



The Cathedral chimes

Grace Episcopal Cathedral
Topeka, Kansas

September 2023
Vol. 96, No. 7

From the Dean



Bend low again, night
of summer stars.
So near you are, sky
of summer stars,
So near, a long arm
man can pick off
stars,
Pick off what he

wants in the sky bowl,
So near you are, summer stars,
So near, strumming, strumming,
So lazy and hum-strumming.

~William Carlos Williams

For seventh-grade science I wrote a report on Saturn. It had to have at least three sources on the Works Cited page and was to have been written with a partner. My partner didn't contribute anything, and I wasn't interested in doing anything except looking at pictures of planets. So, as so often happens, I was up writing the report most of the entire evening before it was due.

I began the procrastinating process by carefully cutting a photo of the ringed planet out of the cover of a *National Geographic*. I doubled over a length of tape and fastened it to a piece of sky-blue construction paper. This attention to detail, I knew, would ensure me the "A+" that no one had earned.

In the end, I did have something to hand in by cobbling together a reasonable facsimile of a paper on Saturn. Turns out all you really have to do is crib your *National Geographic* notes into a prose form and find one salient fact from the other sources you can lean on. But experience has

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September 10, 9:30 — 10:15 a.m.

and following the 10:30 service in the Cathedral Nave

**This event is an opportunity for you to get to know what ministries
Grace offers and to participate in one or more of them.**

Come be a part of the growing ministries at Grace Cathedral!

From the Dean continued

taught me not to hope for more than a “C.” That’s what happens when you don’t bother to get close enough to something to understand it.

As I’m writing this, I’m hearing how Saturn is in “opposition,” the time when Earth is directly between it and the Sun. It is also, for the moment, as close as it gets to us in our lifetimes – a mere 814 million miles from where we sit out the summer. You can go outside and look at it. William Carlos Williams was right – “a long arm man” could just about touch it.

The prophet Amos had his eyes heavenward as well. We classify him as a “minor prophet,” but his ministry was heady and urgent. Although he wrote in a time of relative prosperity, he spoke about important things, including what we today would call wealth disparity. He assured his readers that in God’s economy – in God’s omnipotence and fierce justice – we only had to glance at the stars to know their source. “Seek him that made the Pleiades and Orion, that turneth deep darkness into the morning ... The Lord is his name.” Look up, Amos said, and know that God means business.

Perhaps in these boiling days of summer, we all we can do is wait out the oppression of the daytime and hail the night when it comes. Say a prayer of thanksgiving after the sun has set. Walk out of the air-cooled insides of our homes and crane our necks to the sky to see what we can see. Saturn? A red thumbnail of a moon? An indiscriminate clump of stars? The whole universe pulsates and thrums with God’s grandeur. It’s painted on the dome of the night sky. It only takes a glance to remember and be inspired.

Perhaps that is how we hold on to hope in days of uncertainty and chaos – by looking up and breathing cool breaths of awe and wonder. Perhaps that, too, is a kind of prayer, simple and wordless.

Torey+



- **Ages 4 years—5th grade**
Club Jesus meets upstairs in Sloan Hall every Sunday during the 10:30 service, with the children joining their families during the Peace. Come join the fun!

• **Youth Group—Middle & High School**

Middle and high school students will continue to meet in the Youth Room in Sloan Hall, Sundays, 5-7 p.m.

• **Youth Group trip to Worlds of Fun, Saturday, September 16**

Our friends from 1st UMC and First Pres will be joining us again this year for our annual trip to everyone’s favorite amusement park.

Contact Children and Youth Ministries Director Kathy Smith about any of these activities: ksmith@gracecathedraltopeka.org.

Adult Forum to return September 17

Topics for the fall Adult Forum classes are being formed. Watch the Sunday bulletins and EChimes for a complete schedule. The Adult Forum will meet at 9:30 a.m. in All Saints Hall beginning September 17.

Cathedral Choirs schedule fall rehearsals — All are welcome!

- **Cathedral Choir:** Thursdays at 7 p.m. Contact Dr. Eduardo Garcia-Novelli — egarcianovelli@gracecathedraltopeka.org
- **Handbell Choir:** Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. Contact Dr. Donald Livingston — dlivingston@gracecathedraltopeka.org
- **Cathedral Choristers:** (youth 3rd grade—Senior High) Rehearsal time currently in discussion. Contact Zachary Cope — zcope@gracecathedraltopeka.org.

September Senior Saints luncheon, Wednesday, September 13

Our own Pam and Ken Alexander will present a program on the Alexander Baking Company, formerly located in Topeka.

Join us for social time at 11 a.m., followed by a catered lunch at 11:30 in All Saints Hall. RSVP to the Cathedral office at 784-235-3457. A free-will offering is appreciated for the lunch.

Sacred Ground Opportunity Offered Diocesan-Wide

As part of the Episcopal Church’s commitment to *Becoming Beloved Community*, a diocesan-wide *Sacred Ground* circle will be available on Zoom again this fall. LeRoy and Kay Dagg will co-facilitate the reconciliation conversation circle, beginning the week of September 17 and running through the week of November 26.

Sacred Ground Zoom sessions meet weekly for 90 minutes. Possible meeting times for this cycle are Wednesday and/or Thursday evenings, 7:30-9 p.m. — to be determined by the participants.

The possibility of an in-person *Sacred Ground* circle meeting at Grace Cathedral is also under discussion.

Find more information about *Sacred Ground* at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/>. Please send questions about *Sacred Ground* or express your interest and a preference for the meeting day/time to the Daggis at ks_sacredground@daggisound.com.

Pastoral Care Ministries provide care in a variety of ways

The Pastoral Care Ministry has been reorganized to offer a coordinated and more comprehensive outreach and access to pastoral care to members of Grace Cathedral. Our goal is to extend the care and concern of our congregation to people in need of support through presence, hope and prayer. It is a ministry offered by both clergy and lay people and there are a variety of services that will be available, depending on a person's need. Most of these services are already available at Grace, but we thought a reorganization and fresh introduction may be helpful to reach more people.

To access a service listed, or to participate in a ministry as a volunteer, please contact Ruth Ohm (785) 806-7943 or the ministry leader identified.

Clergy Visits

Clergy visit in hospitals and home settings. They can also take place in the church where we have a room dedicated to spiritual care and direction. A clergy visit will offer spiritual guidance and may involve counseling parishioners in a time of need.

Ministry leader: Dean Torey Lightcap

Eucharistic Visits

Eucharistic Visitors bring sacrament and worship to the home setting for parishioners unable to attend church, particularly the homebound and hospitalized. Families are welcome and encouraged to participate. Eucharistic Visitors are trained at Grace Cathedral and licensed by the diocese to visit people in homes and hospitals, to bring the experience of loving discipleship, communal worship, and the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Ministry leader: Reverend Jody Carroll

Visitation (home, hospital/rehabilitation)

The Grace Cathedral visitation ministry provides friendly, Christ-like companionship to those who cannot get to church and miss the loving relationships and sense of community that nourished them when they were more active. We offer the opportunity to chat, laugh, pray and discuss any issues that may be of concern. Our visitors provide loving conversation and companionship with no agenda but friendliness.

Contact: Ruth Ohm

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers are members of the congregation who are specially trained to provide high quality one-to-one care to people in the congregation or community experiencing a life crisis or difficulty. Individuals experiencing grief, loss, or other life challenges may need someone to remind them that during this difficult part of life's journey, they are not alone. A Stephen Minister is an embodied reminder of God's loving presence.

Ministry leader: Gweneth McClain

Daughters of the King

DOK is an Order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal, Anglican, Lutheran (ECLA) or Roman Catholic churches. Members undertake a Rule of Life, pledging themselves to prayer, service and evangelism, and dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of their parish. DOK members deliver altar flowers to church members; additionally, they provide a card ministry reaching out to parishioners experiencing illness, grief, loneliness or other challenges.

DOK president: Jackie Sommers

Prayer Ministry

This group receives prayer requests and updates via email and prays regularly for the needs of others.

Prayers may also be added to the bulletin for Prayers of the People during services.

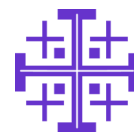
St. Mary's Chapel Prayer Ministry offers an opportunity for prayer during Holy Eucharist each Sunday. Prayer ministers wait in the Chapel as people in need of prayer step into St. Mary's Chapel after receiving communion. There, the prayer minister and person in need pray together for God's gracious and healing presence.

Ministry leader: Dan Rice

Food for Friends

These members provide meals for people experiencing illness, grief, or other critical events.

Ministry leader: Marilyn Trubey



MEMBER in MINISTRIES

featuring Melissa Weikel

Melissa Weikel along with her husband, Dennis, and their daughter, Amanda, have been members of Grace Cathedral for almost 28 years. She has been very active in a variety of ministries, and currently is the leader for JUMP (Justice Unity and Ministry Project) for Grace and the developer and organizer of the Sharing Table, which is offered the first Saturday of every month.

What brought you to Grace Cathedral?

We moved to Topeka in order for Dennis to pursue his firefighting career with the Topeka Fire Department. We'd been visiting another church here as we were exploring opportunities for worship. One weekend we decided to visit the Cathedral and I can distinctly remember when I walked through the door that I'd found my church home.

How did you get involved with JUMP? Please share your thoughts about JUMP and how people could get involved.

Deacon Anne Flynn, recently retired from the Cathedral, was a tireless worker for justice in our community. Over her years at the Cathedral, she gently brought forward the advocacy work of Topeka JUMP. Following a sermon she gave one Sunday, I remember saying to her, "Don't let us off the hook." Not long after that, I began volunteering with her and several others to strengthen the Justice Ministry at Grace.

The justice issues that prompted me to become involved were food insecurity for my students and their families and gun violence.

Thirty congregations throughout Shawnee County come together to create Topeka JUMP—Justice, Unity & Ministry Project. Topeka JUMP pursues systematic change in Shawnee County, Kansas through local policy and funding changes. Their mission is to provide a powerful vehicle for marginalized groups in Shawnee County to fight for justice. If you or someone you love has ever felt the sting of injustice, come find out more

about how you can join the Justice Ministry at Grace. Information meetings are currently being planned so reach out to me or watch for meeting dates.

What was your professional work life? Did this influence your choice of service activities in the church?

YES! I worked for Topeka Public Schools as a Paraprofessional at French Middle School for 15 years. During those years, I was an advocate for at-risk students who were English language learners and more broadly for any student struggling to learn at grade level. I was honored to be chosen to work with at-risk students in all three grade levels to support them in math.

When COVID hit and our schools were shut down in March 2020, the Paraprofessionals at our school became part of a food delivery service to our students and their families. Two of us worked daily with a school bus driver to deliver lunches on a specific route around our school which is located at 37th & Fairlawn. Not your typical inner-city school location. I was shocked at the number of families we served! My eyes began to open. I saw the need and it changed the way I saw our community.

Then in September 2020, a new food distribution program, Operation Food Secure, began here at the Cathedral. Dennis and I joined that group of Cathedral Outreach volunteers to help distribute fresh food and milk to our neighbors. This



experience gave me the opportunity to get to know people that lived across from the Cathedral on Polk Street. Again, my eyes continued to open to really see people in their need. I walked with them, I talked with them, I carried boxes of food for them. They were no longer just residents of an apartment complex across from the Cathedral where I worshiped every Sunday. They were becoming neighbors of mine BECAUSE they lived in the neighborhood where my family and I worshiped.



How did you decide to initiate the Sharing Table?

The Sharing Table came about because of conversations with people coming for food. It was clear they needed more than food. They needed shampoo, toothpaste, tooth brushes, deodorant; items that I just take for granted. I asked if the Daughters of the King would like to assist with

Continued on page 5.



Member in Ministries cont.

donations and they immediately said yes! Now, the entire congregation is invited to donate items for the Sharing Table. Already this year, 1,740 items have been distributed to 247 people. We have also discovered people in need of transportation as we regularly give away bus passes.

Please tell me about your experiences with the Sharing Table.

People are always so appreciative. I remember one woman, Trish, who was sharing her story of being homeless and trying to get around town. She had already been to the YWCA that morning and they were out of bus passes. I told her we had a pass if she wanted it. She began a “happy dance” of joy and excitement and thanked me many times. What a blessing to be able to give and make such a difference in her life.

Please speak about any other ministries that you have participated in at Grace.

I am a Prayer Minister, a Lector, and a Greeter. I have served on the Vestry, in the Handbell Choir and the virtual choir during COVID. I have recruited and organized Oblationers and been an office volunteer.

Why would you encourage others to become involved in a ministry at Grace?

It's a wonderful way to get to know people with similar interests. It builds relationships with people deeper than a wave and a smile during the peace.

Are there other ministries you'd like to explore in the future?

I would like for the Cathedral to become more involved with our neighborhood, possibly through the Historic Old Town NIA and Bethany House & Gardens.

To learn more about JUMP, volunteering at the Sharing Table, or any other ministries offered by Grace Cathedral, please contact Ruth Ohm, Ministry Coordinator at roh@gracecathedraltopeka.org or call 785-806-7943.

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

Ongoing Neighborhood Outreach Projects

- **Sandwich Ministry:** Providing sack lunches every Saturday morning, 8:30-11:30 a.m.
- **Blessing Bags:** Distribution of a week's worth of nonperishable food items the first Saturday morning of each month.
- **Sharing Table:** Distribution of personal care products on the first Saturday morning of each month.
- **Book give-away:** Donations of used books are made available in conjunction with the Sharing Table.
- **Blessing Box:** An ongoing ministry of providing nonperishable food available in our Blessing Box located on the south exterior of All Saints Hall. A formal collection is held on the third Sunday of each month, but donations can be made at any time.

September birthdays

- 2 Bobbie Athon
Julianne Greene
- 3 Jacquie Lightcap
LaWayne Zemp
- 4 Alan Johnson
- 7 Dennis Richter
Josiah Todwong
- 9 Janet Nelson
- 12 Robert Durst
Roy Ridgeway
Tami Smith
- 13 Julie Dittmer
Diane Green
- 16 Jeanne Atha
Bob Happeny
Sharon McCourt-Ostrowski
Nicole Nielsen
- 17 TJ Wiechman
- 18 Mary Hamilton
- 19 Kelly Johnson
Mark Weber
- 20 Sheryl Kingman
Alicia Salisbury
- 22 Bill Ohlemeier
- 26 Bob Horton
Mark Kingman
Penny Neill
Bev Tilly
- 27 Kent Wingerson
- 28 Eric Shutt
- 29 Nancy Neiswanger
- 30 Joanne Kensinger
Carol Nelson
Linda Park
Adelaide Shermoen

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

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 three tall, narrow windows which survived the 1975 fire. The windows portray symbols of the sacraments of Holy Communion. The lamb featured on the cover implies the sacrificial character of Christ.



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September 2023

Sunday Services

8:30 a.m. – Holy Communion,
Rite I

9:30 a.m. – Adult Forum
(Sept.-May)

10:30 a.m. – Club Jesus

10:30 a.m. – Holy Communion,
Rite II

Morning Prayer

9 a.m. each Tuesday and
Thursday in St. Mary's Chapel

GRACE CATHEDRAL CLERGY

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

CATHEDRAL STAFF

Kent Wingerson, *Cathedral Verger/Finance and 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*
Ruth Ohm, *Ministry Coordinator*
Michael Godfrey, *Sexton*

VESTRY OF GRACE CATHEDRAL

Marilyn Trubey, (Senior Warden), Dennis Weikel, Evelyn Wilson
Vanessa Hill, Alan Johnson (Junior Warden), Mark Quintana
LeRoy Dagg, Arceile Ridgeway, David Woods
Lance Royer, *Treasurer*,
Cynthia Sheppard Langston, *Chancellor*