and thriving.

One measure of church vitality is how newcomers are welcomed. Again, a child shows us the way. In our elementary Sunday School class, we were making cards for the Daughters of the King to send to people who are ill or shut-in. Eight-year-old Jake asked if there was anyone new in the church. Now Jake's family has only been at Grace for about a year, so he himself is new, but already he feels such a part of things that he wanted to reach out. I gave him the name of a couple who had been coming to church for about a month. Jake drew a picture of Grace with a very tall tower and bell and an angel watching over it. Inside the card, he wrote, "Welcome to our church. Hope you have a great time here!" Wow! I am so thankful to serve this parish where children are welcomed and encouraged to use their gifts. What a blessing it is to experience the vitality of this church as we grow in awareness of God's grace and power working in our midst!

Libby+

**WE ARE GRACE CHURCH AND THIS CHURCH IS ALIVE!**



## Advent Schedule

### Chrismon Sunday:

#### *Sunday, December 11 during the 9:45 Service*

On this Sunday we celebrate a long standing tradition at Grace by presenting children in the congregation with a miniature Chrismon. Each Chrismon is lovingly made by hand by a secret elf and comes with a story about the Chrismon. Because of the popularity of the Chrismons, it is necessary to have a few simple guidelines:

- \* A Chrismon has been made for each child in our parish family.
- \* Chrismons are also available for children who are visiting our congregation on December 11.
- \* If you aren't able to be present on Chrismon Sunday, call or email the parish office before that day to reserve your Chrismon.
- \* After the service, any remaining Chrismons may be purchased in the Gift Shop for \$8—first come, first served!

### Lessons & Carols

#### *Sunday, December 18 at 9:45 Service*

The Festival of Lessons & Carols was created in 1880 by the Rt. Rev. Edward White Benson, bishop of Truro Cathedral in England. It is celebrated throughout the Anglican Communion. The Service has nine scripture lessons, each followed by a carol. Each lesson and carol points toward the promises of God, the words of the prophets, and the advent of the Messiah. Our own choir will sing, and Paducah Tilghman's acappella group Concordia will be our special guest. This is a great service to share with friends and family!

### Hanging of the Greens

#### *Sunday, December 18 after the 9:45 Service*

Having observed the season of Advent, the church will be ready to decorate for the celebration of Christmas. All are invited to lend a hand with the "hanging of the greens" after the 9:45 AM Festival of Lessons & Carols.



### Rooster

The rooster represents Peter's denial of Christ and also stands for his remorse and repentance upon hearing the rooster's crow the next morning, which Jesus predicted correctly prior to being arrested by the soldiers.

*Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the*

*rooster crows twice you will disown me three times."* And he went out and wept bitterly (Matt. 26:75). In many cultures, the rooster's habit of crowing at the dawning of each new morning made it a symbol of the daily victory of light over darkness and the triumph of good over evil. This habit, along with its fiery comb, made the rooster the symbol of fire, the sun, and Christ, the light of the world who announces an end to spiritual darkness and despair.

Ornament designed to the Glory of God © Christa Burr 2011



### The Symbolism of the Advent Wreath



The Advent Wreath is a beautiful part of our holiday decorations, and each year we light the candles of the wreath as part of our services, but how many of us understand the symbolism behind the wreath?

Greenery has been the symbol of rebirth since before Christianity. Ancient cultures used it to remind them that the death of winter would be replaced by life in the spring. In Christian tradition each type of greenery took on a different meaning. Ivy symbolizes the human spirit clinging to God. Cedar is for strength, healing, and the eternal life available through Christ. Holly is symbolic of Christ's crown of thorns and the berries of his blood. Bay is for victory over persecution, sin, and death.

The candles on the wreath remind us of the Light coming into the world; and as each successive candle is lit, the light grows stronger and brighter. The purple ribbon is symbolic of Christ's royalty, while the gold represents his holiness and kingship.

So this year as you look at the Advent wreath, let the meaning of its symbolism remind you of the new, everlasting life given to us through Christ.

-Kimberly Stevens

### Christmas Communion

If you are aware of anyone who is infirm or homebound who desires communion this Christmas season from one of our Eucharistic Visitors or clergy, please contact Libby Wade, Meghan Holland, Richard Paxton, or the church office.



### ADVENT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

#### “A Thrill of Hope: The Christmas Story In Word and Art”

December 11 & 18 at 8:35 am  
Langstaff Room – Adults



As the familiar song reminds us, Christ’s birth is a “thrill of hope,” a gift over which “the weary world rejoices.” The beauty and power of the art of John August Swanson offers a new perspective on beloved sacred texts from Matthew and Luke, while video commentary by biblical scholars from Emory’s Candler School of Theology enhances understanding of both texts and art. The Rev. Libby Wade facilitates this discussion. Rejoice with us as we offer a fresh, creative retelling of the good news of Christmas!



#### “God, the Devil, and Bob”

December 11 & 18 after 9:45 Worship Service  
Langstaff Room—Adults & Senior High

Back by popular demand after a three week run in November, this series is sure to provoke interesting theological discussion after viewing one of these TV shows. The basic premise of the plot is the question of whether God can find even one human capable of giving hope for the future of the world. Is Bob the man? Will the devil thwart Bob’s progress? How do we interact with God? What is your concept of good and evil? Stefan Jagoe facilitates the discussion.

#### “Faith in Fiction”

December 11 & 18 after 9:45 Worship Service  
Adult Library—Adults and Senior High



This long-standing discussion group focuses each week on the intersection between a short story and our faith experience. Gerry Gutfreund and Matt Jaeger facilitate the lively discussions. If you have been attending, you automatically receive an e-mail each week identifying the story to be read. If you would like to start attending, either contact Gerry for this week’s story or just come, enjoy the discussion, and ask to receive future e-mails.



#### Christmas Pageant Rehearsals

December 11 & 18 after 9:45 Worship Service  
In the Church—Preschool, Elementary, Middle School

Children participating in the Nativity Pageant began rehearsing on December 4 and will continue for the next two Sundays under the direction of the Rev. Meghan Holland and Dr. Julie Hideg. Parents are encouraged to help children with speaking parts learn their lines and are welcome to help with rehearsals. There will be pageant helpers on Christmas Eve so that parents can sit in the congregation and watch. Thanks to Debbie Shelton for help with costumes.

## Christmas Services

–Christmas Pageant with Holy Eucharist  
Saturday, December 24 at 4 PM

–Christmas Eve Carol Concert  
& Festival Eucharist  
Saturday, December 24 at 10:45 PM

–Christmas Day Eucharist  
Sunday, December 25 at 11:00 AM

–New Year’s Day Service at  
St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
located at 2701 Broadway  
Sunday, January 1, 2012 at 9:30 AM

(We have been invited by St. Matthew Lutheran to join them in a combined service on New Year’s Day. We will not have a morning service at Grace, but there will be a 5:00 PM service here at Grace.)



#### Feast of the Epiphany Friday, January 6, 2012

While we don’t know the particulars yet, there will be a fun family-oriented (parish family, that is) celebration of Twelfth Night, the Feast of the Epiphany, here at Grace. As plans develop, we will put them on the web-site and send out a notice. For now, please reserve the evening of Friday, January 6!

#### Christmas Offering To Benefit Church and Local Community Work

The Vestry voted to designate this year’s Christmas Offering to three worthy projects:

1. The Stained Glass Window Renovation Fund
2. The Community Kitchen Fund
3. PCM Fresh Start Project Fund

With these funds, Grace will continue to serve our community, while at the same time keeping our worship space beautiful for those who come after us!

## Give The Gift Of Hope & Love!

### Gifts that Reach Outward:



Many of us are blessed with abundance and really do not need anything for Christmas, or we would like to teach our children how to begin sharing with those who are not as blessed. But how do we do this? Here are a few suggestions:

•**Episcopal Relief & Development's "Gifts for Life" Catalog** offers gifts that help families with food, water, shelter, and health. Gifts range from as little as \$12 for a mosquito net up to \$630 for a cow. Check out one of the catalogs in Fletcher Hall or online:

[www.er-d.org/giftsforlife](http://www.er-d.org/giftsforlife).

•**Heifer International** has a catalog of various livestock, honeybees, and trees. Gifts start at \$10 for a share in an animal or tree seedlings. Catalogs are in Fletcher hall or online: [www.heifer.org/catalog](http://www.heifer.org/catalog).

The following organizations have online gift catalogs and offer even more choices for blessing others this Christmas Season:

•**American Bible Society** offers several different packages to purchase bibles for our men & women in the military and churches overseas that cannot easily get copies of the bible. Their website is:

[www.gift.americanbible.org/](http://www.gift.americanbible.org/)

•**Compassion International** offers a wide range of gifts from soccer balls to vaccinations. See their website: [www.compassion.com/catalog.htm](http://www.compassion.com/catalog.htm)

For gifts that are a little closer to home and will benefit parish projects, try these ideas:

•**Reading Camp Fund**—Give the gift of literacy to a child who is struggling. The ability to read opens up a vast world of opportunity, creativity, knowledge, and imagination that will last a lifetime!

•**Community Kitchen Fund**—Food nourishes our bodies and souls, and there is nothing worse than going to bed hungry. This fund helps us to feed individuals and families in our community who would otherwise not have a warm meal.

Make your check out to Grace Church for one of these funds, fill out a "Gift of Love" card located in Fletcher Hall (also near the baptismal font or the visitor book stand), and an acknowledgement card will be sent to the person you are honoring!

### Gifts that Reach Inward:



#### Stained Glass Renovation Fund

One of Grace Church's most striking features is its beautiful stained glass windows, most of which are very old. Over time the natural elements of sun, rain, ice, and temperature changes cause damage and deterioration. This fund helps to clean, restore, and preserve these wonderful treasures for future generations of Grace parishioners.

#### Letters of Grace

For a unique gift, try out the "Letters of Grace" alphabet created by Fowler Black. Each letter of the alphabet is made up of an architectural or design element from Grace Church's historical building or grounds. You can choose small prints of individual letters or a poster depicting all the letters. Each 4 X 6 letter print is \$2 and the poster is \$10. Payment can be placed in a basket next to the letters or you may leave it with a member of the staff. The proceeds benefit Grace Church.

#### Choir Angel

Thanks to the generosity of members and friends of Grace from Paducah to California, eight anthems have been sponsored! The following three anthems are still available and would make the perfect gift for someone who loves music:

- "Hodie Christus Natus Est" by Healey Willan (great Christmas anthem by a great Anglican Canadian composer)
- "A Hymn to the Virgin" by Benjamin Britten (famous English 20<sup>th</sup> century composer)
- "All This Time" by William Walton (16<sup>th</sup> century words in the English choral tradition)

Just as with donations for flowers, you may sponsor an anthem in honor of someone, in thanksgiving for a person or event, or in memory of a loved one who has died. **Full sponsorship of an anthem is \$50, but partial sponsorships are also welcomed!** Contact the Parish Office to sponsor an anthem.

#### Generosity Abounds!

Recent outreach fundraising efforts:

All Saints Center – \$680

Bishop's Discretionary Fund – \$674

Acolyte Pretzel Sale (for Project AIDS Orphan)– \$319

Project Hope Animal Shelter raised over \$2000  
at a Bazaar held at Grace.



**The Great PCM SOUP CHALLENGE**

**Surpasses Goal As of December 4 -- 528!!**

Our 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School class set a goal back in September to collect 515 containers of soup for Paducah Cooperative Ministry by January 1, 2012. They based their goal on mathematical calculations of the number of Sundays, average Sunday attendance, and their best guess of how many people are in each family. They asked that every family bring a container of soup every Sunday. Each week they have eagerly counted and become more excited as time passed. **If you keep the soup coming, we could pass 600 by January 1!**



**Good News Time Leaders & Volunteers Needed!**

April Cochran has tirelessly led Good News Time for the past 10+ years and now needs to turn the reins over to a new leader or leaders. We would like to set up a rotating schedule of folks, so that no one person has to do it every week. If you would be interested in helping, contact Meghan Holland. Curriculum will be provided.

*Thank you, April, for all your hard work and dedication!*

**ACOLYTE GIRLS & GIRLS OF GRACE**

Please come to our annual Christmas get-together. It's REALLY fun!!!

Where: Tribeca

When: Tuesday, Dec. 20

Time: 12 noon

Bring: \$5 (the rest will be covered) and a wrapped ornament to exchange.

Adults present: Julie Jaeger, Libby Wade, Meghan Holland, Amy Thompson

College alum acolytes. ..please join us!

Friends are welcome if you tell us ahead of time.

-Julie Jaeger & Trish Hines



**Please Help Sophie Fill Christmas Stockings!**



Sophie Henney is completing her "God & Family" religious badge for Girl Scouts and needs your help. She has chosen to fill Christmas stockings for each of the PCM families on Grace's Angel Tree as her community service project. There will be roughly 20-30 families, one stocking per family. Would you be so kind as to help fill the stockings? Here are Sophie's suggestions:

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Candy                  | Small Hairbrushes, Combs                         |
| Gift Cards             | Granola/Snack Bars                               |
| Bandanas/Handkerchiefs | Hair Doodads (barrettes, ponytail holders, etc.) |
| Key Chains with lights | Gloves/Mittens                                   |
| Socks                  | Christmas Crafts for Kids                        |
| Toiletries             | Small Toys (must fit in stocking)                |
| Small Journals         | Pencils, Pens, Address Books                     |

Anything else you might see fit to put into a stocking would be acceptable and appreciated! A basket in Fletcher Hall is ready to receive your items. Thank you for helping Sophie complete her badge work and community service!

-Peggy & Sophie Henney



**Godly Play Happenings!**



**Godly Play Advent Retreat:**

**Saturday, December 10, 10 AM-Noon**

Please join us for a Godly Play Advent Retreat as we explore the mystery of the Advent Season! Children ages 3-8ish. Lunch is included.

**Godly Play Intermediate Training at Grace Episcopal Church**

**Friday, January 13, 2012 5:30 PM-9:00 PM (dinner served)**

**& Saturday, January 14, 2012 8:30 AM-5:00 PM (b'fast & lunch incl.)**

*Specified meals are included in your registration*

Grace Church will host a Godly Play training session in January 2012. Blurring the lines between teacher and student, you will experience and learn Godly Play stories in a collegial, prayerful setting. Godly Play Foundation's talented Trainers will deepen your understanding of children's spirituality while guiding you on a personal journey of wonder.

Cost is \$30 for Grace members, \$195 for others if registered before Dec 16, and \$260 for others if registered after Dec 16. Contact Meghan Holland at: megc.holland@gmail.com or 443-1363 for more information.

# Day By Day: Serving Christ

Normally in early December, I wonder whether a viable budget for the coming year is possible. This year, the 99 who have already made a pledge for 2012 have positively changed that Grace Church dynamic! While we have not yet reached our goal, the total is now ahead of 2011 pledges. **With the help of those who have not yet pledged, we CAN meet our goal by the end of this year!** Pledge cards are in the church and Fletcher Hall or you may call the parish office to have one mailed.

Thanks to the Stewardship Team and party hosts, participants enjoyed food and fellowship while learning more about the church's needs and hopes. Ideas shared with vestry, staff, and stewardship team members resulted in some immediate changes, while others are tucked away for future consideration. Please know that we value your feedback and took all comments seriously.

As a result of your requests, we now ring the church bells before both Sunday morning worship services, not just 7:30, and intentionally pray for presiding bishop and diocesan bishop by name at both services. When possible, clergy greet people at both church doors after the 9:45 service. We no longer abbreviate Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer in the newsletter and continue to work toward enhanced communications. You asked for more potlucks and fellowship opportunities. Since that request, we've enjoyed a Sunday lunch cooked by Larry and Cheryl Hoskins, a Sunday breakfast by the Vergers, and a pot-luck supper last Saturday. More winter events are planned. You asked for more activities for children. In addition to GRACEKIDS which was added this fall, we will continue expanding Godly Play and are considering a monthly Parents Night Out and perhaps even a children's choir in the near future. To help people better understand our income and expenses, Libby is planning a "Church Finance 101" class for this winter.

In addition to a financial pledge, many pledged gifts of time and talent. Our Financial Secretary will capture those, and the appropriate staff or volunteer leader will contact you before our Annual Meeting. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for the amazing change this year in stewardship and for your ongoing commitment to mission and ministry.

Libby+

## October Financial Report

A brief look at where we stand with the 2011 budget at the end of October:

**Revenues:** \$306,239.14

**Expenses:** \$351,935.35

*This results in a \$45,696.21 deficit for the year to date.*

Approximately 1/3 of pledges for the year are received in December, so hopefully we will be able to make this up before the end of the budget year! Thanks for all that you as a congregation do to help us keep the church's business running smoothly!

-Terry Richards, Treasurer

## Stewardship to Date:

Thus far we have **99** pledges for a total of **\$343,230.98**. That completely funds us through **September 2012!!**

*Of the pledges, 67% are new or increased!*

**Keep it coming in, only three more months to fund!**

Stewardship 2012

| January |   |    |    |    |    |  |
|---------|---|----|----|----|----|--|
| Sun     | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |  |
| Mon     | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 |    |  |
| Tue     | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |  |
| Wed     | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |  |
| Thu     | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |    |  |
| Fri     | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |    |  |
| Sat     |   |    |    |    |    |  |

| February |   |    |    |    |    |  |
|----------|---|----|----|----|----|--|
| Sun      | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |  |
| Mon      | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |    |  |
| Tue      | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |    |  |
| Wed      | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |  |
| Thu      | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |  |
| Fri      | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |  |
| Sat      | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |    |  |

| March |   |    |    |    |    |  |
|-------|---|----|----|----|----|--|
| Sun   | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |    |  |
| Mon   | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |  |
| Tue   | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |    |  |
| Wed   | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |    |  |
| Thu   | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |  |
| Fri   | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |  |
| Sat   | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |  |

| April |   |    |    |    |    |  |
|-------|---|----|----|----|----|--|
| Sun   | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |  |
| Mon   | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |  |
| Tue   | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |  |
| Wed   | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |    |  |
| Thu   | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |  |
| Fri   | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |    |  |
| Sat   | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |    |  |

| May |   |    |    |    |    |  |
|-----|---|----|----|----|----|--|
| Sun | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |    |  |
| Mon | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |    |  |
| Tue | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |  |
| Wed | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |  |
| Thu | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |  |
| Fri | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |    |  |
| Sat | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |  |

| June |   |    |    |    |    |  |
|------|---|----|----|----|----|--|
| Sun  | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 |    |  |
| Mon  | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |    |  |
| Tue  | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |  |
| Wed  | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |    |  |
| Thu  | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |    |  |
| Fri  | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |  |
| Sat  | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |  |

| July |   |    |    |    |    |  |
|------|---|----|----|----|----|--|
| Sun  | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |  |
| Mon  | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |  |
| Tue  | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |  |
| Wed  | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |    |  |
| Thu  | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |  |
| Fri  | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |    |  |
| Sat  | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |    |  |

| August |   |    |    |    |    |  |
|--------|---|----|----|----|----|--|
| Sun    | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |  |
| Mon    | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |    |  |
| Tue    | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |    |  |
| Wed    | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |  |
| Thu    | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |  |
| Fri    | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |  |
| Sat    | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |    |  |

| September |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Sun       | 30 | 2  | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| Mon       | 31 | 3  | 10 | 17 | 24 |    |
| Tue       | 4  | 11 | 18 | 25 |    |    |
| Wed       | 5  | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |    |
| Thu       | 6  | 13 | 20 | 27 |    |    |
| Fri       | 7  | 14 | 21 | 28 |    |    |
| Sat       | 1  | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |    |

| October |   |    |    |    |    |  |
|---------|---|----|----|----|----|--|
| Sun     | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |    |  |
| Mon     | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |  |
| Tue     | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |  |
| Wed     | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |  |
| Thu     | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |    |  |
| Fri     | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |  |
| Sat     | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |    |  |

| November |   |    |    |    |    |  |
|----------|---|----|----|----|----|--|
| Sun      | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |    |  |
| Mon      | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |  |
| Tue      | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |    |  |
| Wed      | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |    |  |
| Thu      | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |  |
| Fri      | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |  |
| Sat      | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 |    |  |

| December |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Sun      | 30 | 2  | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| Mon      | 31 | 3  | 10 | 17 | 24 |    |
| Tue      | 1  | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |    |
| Wed      | 2  | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |    |
| Thu      | 3  | 10 | 17 | 24 |    |    |
| Fri      | 4  | 11 | 18 | 25 |    |    |
| Sat      | 5  | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |    |



DAY BY DAY:  
*serving Christ in  
Our Daily Lives*



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## From The Financial Secretary: Year End Contributions

A reminder that all donations which need to be credited to 2011 must be in the church office by December 29.

If you plan to give stock to the church, please begin these proceedings no later than December 9. It takes several days for a stock transaction to be completed and then several more for a check to arrive at the church. If the check does not arrive before the end of the year, we cannot guarantee that you will get credit for the donation in 2011. We are most appreciative of each and every gift. In the interest of keeping the bookkeeper happy, please act soon!

-Trish Hines, Financial Secretary





## Building Stewardship: Pardon Our Mess!



As I write this article, it is Monday morning, December 5. Trish is counting the Sunday offering, preparing the November financial report for our treasurer, and writing checks to pay our bills. Stefan is working on plans for the EYC's trip to Nashville for a laser-tag lock-in later this month. Carol is cleaning. Meghan and Nancy F. Black are mentoring an EfM group in the library. Kimberly and I are working on the December newsletter. None of that is particularly unusual activity for a first Monday of the month here at Grace Church. What is different is the other activity going on. Let me give you a peak into our Monday morning world.

Workmen from Ray Black & Son were here before the staff arrived this morning. They are erecting scaffolding in the chancel area of the church in preparation for **the arrival of our new organ this week!** After five months of loaner organs, it will be exciting to have the one chosen especially for us in time for the music of Christmas.

Thanks to the money contributed to the Organ Fund by parishioners and friends of Grace and to the recent "full replacement value" insurance settlement from the June lightning strike, no more fund-raising needs to be done for the organ. We should all be extremely grateful to those who made it possible to replace the destroyed organ in a timely fashion. Our Allen Organ representative, Robert Klingbiel of Amro Music in Nashville, will arrive in the morning to begin his work of installing wires, speakers, and console. Last week a local company began work restoring the old pipes, which will add visual ambience to the new digital computer organ.

Back to today...Elayne Zellmer and Jim Wade helped move altar hangings, crèche, floor torches, and advent wreath away from the scaffolding this morning so that they will not be harmed accidentally. While the scaffolding is up, light bulbs in the center high ceiling will be replaced and some repair and painting completed. Centering Prayer on Tuesday and Holy Eucharist on Wednesday will need to meet elsewhere while work is going on in the chancel. It's possible scaffolding may still be in the church on Sunday. If so, I trust you will understand and praise God anyway.

Also here very early this morning was our Junior Warden, Eddie Narozniak. He is working with CMI, our heating and air conditioning company, on several much-needed repairs. Those who use the Adult Library will note that for the first time in several years, the heat works! That's good news, but now the heat is not working in the Sacristy, a problem to be remedied as soon as possible. We ask your patience as Kimberly continues to work with CMI to properly regulate the heat in the Parish Hall and Church.

Eddie had only been away for an hour or two when a cautionary message about flooding from vigilant parishioner Bill Black sent us on an exploratory mission in the basement. While the sump pump was working in the west end of the basement (often a source of problems), there was a half inch of water on the east end of the basement. Eddie returned to evaluate the situation. He and Jim Wade (who happened to bring me lunch at just the right time) tried sucking up the water with shop vacs, but soon realized we needed to call ServPro. Their crew is working now, so that the basement will be available tomorrow night for NA to meet. Thank goodness the rain is supposed to stop this afternoon.

With a 138 year old building, something is always in need of repair! Last week work was completed to insulate pipes under the church. Work will be done soon to the sprinkler system to comply with a code change. Please be tolerant of a bit of mess as we make progress on all these fronts that are meant to repair, maintain, and enhance our awe-inspiring building.

Advent is the season of waiting with expectant hope. We try to live into that waiting in our worship through gradually lighting the Advent Wreath candles, building the crèche week by week, observing many special traditions of the season, and singing Advent hymns instead of Christmas carols (although a few will creep in on Lessons and Carols Sunday). This year our expectant hope takes on new significance with all the work going on in our midst on the infrastructure, in crises, and to enhance our music. I am grateful to volunteers who help in so many ways, the Cincinnati Insurance Company for honoring our claim, our forebears who provided funds to help maintain the 1873 building, all Organ Fund donors, and all who contribute to the yearly General Operating Budget which provides for things such as property insurance, staff, and much building maintenance. From this building may we go forth to seek and serve Christ in the world.

Libby+



“ People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look East and sing today; Love the guest is on the way.”  
(Hymn 724, *Wonder, Love, and Praise*)



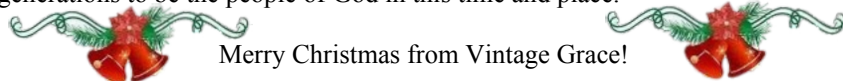
### Gifts from Generation to Generation

At a Vintage Grace luncheon this fall, we talked about what we who are over 60 would most like to pass on to our grandchildren and the young children of this congregation.

Here is the list we offer as our Christmas gift to youth:

Unquestionable love, unselfishness, appreciation of nature, gardening, love of cooking, traditions, sense of personal responsibility, sense of family, compassion for others, guidance, strength, frugality (the discipline of saving), honesty, love of family, understanding of the importance of celebration, fun, companionship, love of learning and books, inquisitiveness, the ability to be a good role model, "can do" attitude, valuing of imagination, respect for animals and for every person for who they are, the ability to analyze and make wise decisions, independence and relationship.

Far and away the most-mentioned gift was faith in God. Our Grace Church motto, "Grounded in faith and growing in grace," rings true as we reach across generations to be the people of God in this time and place.



Merry Christmas from Vintage Grace!

### Diocesan Convention Notes

It was my honor to represent Grace Church as a deputy to the 184th Diocesan Convention, along with Sarah Lewis Meyer and Rick Coltharp. The Convention was held at St. Andrews in Louisville several weekends ago. This was actually the second convention in 2011 as the diocese moves to a November date instead of February, primarily to help with budgeting. The meeting's theme was "The Fruits of Compassion," and convened on the very day Louisville was recognized as one of seven in the country to be designated a "City of Compassion."

Bishop White's keynote address began with the observation that our one-year full replacement warranty had expired, and we would only receive a partial refund if we chose to return him to the new bishop warehouse. He then described five initiatives to help the people of the Diocese of Kentucky in 2012 "discover how to be more effective in feeding, tending, and proclaiming," while doing God's work amid changing circumstances. Specifically, "The challenge is how to re-form our present structures and mind-set so that fewer financial resources don't rob us of spirit and enthusiasm."

The initiatives include developing Christian formation programs for people new to faith and the Episcopal tradition, a new canon for deciding a parish's contribution to the diocese for funding our common ministry, a business plan for All Saints Center, which has been facing financial challenges in recent years, and a series of programs, retreats, and lectures to support congregational vitality.

During his talk, the Bishop acknowledged two people by name—Jim Wade for his work as interim All Saints director and Meghan Holland for her work at creating programs and retreats to be held at All Saints.

Highlights of the business session included the passage of a leaner budget and the election of Rick Coltharp to Trustees & Council and Meghan Holland to the Ecclesiastical Disciplinary Board.

More information can be found on the diocesan website and the weekly Episcoblast email.

-Juliette Grumley

### More Parish Family Updates:

*On All Saints Sunday, Grace Church was delighted to share in the celebration of the milestones of baptism, confirmation, and reception with the following youth & adults:*

*Baptism: Nolan Oscar Black*

*Confirmation: Justin Alexander Baker, Jamie Marie Black, Cameron Ansley Brown, Kyler Michael Brown, McKenna Cailin Brown, Jade Lee Cochran, Jeffrey Hunter Golightly, Sara Madison Golightly, Ashley Katherine Shadoan, William Parker Shadoan, Julia Arden Weeks*

*Reception: Lindsay McMaster Black, Elizabeth Anne Whitfield*

### January 8 – Next Date for Baptism

On January 8, 2012, the First Sunday after the Epiphany, our scripture readings and music focus on the Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ. What a marvelous day to celebrate baptisms in our congregation! If you desire baptism for yourself or your child, **please contact the parish office or one of our priests no later than December 22.**



Lately we have had to start making the font smaller to get the entire prayer list in the Sunday bulletins and have been trying to come up with a solution that would relieve this problem. After much careful thought and consideration the staff has come up with the following:

Beginning January of 2012 we will begin a rolling 3 month elimination. This means that any name that is on the list will be dropped automatically after it has been on the prayer list for 3 months. This way we can keep the list at a manageable size while still making sure that each person is prayed for.

Of course, if you have someone on the list that is still in need of our prayers, you are welcome to re-add their name to the prayer list on the bulletin board outside the office.

-Kimberly & Sherry



**A Retreat Into Compassion**

All Saints Center,  
January 20-21, 2012



Using Henri Nouwen's book, "Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life," participants will examine how compassion is central to our Christian life. Attendees will participate in the development and creation of a six unit study series, suitable for use in Adult Christian formation or as a Lenten study series. The event begins with supper at 6pm (Central time) on Friday, January 20 and ends at 4pm Saturday, January 21.

The presenter is Joe Grant. The event is sponsored by the Diocese of Kentucky's Peace and Justice Division. The cost is \$85 (private room and bath) or \$70 (private room and shared bath).

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Congregations are encouraged to send at least two participants to this retreat. Please bring a laptop if one is available. Reading the book in advance is recommended, but not required. There will be a few available for purchase at the event.

Questions about the retreat?

Contact Mary Abrams, Division Director of Peace and Justice at: 502-572-0356 or meabrams@bellsouth.net

TO REGISTER: Visit

<http://tinyurl.com/compassionretreat>

**Community Kitchen  
January-April 2012 Dates**

Grace will serve on January 29, March 11,  
and April 22.

Parish organizations and classes often take turns providing and serving these meals. Several families or a group of 8-10 friends could also choose to take a turn. Ron Slatick has offered to assist anyone who would like help planning a menu and deciding on quantities. He is also willing to "shepherd" a crew on their first time. Please contact Julia Schaberg if you are interested in helping with this community



**Paducah Cooperative Ministry Notes for  
November:**

The final two months of the year are exciting times at PCM with Groceries for Good bringing in two truckloads of food, local harvest of sweet potatoes and squash being shared, and Lights in the Park beginning on Nov 26, which always brings in lots of canned vegetables. Thanksgiving food baskets have also been delivered to folks in need.

PCM recently met with Paducah officials as they work on a "homeless shelter" ordinance in relation to "tent city." It will not affect PCM.

Emergency assistance funds, made available each Monday, seem to be lasting longer. Currently some of the funds are rolling over to Tuesdays. Previously they had been depleted before the end of Monday.

PCM is proud to be working with Four Rivers Behavioral Health by providing developmentally disabled adults an outlet for supervised service work. This helps with work and social skills and integrates the workers into the community. The staff at PCM feel blessed to be with these folks!

US Foods has announced it will close its operations in Paducah. This will affect PCM directly in that US Foods held a yearly food drive, as well as volunteered a semi-truck and driver to pick up government commodities from Mayfield. These were delivered to PCM for distribution to seniors. Their support was greatly appreciated and will be missed! If you know of a trucking company that might step in to fill this much-needed role, call Heidi Suhrheinrich at PCM.

From January 1-October 31, PCM has helped our community in the following ways: food assistance on 3,506 occasions, shelter assistance to 209 individuals, emergency assistance to 1,200 households. One of the most striking numbers is the 427 households that sought assistance from PCM for the first time! This clearly demonstrates the need that exists in our community.

As the year comes to an end, please continue to pray for the mission and staff of PCM and remember that they can always use your volunteer help, in-kind contributions, and financial support. The work they do is incredible and very much needed!

-Submitted by Greg Baur



**SAS -- Socks for Seniors**



SAS is a community service project begun by one family in 2002 to help senior citizens stay warm. The project has now gone nation-wide! **Our EYC (Episcopal Youth Community) and GRACEKIDS are collecting socks by requiring at least five pairs of socks as part of their December Laser Tag Lock-In fee.** They welcome participation in SAS by others and have provided a collection box in Fletcher Hall. New socks of any type may be brought to the church Monday-Thursday during normal business hours or on Sunday. The socks will be equally distributed among area nursing homes before Christmas.



## Community Kitchen Christmas Lunch

On Sunday, December 18, the Vergers will host the Community Kitchen Lunch at Broadway United Methodist Church. This is the last lunch before Christmas and we are going to make it a special one in honor of Christmas. On the menu that day will be turkey with dressing and gravy, ham, yams, green beans, rolls and various pies for dessert. Much of the food has already been donated by local grocers and restaurants. We hope to have some of our youth serving the tables that day, rather than the usual way of coming through

a serving line. We need a few people to volunteer to cook a turkey and gravy, then cut the turkey up and deliver it to the church on that Sunday morning. The turkey and a large foil pan will be supplied to you. We also need volunteers to make some pies. Any variety of pie you want to make is fine. Please contact Ron Slatick (519-1519) if you want to do this. We hope to make this "Christmas Luncheon" a special time for the patrons of the Community Kitchen.

-Ron Slatick



**Annual Parish Meeting Date!!**

**Sunday  
February 12, 2012**

## Sunday Evening Worship Schedule

Join us for worship Sunday evenings at 5:00 PM on December 4, 11, 18 and January 1!



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