



The Cathedral chimes

Grace Episcopal Cathedral
Topeka, Kansas

September 2021
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From the Dean



It's exciting to offer something in print after so many months away from running a hardcopy version of *The Chimes*. Even

though I've been at Grace Cathedral for the past twenty months, this is only the fourth time I've written something with the intention of your being able to hold it as a physical object. That hiatus, however, was anything but a break. It's another example of the pandemic forcing us to be creative and to try things that before we might not have thought possible.

We have spent a lot of time pivoting from one phase to another lately. But how many times can one person pivot before exhaustion sets in? I remember playing in the yard as a kid, looking up at the sky, spinning and twirling, and falling into a dizzy heap on the ground when it all got to be too much after a minute or two. Twenty or thirty pivots on the spot had me beat! I had to catch my breath before I could get back up again. Sometimes I'd be so worn-out I might even catch a little nap as I lie there waiting for the world to stop turning.

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Lightning strike damages Cathedral tower



On Sunday August 8, the west tower of Grace Cathedral took a direct lightning strike just after midnight (think clock tower in *Back to the Future*). The areas / equipment that was damaged by the 300% voltage spike include a limestone pinnacle, our new livestreaming system (both video and audio), and the fire alarm system. The office is working with Church Insurance to be reimbursed once we've passed our deductible of \$5000.

Since the repairs are adjacent to the 1915 limestone cross taken down years ago for safety reasons, we are exploring getting this replaced to its prominent position between the two towers at the same time.



The Bible records many stories of faithful people who for one reason or another get tired, confused, or otherwise ready to give up. Here are a few. Take a little time over the next couple of days to look at some of these stories and draw inspiration from them.

In chapters 17 and 18 of Genesis, messengers of God visit Abraham and Sarah and declare that they will have a son. Sarah is well beyond child-bearing years by now ("it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women") and has long abandoned that hope. When she hears of the promise of the messengers, she laughs to herself, thinking that it is impossible. But God shows faithfulness to them: "Is anything too wonderful for the Lord?"

The book of Job records the story of a man beset by terrible circumstances brought about by a cosmic bet between God and Satan. The substance of the bet is to see whether Job will curse God and die when all these hideous things happen to him. Although

he loses everything and maybe even feels he has the right to utter that curse, yet Job refuses to say a word against God. Completely spent ("Why did I not die at birth?"), he is finally brought to a place of total humiliation where all he can do is to admit that God is God, and God alone is sovereign. The story ends with the restoration of his life ("twice as much as he had before") and the receiving of sympathy and comfort.

Psalms 86 records the tear-stained prayer of someone persecuted by malicious enemies. He suffers the attacks of an insolent "band of ruffians." He begs God to be listened to and to be spared from the hand of his persecutors. You can hear the disorientation and confusion in his words. Yet he is also quick to remember that God is gracious, slow to anger, protective, and merciful. The simple act of just remembering these things is a form of encouragement all on its own.

Finally, a parable from the lips of Jesus: from Luke 18, a sto-

ry about a persistent widow petitioning a local judge to find in her favor. Over a long period, the widow wears down the judge. The judge declares she wins her case just so she won't bother him anymore. Luke says that Jesus tells his disciples this story so that they will keep praying and not lose heart. "Will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?"

The God whom we encounter in Holy Scripture is prepared to meet us in any condition of life, no matter how tired, sad, or confused we may be. God hears the cries and prayers of a fatigued and shattered people and offers a promise of life amid chaos and persecution. The Bible bears witness to us living in a moment like this.

So don't give up hope.

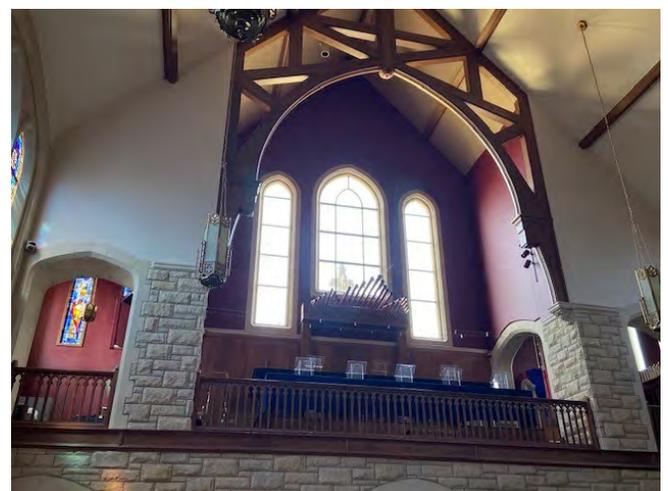
—Torey+

North Window Project

Those present at the Feast of the Pentecost on May 23 heard wonderful news. Through an anonymous donation, the north windows in the Cathedral (the set of three windows over the organ trumpets) will offer a stained-glass representation of the events of the Pentecost. This is a generous piece of news because those windows are the last remaining major windows in the Cathedral currently without stained glass.

Willet Hauser Architectural Glass firm out of Winona, Minnesota, has been contracted to provide this work for Grace Cathedral. This group has already done significant work with us and knows our environment very well. Vestry has instituted an Architectural Glass committee to oversee the work. Right now, ideas are being drafted and feedback offered.

The current iteration calls for a central scene commemorating the Pentecost event, with the lancets (flanking windows) showing various witnesses to the Pentecost. These witnesses are part of the theological and spiritual history of Christianity, Anglicanism, and Grace Cathedral.





DOK September meeting

Daughters of the King, Grace Chapter, will meet Saturday September 11, at 9:30 a.m. in the Bubb Room for their monthly meeting. They will recognize the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, followed by a meditation/reflection.

Daughters of the King is a religious order for Episcopalians and those in communion with the Episcopal church. All women of Grace are welcome to attend. For more information contact Jackie Sommers at 785-383-5035.

Great Spaces volunteers needed

The Great Spaces Music & Art Series will return with a wonderful 2021-2022 schedule, and your help is needed to make each event run smoothly. Whether you are available for one, several, or all events, Great Spaces Volunteers have opportunities to serve as ticket takers, ushers and greeters at concerts and to assist with concert receptions.

Contact Kathy Smith, Music Administrator for more information at:

music@gracecathedraltopeka.org.

Meanwhile, watch for a 2021-22 Great Spaces brochure to be mailed out soon!

New AC for Cathedral Hall

The Cathedral recently installed a new chiller replacing a 30-ton unit that was about 15 years old. This cools the offices and classrooms in Cathedral Hall, our west building. The cost will be about 45K when it's all added together. That figure includes a rental chiller for two months and will be paid for with existing funds in our Capital Campaign Fund account.

This chiller will improve our efficiency since we had previously removed the BKSM space on the lower level, and the Bubb Room from the chiller. We have different units handling those specific areas. This factor allowed us to get an 18-ton unit.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION to begin September 12

9:30 a.m. for all ages

Sunday School – Birth through 5th Grade

Many, many thanks to our teachers who so diligently continued classes by Zoom last year and kept our kids connected. Classes for this year include:

- Infant - 4 years: Stephanie Prue & Linda Ybarra (Preschool Room – 1st floor)
- K-2nd grade: Kitty Fapp (Room 208 – 2nd floor)
- 3rd-5th grade: Sharon McCourt Ostrowski (Room 206 – 2nd floor)

Youth Group: Middle & High School “Coffee Talk” (Room 212 – 2nd floor)

Our Youth Group has had a fun summer of events, from bowling, to Worlds of Fun, to Pasta Night and more. It has been great to spend time together.

This year, we will begin a series called “Journey to Adulthood,” a youth ministry program of spiritual formation for 6th-12th grades. Centered on inclusive, relational ministry, this curriculum uses Bible study, prayer, rites of passage, and outreach ministries. These creative lessons are arranged within three categories of Self, Society, and Spirituality and include confirmation components for those students interested in being confirmed.

In addition to faith formation, service projects as well as events that are just for fun are also planned! Details will be sent out to all families with Middle & High School kids.

Questions about Sunday School? Contact Kathy Smith, Director of Youth & Children’s Ministries at knsmith@gracecathedraltopeka.org.

Adult Forum (All Saints Hall)

Please plan to join us September 12, 19, and 26 for an exploration of St. Simon’s, a Black Topeka-based Episcopal congregation that was ordered by Bishop Turner to be integrated with Grace Cathedral in 1964. Jim Beck, a parishioner at St. Paul’s, Clay Center, has done significantly in-depth research on St. Simon’s and will report on his findings. We will also hear from former members of St. Simon’s now at Grace, and there will be a chance to reflect on our learnings.

Changes in the Cathedral's Music Department

Grace Cathedral bid goodbye to its Organist/Choirmaster, Steve Burk, on Sunday, July 25. He retired after nearly two decades of service and leaves a legacy of deep artistry, involvement, and professionalism.

The vestry of Grace Cathedral bestowed the honor of renaming the choir room after Steve. The following resolution was read at his retirement reception:

Whereas, Steve Burk has faithfully served as the Organist/Choirmaster of Grace Episcopal Cathedral, in Topeka, Kansas, from January 2002 until this day; and

Whereas, his work has produced uncounted moments of beauty, making room within people to be transformed by the love of God; and

Whereas, his commitment to following the call of God to minister through music has been evident in the development and support of many initiatives including choirs, handbells, choristers, July 4th concerts and community events, and the Great Spaces series; and

Whereas, both he and the members of his family - wife Sally and daughters Katie and Maggie - have all offered the gift of music within the walls of this Cathedral over many years; and

Whereas, in the conception of buildings he lent invaluable assistance that would prove to optimize music program spaces; now, therefore be it

Resolved that this room be designated in his honor; and be it further

Resolved that this room be known as the Burk Choir Room; and be it further

Resolved that the people of Grace Episcopal Cathedral extend their gracious thanks to Steve and his family.



The Dean and Vestry of Grace Episcopal Cathedral
July 21, 2021



For the interim, we have assembled terrific help from existing resources who are committed to the kind of close coordination that it will take to make things work. They are prepared to meet the need until such time as a permanent replacement has been named.

Sylvia Hamilton, organ. Sylvia has capably assisted for many years, and will now play the entire service. Additional responsibility will mean even more practice time for this dedicated organist!



Zachary Cope, choirs. Zachary has been a leading influence out of the Choral Scholars for several years and has agreed to take responsibility for that group. He will also be exploring with our various choirs and Handbell Choirs the possibilities of relaunching some of their ministries as may be safely allowed under current circumstances.

Kathy Smith, logistics/administration. Much is required in the background to make the music program go. Kathy will add to her existing duties here (as a Director of our children's and

youth ministries) by tending to the many details around finances, scheduling, contracts, and the countless other details that are so often taken for granted. Importantly, having her in this position allows us to continue with our Great Spaces series that has so wonderfully associated the Cathedral with quality music programs beyond the Sunday experience.

Small groups meeting in person and on Zoom

Readers Theatre is a group of people who enjoy reading plays. They meet every Monday night at 7:00 in the Bubb Room. Although in the past they have prepared and presented plays to the public, since the pandemic they have been reading solely for their own enjoyment. At the present time they are working on several original radio plays from the 1940's and 50's, but in the past they have read full length stage plays and even developed original material. Participation is not limited to Cathedral members, and anyone who thinks they would enjoy reading plays is welcome to stop by on Mondays.

Menninger Bible Study: This is the 4th and final year. Come join us for a study of Acts through Revelation! The class will meet online each Thursday from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., September through May. All materials will be provided. Our first meeting, the introduction to Year Four, will be on Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. For more information or to receive the Zoom invitation, please contact Mike Deibler at deibler.michael@yahoo.com.

Women's Study Group has begun a series of sessions on the Old Testament book of Exodus. This group meets at 5:30 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of each month in the Bubb Room. If you are interested in joining, please call Karel Ramsey at 785-232-1452.

Sandwich Ministry volunteers have provided our neighbors in need with Saturday sack lunches for over a decade and did not miss a Saturday during the pandemic. This weekly ministry is a

September Flower Memorials

- 3 Frances McClintock Shoemaker
Jimmy Lee Starr
- 4 Robyn M. Lipscomb
- 6 Adolph Henry Meyer
- 7 Velda D. Stawicki
Thurlow R. West
- 13 William Bruce Wright
Gertrude A. Weaver
- 17 Charles John Baer
Patricia Corbett Shinn
- 19 David Elwood Starr
- 20 Willard R. Garhart
- 21 Dorothy Mason Miller
- 22 Deane E. Ackers
Chester Burns Reed
- 23 Harold E. Van Laer
- 25 Ira Burkholder
- 26 Mary Christine Grooms
- 26 Marguerite Harrington
- 28 Lillian Whitelock Davis
- 29 Anne Poland Page
- 30 Joel Randall Burrow
Bessie Gibson Palmer
Carmen McKercher Dougherty



wonderful way to get to know other members of the Cathedral while helping those who are food insecure. If you are interested in joining a team or learning more, please contact Tammy King at 314-807-9261 or tammyking01@gmail.com.

The Order of the Daughters of the King meet at 9:30 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month. The DOK is a religious order for Episcopalians and those in communion with the Episcopal church. All women of Grace are welcome to attend. If you would like to learn more about the group and their activities in and outside the Cathedral, please contact DOK president Jackie Sommers at 785-383-5035.

September Birthdays

- 1 Kyle Garrison
- 2 Bobbie Athon
Edna Greene
Julianne Greene
Cyndi Nace
- 3 Jacquie Lightcap
LaWayne Zemp
- 4 Alan Johnson
- 5 John Toth
- 7 Dennis Richter
Josiah Todwong
- 9 Boyd Fetterolf
Janet Nelson
- 12 Robert Durst
Roy Ridgeway
Tami Smith
- 13 Charlotte Burris
Julie Dittmer
Diane Green
- 16 Jeanne Atha
Nicole Nielsen
- 17 Kinsley Kebert
TJ Wiechman
- 19 Kelly Johnson
Mark Weber
- 20 Bessie Johnson
Sheryl Kingman
Alicia Salisbury
- 22 Lorene Hamilton
Bill Ohlemeier
- 25 Phyllis Evans
- 26 Bob Horton
Mark Kingman
Penny Neill
Bev Tilly
- 27 Ray McComas
Kent Wingerson
- 28 Eric Shutt
- 29 Keira Kebert
- 30 Joanne Kensinger
Linda Park
Adelaide Shermoen

*O God, our times are in your hand:
Look with favor, we pray, on your
servants as they begin another year.
Grant that they may grow in wisdom
and grace, and strengthen their trust
in your goodness all the days of their
lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen. – Book of Common Prayer*

(Please contact the office if we have missed your birthday or have incorrect information.)



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September 2021

Sunday Services

8:30 a.m. – Holy Communion,
Rite I
9:30 a.m. – Sunday School
(Sept.-May)
10:30 a.m. – Holy Communion,
Rite II

**Masks are currently required for
all services and events at Grace
Cathedral.**

GRACE CATHEDRAL CLERGY

The Right Reverend Dr. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom,
Bishop of the Diocese of Kansas
The Very Reverend Torey Lightcap, *Dean*
The Reverend John Bullock, *Assistant Priest*
The Reverend Donald Chubb, *Deacon*
The Venerable Anne Flynn, *Archdeacon*

CATHEDRAL STAFF

Kent Wingerson, *Cathedral Verger/Finance & Facilities Manager*
Connie Vosburgh, *Office Administrator*
Sylvia Hamilton, *Organist*
Zachary Cope, *Choirmaster*
Kathy Smith, *Director of Youth and Children's Ministries*
And Interim Music Administrator
Michael Godfrey, *Sexton*

VESTRY OF GRACE CATHEDRAL

Chris Shermoen (Sr. Warden), Rick Backlund (Jr. Warden),
Ron Langston, Suzanne DeWeese, Brenda Kebert, Susan Weber,
Linda Ditch, Barbara Nuss, Dennis Weikel
Lance Royer, *Treasurer*;
Cynthia Sheppeard Langston, *Chancellor*