

GRACE

notes



August 2017

OUR TEAM

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Gary Baird

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OFFICE

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Bay GreenHill

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Jenny Manning

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Jayne Amonsens

LAY MINISTRY ASSISTANT

Meredith Bergstrom

YOUTH & CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL COORDINATORS

Ben Bergstrom & Travis Chaney

KITCHEN AND NURSERY COORDINATOR

Angie Chaney

MUSIC

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST

Dr. Jan Wubbena

MUSIC INTERN

Adam Sloter

ASSISTANT ORGANIST

Paul Whitley

CHILDREN'S CHOIR SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Terri Wubbena

MINISTRIES

Altar Guild

Outreach

Little Free Pantry

Episcopal Peace Fellowship / G.A.P.P.

Meals on Wheels

Prayer Chain

VESTRY

Shelley Simmons, Sr. Warden

Matt Hostler, Jr. Warden

Jayne Amonsens

Chris Abbey

Patty Arnett

Jay Hughes

Nancy Efurud

Ryan Ladner

Matt Orcutt

Mike Moss, Treasurer

Bay Greenhill, Clerk

COMMITTEES

Building & Grounds

Christian Formation

Communications

Finance

Hospitality

Outreach

Stewardship

Strategic Planning

Welcoming / Incorporation

Worship

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUN Holy Eucharist, 9:00 A.M.
Christian Formation, 10:00 A.M.
Holy Eucharist, 11:15 A.M.

MON-FRI [Yoga Morning Prayer at Studio](#), 7:00 A.M.

WED Holy Eucharist & Healing, 12:10 P.M.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Sunday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Closed Friday & Saturday.

A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR



What is the Church?

And looking at those who sat around him, Jesus said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.' Mark 3:34-35

This summer our curriculum for Grace on Tap has been a series exploring some of the big topics of our faith, such as 1) how do we understand and know God?; 2) is religion necessary to know God or is just being spiritual enough?; 3) what is the process of salvation?; as well as several others including the cross, the Bible, and of course, Jesus.

This last week the topic was the Church. What is it? Why is it important? Why should we be a part of one?

The presenter talked about the church in terms of an imperfect family, much like our own families. We don't choose who's in our families any more than we choose who is in our local church. You might say God does in both regards.

And just like our biological families, we get along with some family members better than others, but they are no less family. Everyone is welcome here. And no one has to be perfect to be here or else there wouldn't be anyone here at all.

There were also several metaphors presented that identify some aspects of the church – a social club for connecting with others, a classroom for learning about God, a hospital to find healing, maybe even a cafeteria to be fed literally and figuratively.

But most of all, the church is a place where God is at the center of what we do and who we are, rather than us being the center. I remember when I first came to the Episcopal Church, one of the most striking differences from my previous church experience was that the priest was interchangeable and not the center of attention. Everything in the liturgy pointed the people towards God. God is the reason we are part of this imperfect family.

As we prepare for the beginning of school in all its various forms and come back from our summer break, remember why we are part of this family. God has called us together to be the body of Christ in the midst of our brokenness and to show others that they can be a part of our imperfect family where the perfect love of God is the reason we are here.

Everyone has a place and everyone is needed to continue to make Grace Church a family that welcomes everyone.



REFLECTIONS FROM A PARISHIONER

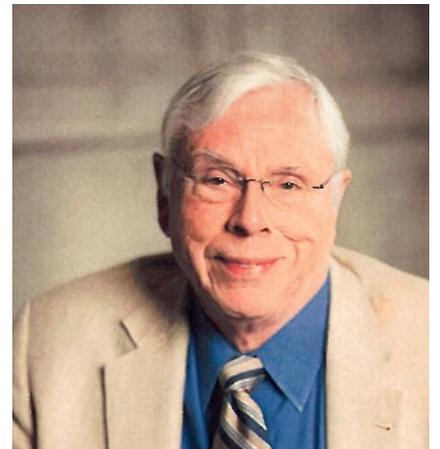
Why do I go to church?

When asked the question, "Do you really believe in God?" I have to answer, "I honestly don't know." As did the ancient Hebrews, I believe God is unknowable. Isaiah tells us, "As far as the East is from the West so are his ways different than our ways." So ask the question a different way.

"Where do I believe I might experience God?" I first experienced God in Church and there, began experiencing God in Scripture, especially; John 1, Genesis 1 and Mark 1.

John 1. "In the beginning was the Word:
The Word was with God
And the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things came into being,
not one thing came into being except through him.
*What has come into being in him was life,
Life that was the light of people;
And Light shines in the Darkness
And darkness could not overpower it."*

The Quaker belief is that there is an 'inner light' in all of us. The early Christians called it the 'Divine Spark.' *It is life that is the light in us all.* Our light shines brighter in community and we experience God when "two or



three are gathered together." I believe this joining of our 'inner lights' creates a Mystic Bond that unites us together.

I experience God in life, in the lives of people, in laughter, in joy, in good food and drink, in intimacy. I experience God in the world around us, the sky, moon, trees, in this verdant Earth, a Garden of Eden in the middle of a cold universe. I believe that Genesis 1 tells us the world God created was "good... no, VERY good." 1600 years ago, a theologian named Pelagius was declared a heretic because he believed the world was not basically corrupt. He believed, with the blessing and help of God, mankind was capable of goodness. He rejected the Augustinian idea that mankind and the world were basically corrupt and incapable of goodness. He thought it would be an unjust God indeed that would create men and women incapable of doing right and then punish them when they failed. He did not believe we are born sinful. In fact he states, "if you want to see the face of God, look at a newborn."

Yet: "All we can do is nothing worth unless God blesses the deed. Vainly we hope for the Harvest tide, Till God gives life to the seed." Jesus teaches us that God is Love. Paul teaches us, if I "...have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal." So, yes, we still need the grace of God, the blessing of love, in our actions.

I experience God in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. He preached love, compassion, tolerance, forgiveness, acceptance of all people, service to others, to be "master of all you must first be servant of all."

He says in Mark 1:

"The time is fulfilled, The Kingdom of God is at hand, Repent and believe in the Good News"

I believe this is a call to action as much as a call to belief. If the Kingdom of God IS at hand... then repent, change course, be transformed, see the world in a new light, do something different, get off your duff, get involved, help bring in the kingdom of God, his Commonwealth of Justice and mercy.

I believe there good scriptural evidence for an underlying assumption for all Jesus teachings. He assumed that mankind, the world and worldly pleasures were not basically corrupt. He seemed to enjoy a good party, obviously, had a good sense of humor with his metaphors. I think he believed that people were capable of doing right and capable of helping bring in the kingdom of God. Jesus was certainly a realist and realized that there was evil in the world. I think he had the philosophy: "don't judge the person,

judge the deed." And while men may do evil, it doesn't necessarily mean that they are basically evil and irredeemable.

Then he put the exclamation point on all of this. He turns his eyes to Jerusalem and in doing so he will show us what ultimate service to others means. "Greater love hath no man than to give up his life..." We will also make us face our own evil when we participate vicariously in the murder and torture of an innocent man and do nothing stop it.

He enters Jerusalem with great fanfare so no one would miss that he's coming. On entering, he heads straight to the temple, tears up the place and overturns the tables of the money changers. Each day he preaches from the temple steps, challenging the religion hypocrisy of his day. He knows full well that they will shut him up by having him killed.

But he believes that his death will release a spiritual power such as the world had never seen. Evil and Hate cannot kill love. The darkness cannot overcome the light. As Bishop Benfield writes in his bulletins, "After his death Jesus seemed to still live with his apostles and followers." With his crucifixion and resurrection that spiritual power WAS released and "...the ascended Jesus armed a people for his own, And 100 men and women turned the known world upside down, To its deep and furthest corner with the wind of Heaven blown." And by our believing in the Good News, "...We too can set the world alight." And this is our hope and what keeps us going, keeps us acting, and keeps us persisting.

So this is why I go to church. It is to hear this preached by Stan McKinnon, Lora Walsh and Chuck Walling. It's to hear Michael Curry tell us that, first of all, we must be "followers of Jesus" and "if it ain't got that Swing, it don't mean a thing." It is to hear the wonderful poetic messages of the church hymns. It is to weekly reestablish my spiritual connection with Jesus in the Eucharist. When we exchange the Peace, we reestablish that Mystic Bond that we have with each other in this church, in the wider Church and with the "Communion of Saints" that have gone before us, on whose shoulders we now stand.

That's why I go to church.

~ Dr. George Benjamin

NEWS FROM THE CHOIR

Liesl Dromi resigns as Choir Director...

Liesl recently resigned after four years of leading the Choir to spend more time with family (her husband, Matt, has a new full time job). The work she did with the choir was of extraordinarily high quality! In particular, she taught a lot of new and challenging literature, thereby stretching the reading and musicianship skills of the Choir. Also, she taught the choristers much about vowels and the effect of the vowel on intonation and mentored our choral scholars in their conducting assignments. You are encouraged to offer Liesl your personal thanks when you next see her. Thank you, Liesl, for an outstanding job!



Adam Sloter appointed Music Intern...



Adam, a Choral Scholar this past academic year, has been appointed Music Intern for the coming academic year. A native of Iowa whose family now lives in Bella Vista, he is a senior double-majoring in Theological Studies

and Worship Arts at JBU. The latter degree program requires an internship, and so his work here will satisfy that requirement. His principal responsibilities will be leading the Choir and choosing choral music appropriate for the lessons appointed for each Sunday. He has already been familiarizing himself with the choral library and making tentative choices. Jan Wubbena will work closely with Adam.

This is the first time that Grace Church has had a JBU student serve as an intern in music. This represents an extension of the chief goal of our Choral Scholars Program: to offer qualified students an

enhanced opportunity for music leadership, in the hope and expectation that choral scholars will develop a lifelong commitment to participate and lead in churches with traditional choral-organ music programs. Please welcome Adam in this new capacity!

Choir Rehearsals resume...

After a well-deserved summer break, on August 16th, the Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday evenings, singing at the 11:15 Sunday service, beginning on August 20. Those who can come at 5:30 enjoy a light supper, and rehearsal begins at 6:00 and ends at 7:30. Singing in the Choir is a nine-month commitment: the “choir season” extends through the Day of Pentecost (May 20, 2018).

Many thanks to all choristers who lead the congregation in the hymns and service music and also offer an anthem at the Offertory!

If you have not previously sung in the Choir but are interested in participating, please speak with Jan Wubbena before attending the first rehearsal.

FINAL GRACE ON TAP



August 2nd ...

Grace on Tap will have its final meeting of the summer this Wednesday, August 2nd. Please join us **in the Dining Room** at 28 Springs for a Grace on Tap Recap. Look forward to seeing you there!

EUCCHARISTIC VISITOR GATHERING

Saturday, August 5th...

Gary & Sally Baird will be hosting an Ice Cream Social for all Eucharistic Visitors this Saturday at 6:00 p.m. at their home (617 E. Tahlequah).



ALTAR GUILD POTLUCK DINNER



Tuesday, August 8th...

The Altar Guild will have a potluck supper at the home of Stan & Laurie McKinnon on Tuesday, August 8th at 6:30 pm.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, August 13th...

As we welcome the new academic year all students, teachers, and educators are invited to come forward at either service on Sunday, August 13th to receive a blessing. Feel free to bring your backpack or schoolbag to be blessed!



RALLY DAY 2017



Sunday, August 20th ...

Please join us as we kick off the fall semester with our annual Rally Day Potluck Brunch! At 10:00 a.m., between the services, we will enjoy a potluck brunch, and learn about what will be happening at Grace this fall!

Please bring a dish and join us, all are welcome!

GRACE CHILDREN'S CHOIR SCHOOL

Monday, August 21st...

Director Terri Wubbena will begin a new season of Grace Children's Choir School (GCCS) on Monday, August 21st with a rehearsal from 4:30 – 5:30.

Parents, please arrive at 5:00 to fill out the forms needed for the 2017-2018 year.



Please remember that this choir is free and open to the entire community, so please spread the word!

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

Class begins soon...

Education for Ministry (EfM) is being offered this fall beginning on Monday, August 28th with an orientation and organizational meeting.



Promotional materials are available for you to look through in the Parish Hall, you can also go online for more information, <http://efm.sewanee.edu/>. Education for Ministry is a four year program that members commit to one year at a time at the cost of \$375.00 per year, (payment plans and some scholarships are available). Groups meet once a week for three hours per session during 9 months of the year. We will meet on Mondays from September - May, (18 hours of continuing education hours are available). ~ Deacon Gary

VESTRY MEETING



August 27th...

The Grace vestry will meet on Sunday, August 27th
at 1:00 p.m.

GIVING TO GRACE



Ways to Give...

ONLINE GIVING | Please visit www.gracesiloam.org/giving to give to various funds right from the website.

TEXT TO GIVE | Text the keyword GRACESILOAM to 73256 and give right from your mobile device.

VIA THE DATABASE APP | Give via Realm Connect...our new database app! See Bay in the office for assistance.

BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Growing in Grace...



The Building Committee has been hard at work on the next step of our Growing in Grace process - hiring an architect. As you may know, our parish approved and successfully raised funds for a building concept in fall 2016. Now we are ready to hire an architectural firm that will see us through the detailed process of fleshing out that concept with a full architectural rendering and subsequent oversight of the construction process. The building committee sent out a request for qualifications to interested architects in June, and received four responses. Firms then followed up, upon our request, with a fee proposal. The building committee will interview selected firms in August, and will make a recommendation to the Grace Church Vestry by the end of that month. Our goal is to have an architectural firm hired by September 1. The chosen firm will work with Acoustician Scott Reidel, who is already on contract to work with us throughout this project.

Committees focused on specific project areas (ie. Kitchen, Nave, etc.) will begin to meet this fall with direction from the chosen firm about the best way to gather and provide insights/feedback to the architectural rendering process.

Please continue to keep our Growing in Grace building project in your prayers. We have much work yet to do!

OUTREACH AT GRACE

Saturday, August 12th ...



The final Saturday for No Kid Hungry will be August 12th. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help this summer, and to Jayme and David Amosen for leading this ministry!

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Sunday Collections...

Each Sunday during the month, we will be collecting donations for the various organizations we support. Please bring your donations and place them in the basket at the back of the Nave before the service and they will be brought forward to be blessed during the offering. Thank you!

1st Sunday

Genesis House

(canned food w/pop tops, toothbrushes, toothpaste, sm. shampoo bottles, soap)

2nd Sunday

Manna Center

(tuna, peanut butter, cereal, mac & cheese)

3rd Sunday

The Children's Shelter

(hoodies in all sizes, deodorant, combs & hairbrushes, hair ties)

4th Sunday*

Little Free Pantry

(peanut butter, diapers in all sizes, bread, canned goods)

*If a month contains 5 Sundays, the collection for Little Free Pantry will continue.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Celtic Service to Begin...

The Celtic Evensong with Holy Eucharist service will begin on Sunday, September 10th at 5:30 p.m.

Save the Date...

Remember to mark your calendars for the weekend of October 20 – 22 for our annual Parish Retreat! This year we will gather in Eureka Springs at House of Blessings (a retreat center run by Episcopal priests Jos & Angeline Tharakan). Please save the date!



LECTIONARY

AUGUST 6TH

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

2 Peter 1:13-21

Luke 9:28-36

AUGUST 20TH

Genesis 45:1-15

Psalm 133

Romans 11:1-2A, 29-32

Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

AUGUST 13TH

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

AUGUST 27TH

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Psalm 124

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

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