



The Cathedral chimes

Grace Episcopal Cathedral
Topeka, Kansas

December 2022
Vol. 96, No. 10

From the Dean



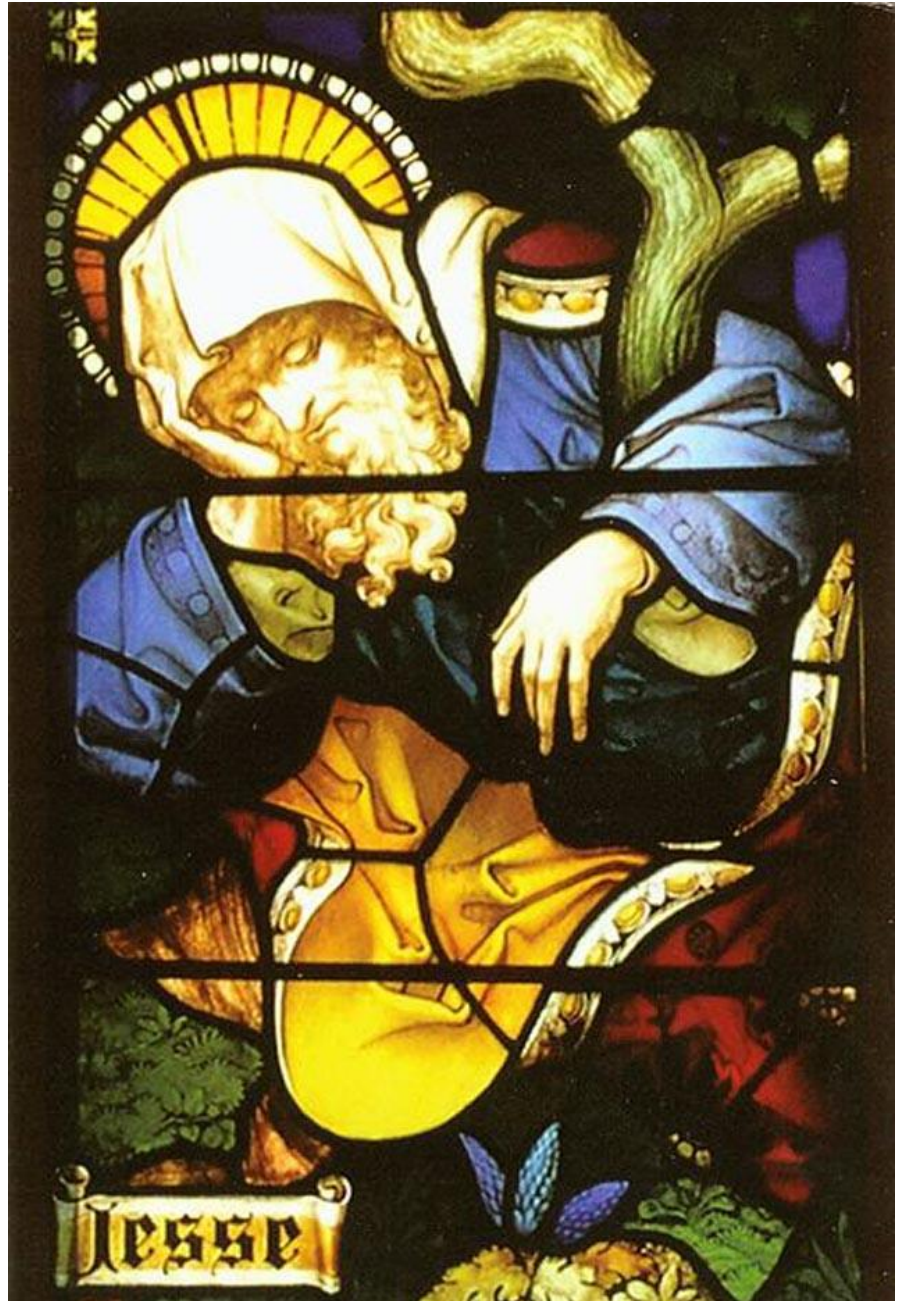
What a tremendous privilege it is to be part of the annual announcement of the coming of Christ into the

world. In some of the darkest, coldest, bleakest days of the year, Christians gather and remember the birth of Jesus. We reassure one another that Jesus is the fulfillment of a promise. That promise is “that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them, and ... committing to us the message of reconciliation.”

It wouldn’t be so far away from the imagination to consider that our Advent preparation for Christmas should deliberately include the act of reconciliation – with others, with ourselves, and of course with God.

Look at the service in the *Book of Common Prayer* called “The Reconciliation of a Penitent” (pages 446 and following). It makes clear that the service has a few key functions. One is, yes, to hear the refreshing word that one’s sins have been absolved – to have one’s conscience cleared, in a sense. Another function of the service looks ahead, prodding you to consider how you intend to lead a better, humbler, more godly life going forward.

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“A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.”

—Isaiah 11:1-2

From the Dean continued

Advent usually begins on a penitential note. It then builds to our anticipation of the Nativity of Our Lord on Christmas Eve. In between, we hear many words of the prophets exhorting us to live in a more upright and aware manner. To come to that place, we cannot exempt ourselves from the task of confessing our sins before God. Confession is the path by which we attain that better, more moral state.

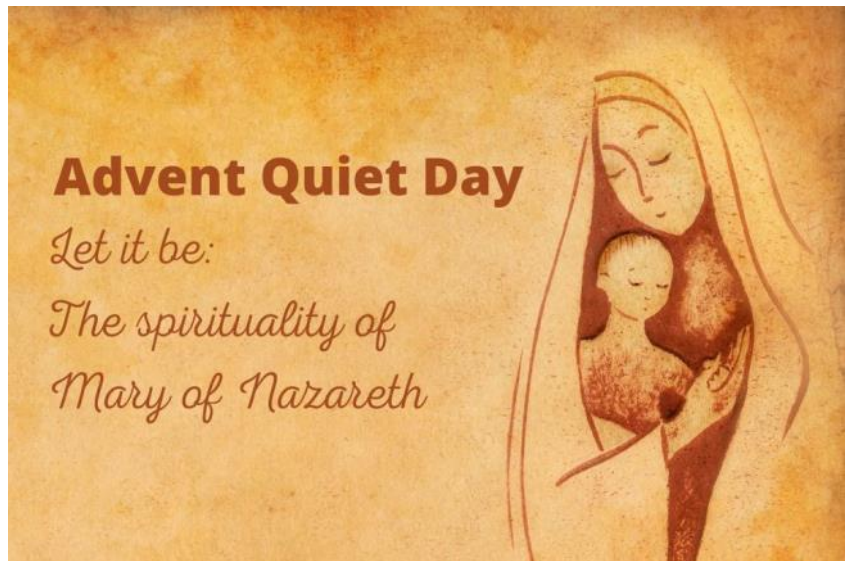
The best reconciliation takes time and can be costly: i.e., it can be hard to inventory one's life, mind, and actions. It requires sober humility, searching vulnerability, and an honest eye. The service of reconciliation is a very helpful tool that I recommend to help achieve these things.

Of course, as your priest, I am always available to visit if you wish to pursue learning more about this essential act of Christian duty.

Torey+



The holidays are a time when most everyone seems to be happy and having a good time, but it can be a challenging season for those who have experienced loss or grief. Grace Cathedral's Stephen Ministry is offering an Advent Service of Hope and Healing for those feeling sadness or stress. You are invited to join us in this safe and sacred space.



Saturday, December 3, 2022
9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Grace Cathedral

Sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas

The day will begin at 9 a.m. with coffee and check in. Canon Lisa Senuta will guide you through times of spiritual learning, personal reflection, and listening groups. Expect music, poetry, and guided prayer times to nurture a sense of your own deepening affirmation with the spirit of Mary.

Sign up online: bit.ly/EDOKAdvent2022

Questions? Contact Canon Lisa Senuta at lsenuta@episcopal-ks.org.

Christmas shopping?
Check out the
GRACE CATHEDRAL
Online Apparel Shop
Name brands in a wide range of
apparel and accessories
embroidered with the
Cathedral logo



GraceCathedral.qbstores.com

St. Nicholas Tree makes return appearance

This year's St. Nicholas Tree, a project of the Cathedral's Youth Group, is in the Common Room through December 11. Take an ornament off the tree and donate the gift listed. All gifts will be going to families and individuals adopted through the Topeka Christmas Bureau.

Each ornament on the tree will have an item, or a group of items. You simply make the purchase and return the wrapped item(s) to the Cathedral on or before December 11.

Volunteers to help deliver the gifts are also appreciated. Please contact Kathy Smith, knsmith@gracecathedraltopeka.org if you can help.



Sunday School children to receive St. Nick visit!

Sunday, December 4, 9:30 a.m., Sloan Hall (2nd floor)

Kids of all ages- Come join us for Gingerbread House decorating and a visit from St. Nicholas!

AND...the return of the Mitten Tree!



All Cathedral members are invited to help decorate the "Mitten Tree" in the Cathedral with new mittens, gloves, hats and scarves in children's sizes. After Christmas, the items will be distributed to several social service agencies in Topeka.

The Mitten Tree, located in the Cathedral's east transept, is a long-time Cathedral tradition and is a wonderful reminder during this Advent season of the many children in need of a little warmth and love.



**Sundays, 9:45-10:15 a.m.
in All Saints Hall.**

Migrations Ministries & Issues

Adult formation opportunities in December will center around migration and immigration issues. Grace Cathedral is very blessed to have among its parishioners Sarah Shipman, a postulant for the priesthood and Director of Episcopal Migration Ministries, a program of The Episcopal Church.

December 4 – Orientation to basic issues of immigration and looking more closely at its scriptural basis.

December 11 – Reframing migration in the context of the Baptismal Covenant and identifying how we already serve the purposes through Christian service.

December 18 – Expanding opportunities as we extend our comprehension about immigration.

Adult Forum will not be held on December 25 or January 1.

About the windows...

The stained glass window on the top left corner of this month's cover focuses on Mary, the Mother of Jesus. This is a portion of the large Nativity Window, located behind the baptismal font on the Cathedral's west side. *Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."* Luke 1:38

The large stained glass window on the cover is not one of the Cathedral's, but is a depiction of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1-10) which will be part of our Advent lessons. (*window location unknown*)



*Join us in December
for our*

SENIOR SAINTS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH!

- *potluck lunch*
- *guest speaker Lawton Nuss*
- *fellowship*

ALL ARE INVITED! NO RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.
Grace Cathedral, 701 SW 8th Ave., Topeka, KS 785-235-3457



11:30 a.m., December 14
All Saints Hall
*Bring a dish to share
and invite a friend or two!*

stewardship

UPDATE

As of the printing of this month's *Chimes*, our 2023 Annual Stewardship Campaign stands at 138 pledges for \$401,340.

If you have not yet turned in a pledge card for 2023, please do so as soon as possible. The Cathedral Finance Committee is working to finalize next year's budget for recommendation to the Vestry. If you need a pledge card, please call the Cathedral office at 785-235-3457. THANK YOU!

Also, please check the status of your 2022 pledge. If you are not paid up on this year's pledge, please do so as soon as possible, as many of the Cathedral's bills are due in December. If you are not sure where you are on your pledge, call Kent in the church office and he can give you an up-to-date report.

We ask that you please make every effort to get your payments in before Christmas as the last week of the year is very busy. Thank you!

2023 Offering Envelopes

The Finance office will be assigning numbered envelopes for 2023 to most contributors. Exceptions will be those who give to the church quarterly or less frequently, use Vanco or a bill-payer service. Using assigned numbers helps the volunteer counting teams in both accuracy and convenience. Please watch for envelope sets to be available on the west side of the Cathedral in early December. (We save quite a bit on postage for each set picked up.)

GREAT SPACES

Music & Arts Series

Tuesday, December 20, 7 p.m., Grace Cathedral

The Spire Chamber Ensemble presents *Messiah*. Tuesday, December 20, 7 p.m. The Spire Chamber Ensemble and Baroque Orchestra from Kansas City performs this masterpiece under



candlelight with period instruments like you have never heard before...inspiring, dazzling, joyous. This is a Christmastime concert experience not to be missed!

Tickets: \$20/adults; \$5 students/ 12 and younger, free available at www.GreatSpaces.org (credit card) or at the Cathedral office (cash/check only)

Tuesday, January 3, 7 pm.



Nebraska Wesleyan University Choir presents "How Can We Keep From Singing?" Expressing both great joy and deep sorrow, both fervent hope and honest fear, this powerful, soulful program is sure to inspire. Offering an array of music by Pavel Chesnokov, Gwynneth Walker, Jake

Runestad, Rosephanye Powell, Felix Mendelssohn, Moses Hogan, and Alessandro Scarlatti. Under the direction of Tom Trenney.

Tickets: \$10/adults; \$5 students/ 12 and younger, free available at www.GreatSpaces.org (credit card) or at the Cathedral office (cash/check only)"

Your help is needed! Great Spaces wants to provide homestays for students from the Nebraska Wesleyan University Choir on the night of January 3, 2023. If anyone is willing to open their home to students for the night, please contact Donald Livingston, 785-235-3457 or DLivingston@gracecathedraltopeka.org for details. The students of Nebraska Wesleyan are grateful for this generosity that allows them to tour to our cathedral and many churches beyond.

Grace Cathedral Outreach projects

Caring for our neighbors in a variety of ways

In addition to our weekly Saturday Sack Lunch Ministry, preparing and distributing peanut butter and jelly sandwiches between 8:30 and 11:30, the first Saturday of each month sees even more outreach projects in action.

There's the Sharing Table with donations of toiletries and other items (see a list of needed donations below); Blessing Bags which contain enough non-perishable food to last several days; and the return of our blankets, socks and hats giveaway for the winter — the latter two projects are supported by the Cathedral's annual Outreach budget.

Sharing Table items needed include can openers, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, body wash, shampoo, body lotion, lip balm, bandaids, pain reliever and nail clippers.



Help fill our new Blessing Box



On the third Sunday of each month, you are invited to bring non-perishable food items to fill Grace Cathedral's new Blessing Box! We will have a

grocery cart on the Cathedral's west side where you can deposit your donations.

The box, donated by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in memory of Mary Farr, is located just outside the southeast corner of All Saints Hall. Mary was a long-time member and Sunday School Superintendent of Grace Cathedral.

Grace Cathedral Justice Ministers attended the Topeka JUMP Community Problem's Assembly on November 7.



Justice Ministers Bill Stelzner, Debbie Sessler, Terilyn Fairbank, Rev. Jennifer Allen, Arceile Ridgeway, Jim Brewer, Marilyn Trubey, Susan Weber, Linda Gallaway, Betsy McGuire, LeRoy Dagg, Vanessa Hill, Ruth Ohm and Melissa Weikel

Youth happenings in October

A trip to World's of Fun and Trunk or Treat — both a fun collaboration between Grace Cathedral, First United Methodist Church and First Presbyterian Church!





This Ministry of Compassion needs you!

Are you a good listener who has a caring heart? If so, prayerfully consider becoming a Stephen Minister.

◆ Stephen Ministry offers private, high quality,

Christ-centered, one-to-one Christian-based care to individuals experiencing life difficulties.

- ◆ A Stephen Minister is confidential, reliable and consistent.
- ◆ A Stephen Minister is committed to the ministry, the education connected with it and their care receivers.
- ◆ Stephen Ministers receive 50 hours of initial training and ongoing supervision to equip and empower laypeople in the ministry.

The Stephen Ministry at Grace, in cooperation with four other Stephen Ministry congregations, has planned a training session for new Stephen Ministers in early January. An informational meeting will be held in the Bubbs Room at 9:45 a.m., Sunday Dec. 4. Please attend this meeting or call Gwen McClain (785-506-6929) or Karel Ramsey (785-232-1452).

A Stephen Ministry Story

Sent by God, Just for Me

I was 26, newly divorced, living far away from family and friends, and dealing with a lot of guilt, shame, and low self-esteem. *Was I a total failure? Would anybody ever want me? Was God condemning me because of my divorce?*

I found a new church and made some friends, but still struggled. It seemed like all my church friends were perfect, happy, and full of faith—while I was flawed, gloomy, and full of doubts.

When I shared some of this with my pastor, he suggested a Stephen Minister.

Before I met my Stephen Minister, I was worried she would judge and reject me once she learned about my past and got to know the real me. But she didn't. She was patient, lov-ing, and accepting. I truly believe she was

sent by God just for me.

We got together weekly. She'd ask me questions, get me talking, and then listen as I shared my struggles and doubts. She showed me God's love even when I didn't feel it. Over time, her faithful care helped me to see that perhaps I wasn't such a terrible person after all. Through her loving care, I began to think that if God loved me, then maybe I could love myself too.

After a while, I got to a better place emotionally, and our Stephen Ministry relationship ended. A few years later, I remarried and had a miscarriage, and she was there for me again as a Stephen Minister, providing the care and support I needed. We now live over a thousand miles apart—but she will always hold a special place in my heart.



December Birthdays

- 1 Jarius Todwong
- 3 Gweneth Page
- 4 Jan Buckley
Vivienne Shermoen
Amy Smith
Roger Wilcox
- 6 Dylan Bane
Evelyn Wilson
- 8 Jackie Sommers
- 9 Debbie Sesler
- 12 Kelli Benson
Marty Brewer
- 14 Don Chubb
Karolyn Sharp
- 15 Ron Langston
Michael Massey
- 16 Janet Chubb
- 17 Dennis Benson
Bo Turney
- 18 Brian Wilson
Rusty Steinmeyer
- 19 Al Benson
Russell Greene
Ben Neill
- 20 John Salisbury
- 27 Kathy Smith
- 28 Brenda Kebert
Sarah Wilson
- 29 Linda Ditch
Bill Stelzner
- 30 Lawton Nuss
Lorelai Quintana
Connie Vosburgh
- 31 Paul Smith

*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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Topeka, Kansas 66603-3219
(785) 235-3457
E-mail: info@GraceCathedralTopeka.org
Website: www.GraceCathedralTopeka.org

December 2022

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

GRACE CATHEDRAL CLERGY

The Right Reverend Dr. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom,
Bishop of the Diocese of Kansas
The Very Reverend Torey Lightcap, *Dean*
The Reverend Donald Chubb, *Deacon*

CATHEDRAL STAFF

Kent Wingerson, *Cathedral Verger/Finance & Facilities Manager*
Connie Vosburgh, *Office Administrator*
Donald Livingston, *Organist*
Eduardo García-Novelli, *Choirmaster*
Zachary Cope, *Associate Choirmaster*
Kathy Smith, *Director of Youth and Children's Ministries*
Michael Godfrey, *Sexton*

VESTRY OF GRACE CATHEDRAL

Rick Backlund (Senior Warden), Brenda Kebert, Susan Weber,
Linda Ditch (Junior Warden), Marilyn Trubey, Dennis Weikel,
John Finch, Vanessa Hill, Alan Johnson
Lance Royer, *Treasurer*,
Cynthia Sheppeard Langston, *Chancellor*