From the Dean. . .

An Easter Epiphany

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this last Chimes message from me, I will have done my last service at Grace and will, in fact, be on vacation before starting a new part-time job as interim pastor at St. Paul’s in Leavenworth while they are searching for a new rector. I’ll be working four days a week, including Sundays and have a letter of agreement for 12 months. This will give me time to think through some things and make important decisions about where I want to be and what I want to do for the next several years of my life. So, there’s that.

And then, there’s this. It has been almost a year since Robyn’s death, and several months of sickness before that. In fact, it was Good Friday, 2017 that we were given the diagnosis of Stage 4 lung and bone cancer and told nothing could be done. I know, as I leave this community that walked through that time with me, many of you are concerned about how I am going to get along. So, I want to tell you a story that I’ve shared with several small groups, about what happened to me on Easter Sunday.

As I said, Good Friday last year, Robyn was diagnosed with terminal
cancer, after being treated the prior two months for what we (and the doctors) thought was a persistent bronchitis. So the anniversary of that diagnosis, Holy Week of this year, was the absolute low point of my life. Any progress I had made in healing seemed to melt away during that already emotional week.

Then, on Easter Sunday, somewhere between my sermon and the Eucharistic Prayer, I got a clear-as-day message from God, saying, “This is the whole reason I did Easter!—so that death is not an ending. I’ve got Robyn. She’s okay—and I’ve got you, and you need to be okay too. Robyn is alive and well. You need to be alive and well, so come out of the tomb and walk in the light again!” And I did. I have. I am.

I wanted you all to know that I’m good. I’m sure there will always be moments, but I’m doing really well. I wanted you to know that so you won’t worry about me, and so the next time you ask me how I’m doing and I say, “Great!” you can believe it. And so is Robyn, and so are all those loved ones we have lost over the years. All is well. All shall be well. All manner of things shall be well. Because God is good all the time; all the time, God is good! :)

—Faithfully,
Steve+

From the Dean

Thank you for the many gifts, cards, letters and words of thanks and encouragement spoken to me over the past few weeks. And thank you for the wonderful “sending out” celebration and most generous cash gift given to me on Pentecost Sunday. I am so very grateful for my time at Grace Cathedral and with you. Having spent 17 of my 27 years as an ordained minister at Grace, this will always be home to me. If I remain in Kansas, it is my intention to return in time as a parishioner. In the meantime, I wish you all the very best and God’s continued blessings. Thank you again and for ever.

—Steve+

Steve Lipscomb named “Dean Emeritus”

Dean Steve Lipscomb was honored on Pentecost with the title of Dean Emeritus at Grace Cathedral. This title can be bestowed upon retiring clergy in acknowledgment of their years of service and contributions to their ministry. In a ceremony prior to the Pentecost picnic on May 20, Senior Warden Keith McKibben presented Dean Lipscomb with a certificate that read: “Be it known, by unanimous consent of the Wardens and Vestry, that The Very Reverend R. Steve Lipscomb is appointed Dean Emeritus of Grace Episcopal Cathedral, Topeka, Kansas, on the Twentieth day of May in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Eighteen. This appointment is in grateful recognition of his role in the leadership and growth of Grace Cathedral from February 1, 2001—May 20, 2018, and his lifelong service in the faith.”

THANK YOU!

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—Steve+

Long-time Cathedral treasurer retires

After more than 21 years as treasurer in two different periods of Cathedral history, Paul Smith is retiring. His tenure included time working with Dean Marc Lee, Provost Bob Terrill and Dean Lipscomb. Paul has served diligently and faithfully in his duties which included design and preparation of reports for our budget, endowments and special accounts. He has attended Vestry and budget committee meetings, and helped greatly in the Finance office during challenging situations. You saw monthly reports from Paul in the Chimes, and he, along with Martha, served on a Sunday collection counting team. All of this along with two monthly batches of checks to sign and month-end transfers to make, meant Paul arranged his personal schedule to be where we needed him when we needed him to do his financial ministry. For this exemplary dedication, Paul deserves our sincere thanks.

—Kent Wingerson
Finance Administrator
From the Interim Search Committee

The Search Committee is currently in discussion with a candidate for interim dean at Grace Cathedral. In the meantime, Sunday services will continue this summer with Pastor George Pejakovich, Deacons Chubb and Flynn, and with help from supply priests. We hope to have an interim in place by mid-September.

We are very pleased that Pastor Pejakovich has agreed to stay on through the interim period. In addition to his regular preaching duties, George will also coordinate the Adult Forum this fall, and will be available for pastoral care and emergencies (267-4413).

Summer office hours

The official Cathedral office hours for the summer months will be shortened a bit to accommodate a smaller staff, as well as working around staff vacations. Through Labor Day weekend, the office will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and 9-noon on Fridays. If there is business you need to take care of outside these hours, please call the Cathedral office first to make sure someone will be there. For pastoral emergencies, please call Pastor Pejakovich at 267-4413. Thank you!

Daughters of the King June luncheon

The Cathedral DOK will meet at 11 a.m., Saturday, June 2, in All Saints Hall for their spring luncheon. Each member is asked to bring a salad. There will also be a member rededication ceremony as well as the admission of four new members: Jan Buckley, Vanessa Hill, Carolyn Jones and Jackie Sommers. The Daughters also welcome the return of Ruth Martin to the Cathedral and the DOK!

Sympathies

Long-time Cathedral member Lynn “Bud” Burris died on April 30. His funeral service was held at the Cathedral on May 8. Sympathies of the parish go out to his wife, Charlotte, and their family. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

New arrival

Congratulations to the McWilliams family on the birth of Kalyssa’s daughter, Mariyah LeAnne-Nichole on May 10! Mariyah is the great-granddaughter of Linda McWilliams.

Manna for Grace Update

Our Manna for Grace program raised a total of $645.75 during the first quarter of 2018 from HyVee and Dillons grocery stores. Seventy-eight Dillons shoppers who designated Grace Cathedral as their recipient in the stores’ Community Rewards program created a total contribution of $490.46. Nine households purchased 37 $100 HyVee cards from the Cathedral for their shopping. Grace receives $5 for each card, resulting in a total of $185 raised.

These stores contribute cash to the Cathedral based upon the amount spent by members shopping in their stores. If you would like to participate in these programs, please contact Michael Massey at mjmassey@gracecathedraltopeka.org or 785-235-3457.

Thank you to Roy Ridgeway for his recent work in the Rose Garden next to the west side patio. Roy spent the better part of a week removing old roses and planting 24 Mister Lincoln hybrid tea roses. This marked the fourth time in 40 years Roy has switched out the roses that fill the stone wall surrounding the patio. We look forward to a summer of vivid color!
This year’s Chorister Singing Trip took the kids to Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral in Kansas City where they sang for that Cathedral’s main choral service. After providing musical leadership for their worship service, the choristers ate lunch at the Flying Saucer Restaurant in the Power and Light District, made a quick stop at the Nelson-Atkins Art Museum and then headed to Bonner Springs where all of the kids went zip-lining. It was a most successful day that ended with a stop for ice cream on our way back to Topeka.
Give the choir a try for the summer

No commitment—just show up for rehearsal at 7 p.m. on a Thursday evening through July 19 and give the Cathedral Choir a try!
Or join the 4th of July Community Choir. Rehearsals will be held on Thursdays, June 7-28, 7-8 p.m. Want more information first? Call Music Director Steve Burk at 235-3457.

Great Spaces

The Sunflower Music Festival presents a Collegiate String Quartet lunch-time concert

Wednesday, June 27, noon

at Grace Cathedral

This is a free 30-minute sack lunch concert. You can bring your own lunch or buy one of ours. Invite a friend or co-worker!

Hidden gems in the Cathedral Narthex

by Michael Massey

Two historic stones from the early church in England can be found on the south side of the Cathedral’s Narthex near the doors leading into the rear of the Nave. These were obtained by Kansas Bishop Frank Millspaugh, who served from 1894-1916, and given to Grace Cathedral in 1910.

The first of these, located six feet east of the center doors, is from The Church of St. Martin in Canterbury, the world’s oldest continually active Anglican Church. This former Roman public building was in use as a Chapel by Queen Bertha of Kent in southeast England when Augustine arrived from Rome in 597 CE to introduce Christianity to what was thought to be an entirely pagan country.

The pagan King Ethelbert, who respected the Christian faith of his French bride, was converted by Augustine and baptized along with 10,000 of his subjects on Christmas Day of that year. Land given by the King for a cathedral and monastery, and the naming of Augustine as the first Archbishop of Canterbury by Pope Gregory the Great, is considered to mark the beginning of the Church of England.

The second stone, ten feet to the west of the doors, comes from the “Holy Island” of Lindisfarne located farther north along England’s east coast. A monastery was established there in the 7th Century by St. Aiden. It served as the seat of the Bishop of Northumbria and the base for the spread of Christianity in northern England.

Known for the beautifully illuminated Lindisfarne Gospels hand-copied by monks, the original wooden priory and monastery were destroyed after the community fled from Viking raiders near the end of the 9th Century. A Benedictine monastery was established on the island in the 11th century and a richly decorated stone priory built. This monastic community remained active until the suppression of monasteries by Henry VIII in 1537.
Welcome to the newest members of Grace Cathedral, confirmed or received on May 12. Photo to the left, front row: Brenda Kebert, Cynthia Nace, Jeanette Collier and John Finch. Back row: Dean Lipscomb, Jeremy Kebert, Bishop Milliken and Stuart Taylor. Photo above: Christine Fuller

Update from the Bishop Search Committee

All seems quiet right now, as the committee has turned its attention to conducting reference checks on the remaining applicants. Additionally, each applicant has been matched with a shepherd from the Search Committee, who is staying in regular contact during this phase of the process.

The Search Committee is currently planning the details of the discernment retreat, which will take place with applicants from Friday, June 8 to Monday, June 11.

The discernment retreat provides the committee an opportunity to get to know the applicants much better and to have deep conversations with them about vision, mission and ministry. Equally important, the retreat allows applicants to further discern their call as bishop of the Diocese of Kansas.

The Search Committee will meet for the last time on June 15 to discern the slate of candidates to present to the Council of Trustees on June 20. The Council of Trustees will announce the slate on June 21.

Name brands in a wide range of apparel and accessories embroidered with the Cathedral logo

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GraceCathedral.qbstores.com
About the window…

Each month, we feature a small portion of a Cathedral stained glass window on the front cover of The Chimes. In the north balcony are four tall, narrow windows which survived the 1975 fire, portraying symbols of the sacraments of Holy Communion and Holy Unction. This dove represents the Holy Spirit.
Weekly Schedule

Sunday
8:30 a.m. — Holy Communion, Rite I
9:30 a.m. — Sunday School (Sept.-May)
10:30 a.m. — Children’s Chapel
10:30 a.m. — Holy Communion, Rite II

GRACE CATHEDRAL CLERGY
The Reverend George Pejakovich, Assistant to the Dean
Deacon Donald Chubb
Deacon Anne Flynn
The Very Reverend Steve Lipscomb, Dean Emeritus

CATHEDRAL STAFF
Kent Wingerson, Cathedral Verger/Finance Manager
Connie Vosburgh, Office Administrator
Steve Burk, Organist/Choirmaster
Sylvia Hamilton, Assistant Organist
Alan Martin, Music Assistant
Michael Massey, Ministry Coordinator
Mary Howell, Director of Children’s Ministries
Chris Escalante, Youth Director
Michael Godfrey, Sexton
John Barber, Security

VESTRY OF GRACE CATHEDRAL
Keith McKibben (Sr. Warden), Norman Nellis (Jr. Warden), Nicole Nielsen
Phil Dittmer, Sharon Highberger, Jackie Sommers
Tammy King, Gwen McClain, Steve Roth
Lance Royer, Treasurer; Phil Elwood, Chancellor

Grace Cathedral, Topeka, Kansas — A House of Prayer for all People
and a National Jubilee Ministry Center of the Episcopal Church