



The Cathedral chimes

Grace Episcopal Cathedral
Topeka, Kansas

December 2023
Vol. 96, No. 10

From the Dean



We're just on the cusp of Advent. The watchwords now are *Messiah* and *new* and *waiting* and *light* and *preparation*. It's about the

disposition of the heart, and allowing God to enter in once more despite our failures and misgivings. It's about finding Christ amidst the ordinariness of life and knowing him once more, yet evergreen, as for the first time.

The church has assets to help with spiritual preparation in Advent. For example, in the long memory of Christian narrative, there are the poems and songs of this season. Chief among them, for me at least, is the one we call the Magnificat. This snippet of Luke's gospel (1:46-55) is often sung at the evening office:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with

Continued on page 2.

Deacon's book explores Episcopal roots in Topeka

A new book on the Episcopal Church in Topeka, authored by our own deacon, Don Chubb, has been released.

The book, *Resilient Heritage, The Episcopal Church in Topeka*, contains "lots of stories — some amusing — about early-day Topeka and our two main founders who were largely responsible for Christ's Hospital, the College of the Sisters of Bethany, and Grace Cathedral, plus St. David's and more", according to Don.

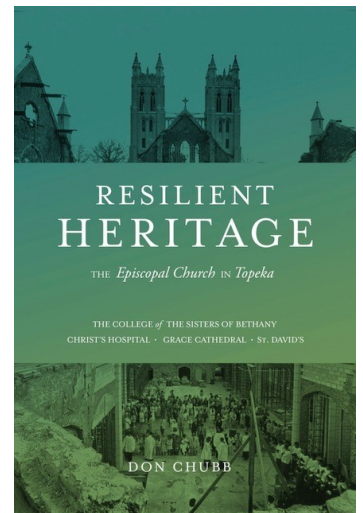
"My motivation to write this specific book is that no history of the Cathedral has been written since 1952...over 70 years ago. The story of the fire was written in 1976 but this was a very specific topic and is still almost 50 years ago. Very little has been published about Christ's Hospital and the College of the Sisters of Bethany and St. David's. It is time to tell

the story of how important the Episcopal Church has been in the development of Topeka."

Don is well-known as a local historian. "I've always liked Topeka history. The Shawnee County Historical Society was founded in grandpa Carruth's dining room and I've always been surrounded by it. Our founders were characters, and many of their efforts were down right comical. I believe most people don't realize how strongly they influenced, and were in turn influenced by, the Episcopal Church."



A limited number of hardback copies are available at the Cathedral office (\$35 – checks made out to Grace Cathedral or cash in the exact amount please), or you can purchase paperback copies on Amazon for \$18. All proceeds go to Grace Cathedral.



From the Dean continued

good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.”

The Magnificat is special partly because it captures the intimacy of the moment when Mary responds to the news that she is to bear a son. The angels says she is to name him Jesus, and to know that he will be great among his people, reigning over the house of Jacob forever, in a never-ending kingdom. You might also notice, looking at the paragraph above, that when Mary responds to this message, it is with an image of the world turned upside-down – the proud are scattered, the mighty torn out of their seats, the hungry made full. Mary understands that the Kingdom of God is a kingdom unlike any other.

There’s more of this “upside-down-ness” later on, in chapter four of Luke, when Jesus, now fully an adult, sketches what the Kingdom will look like from his angle: the poor getting good news, the captives being released, the blind seeing again. Luke is consistent and consistently provocative! Jesus is the image of both his heavenly father and his earthly mother.

Try reading the Magnificat every evening this Advent. You’ll find it in your Book of Common Prayer on page 65 (traditional language) or page 91 (contemporary). It may take a while to get inside its rhythms and cadence, but the more you read it, the more it will come to mean.

Meanwhile, recognize that we aren’t just making a space for Jesus in Advent – we’re making a space for the Kingdom of God to be known and manifest in all its strange, upside-down glory.

—Torey+

St. Nicholas Celebration

for the whole congregation!
Sunday, December 3, following the 10:30 service

It will be a jam-packed celebration including the following:

- Visit from St Nicholas: It’s time for St. Nicholas to visit and share his story. Be sure to leave your shoes out for special surprises!
- Hot Cocoa/Hot Cider bar.
- Holiday Market: The Youth Group is going to England in 2025! All purchases will go directly to the student travel account.
- Bakery: Under the skillful guidance of Cathedral baker extraordinaire Nicole Nielson, the Youth Group will have cookies and other treats for sale.
- Gifts: Handmade prayer beads and other items perfect for gift-giving.



Join us for a Potluck lunch!

We will welcome 21 Ukrainian families who will be able to join us for worship and a potluck lunch. They will also choose donated Christmas trees and decorations.

The Hospitality Committee is hosting the lunch and will provide fried chicken and rolls. **We would like those attending to help with the celebration by providing salads, side dishes and desserts** according to the following based upon last names:

A-J: Salads K-S: Side Dishes T-Z: Desserts

Advent Service of Hope and Healing

Tuesday, December 5, 6:00 p.m.
St. Mary's Chapel at Grace Cathedral

The holidays are a time when most everyone seems to be happy and having a good time, but they can be a challenging season for those who have experienced loss or grief. Grace Cathedral's Stephen Ministry is offering

Adult Christian Formation in December

- 3-17 Life of David with Steve Roth *All Saints Hall*
Dean's Bible Study *Robyn Room*
Book Study: *What St. Paul Really Said* *Bubb Room*
- 24 No Adult Formation (Advent IV/Christmas Eve)
- 31 No Adult Formation (Christmas Break)

Advent 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.

Senior Saints Christmas luncheon

The Senior Saints will hold a special Christmas luncheon on Wednesday, December 13. People of all ages are invited. Social time begins at 11 a.m. in All Saints Hall followed by a catered lunch at 11:30. Please RSVP to the Cathedral office at 785-235-3457 no later than Monday, December 11. A free-will offering is appreciated for the lunch.

Christmas Flower Memorials

Donations are being accepted for Christmas Flowers. If you would like to have someone remembered with flowers used to decorate the Cathedral this Christmas, please clip out the form on page 6 of this newsletter. The deadline to have names included in the Christmas service bulletin is Sunday, December 17.

Stewardship Update

As of the printing of this month's *Chimes*, our stewardship campaign stands at 150 pledges for a total of \$592,664. If you have not turned in your 2024 pledge, please do so as soon as possible. Our Finance Committee and Vestry must prepare a new budget by year's end. If you have misplaced your pledge card, call the church office and we will send you another, or you can call in your pledge to Kent (235-3457). Thank you for your continued faithfulness and support.

Please check your 2023 Pledge

Please check the status of your current year's pledge. Friday, December 28, will be the last day that your payments will count for the 2023 tax year. However, please make every effort to get your payments in before Christmas as the office will be closed December 26 and the last week of the year is very busy. You can call Kent in the Cathedral office (235-3457) if you are not sure where you are on this year's pledge. Thank you!

The Advent Wreath



There are five candles in the Advent wreath — four blue ones spaced evenly around the ring and a single white candle in the center. The four blue candles represent the four weeks of Advent. Each week an additional one is lighted to show that the light of Christ's love and joy is shining brighter and drawing nearer. Finally, on Christmas Eve, the white candle in the center of the wreath is lighted (white being the Church's color for purity and great joy) to show that the light of Christ has come into the world.

GREAT SPACES



WOICUM YULE!

Wednesday, December 6 | 7:30 pm



VoxAura, Washburn University's treble-voice choir, delivers Christmas in style with old and new classics of the season. Donations Gratefully accepted.

For more information see

WWW.GREATSPACES.ORG

GREAT SPACES

HANDEL'S

Messiah

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19 | 7:00 pm

SPIRE ENSEMBLE returns for this annual treat of excerpts from Handel's masterpiece with soloists and period instrument orchestra. This is a highlight of the year that can't be missed!

Tickets \$20 | \$10 student | 12 & under free

Tickets available at the door or at <https://greatspacesmessiah.bpt.me/>



WWW.GREATSPACES.ORG

MEMBERS in MINISTRIES

featuring All Grace Cathedral Ushers

by Ruth Ohm

Everything must be done in a proper and orderly way” (1 Corinthians 14:40, Good News Bible)

Grace Cathedral is blessed with six teams of Ushers who serve the 10:30 service, and four teams who serve the 8:30 service. We are looking for more people (women and men) to join the ranks of Ushers at either service, to help distribute time commitment and increase flexibility in scheduling.

Ushers ensure an orderly flow of the service and help to create a positive, reverential experience. If someone needs a seat, the usher helps to find one. If someone needs assistance, the usher provides help. If there is a disturbance in the church the usher can help correct it. Ushers are warm, friendly, efficient, and organized. They lead with a servant’s heart, anticipating needs as essential elements in the worship experience.

So, what does an usher do?

- greet people as they enter church and provide a bulletin, assist with hearing devices as needed, and help to locate seating if necessary
- take a count of parishioners and record for delivery to acolytes / vergers
- collect the peoples offerings
- recruit oblationers
- prepare the altar rail for communion (moving cushions into place)
- transfer money offerings to locking bank bags in the vault (Altar Guild sacristy)
- pick up service bulletins at the end of the service for recycling
- stand by during the service and look out for people in need



Currently, ushers for the 10:30 service commit to two months per year. If there are events that interfere with their ability to serve, ushers switch amongst themselves, or substitutes are found. A team of 5-6 would allow more flexibility with the schedule. For the 8:30 service, two ushers are needed weekly. There is more variability in the number of months committed, from one to three, or serving as a substitute.

Top Reasons to Serve as an Usher

- 10 An opportunity to wear your Sunday best!
- 9 A guaranteed seat at church
8. Opportunity to walk around during the service
7. Participate in an essential ministry while at church anyway
6. Meet and greet new people
5. Learn new words such as *Oblationers and Sacristy*
4. Hang out in the narthex and play cards
3. Watch out for the odd \$2.00 bills and make a fortune
2. Chance to add to your Canadian coin collection
1. Freedom to secretly catch up on the Chiefs score when there’s an early game!

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.

Christmas Flower Memorials



Donations are being accepted for Christmas Flowers. If you would like to have someone remembered with flowers used to decorate the Cathedral this Christmas, please send your donation to: *Flower Memorials, Grace Cathedral, 701 SW 8th Ave., Topeka, KS 66603*. Make checks payable to *Grace Cathedral* with a notation that the money goes to Christmas Flowers.

In memory of or In thanksgiving for (PLEASE PRINT)

Given by (PLEASE PRINT) _____

The deadline to have these names printed in the Christmas Eve service bulletins is December 17.

Christmas at the Cathedral

Christmas Eve, Sunday December 24

- 8:30 a.m. A spoken service of Holy Communion, Rite I
10:30 a.m. A service of Lessons and Carols for Advent
 with Holy Communion
- 5:45 p.m. Prelude for Christmas
6:00 p.m. Choral Worship and Holy Communion
 Festive settings of traditional carols led by the Cathedral Choirs
- 9:30 p.m. Prelude for Christmas
10:00 p.m. Festal Choral Worship and Holy Communion
 Festive settings of traditional carols led by the Cathedral Choirs

Christmas Day, Monday December 25

- 10:00 a.m. Carols & Holy Communion





The Annunciation, Hans Memling (15th C.)

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

December Flower Memorials

- 1 Lucy Wadkins Snead
- 7 John Alfred Crow
- 8 Tracy H. Thompson
Helen L. Burton
- 9 Alice L. Metcalf
Albert Morss Patton
Mrs. George W. Reed
James L. McKinney
- 10 Bernice Emahiser Kritser
Helen Iris McClintock
- 11 John Blanchard Bellamy
- 12 Anna T. Marshall
Patricia A. Waugh
- 13 Adelaide Lescher Mills
Dick R. Reed
- 15 Susan Cornelia Lescher
John B. Marshall
- 16 Jane Price
- 17 Mrs. F.C. Thompson
- 18 Willard T. "Bill" Geiger
John S. Kritser
- 21 Melita Ann Jones
- 23 G.W. Snyder, Jr.
- 24 Al Adams
Evelyn Meade
Dennis P. Murphy
- 26 George Groshong
- 27 Mary C. Millspaugh
- 28 Adam A. Lucas
- 30 Lester M. Weaver, Jr.

December birthdays

- 1 Jarius Todwong
- 3 Gweneth Page
- 4 Jan Buckley
Vivienne Shermoen
Amy Smith
- 6 Evelyn Wilson
- 8 Jackie Sommers
- 9 Debbie Sesler
- 10 Naomi Reid
- 12 Kelli Benson
Marty Brewer
- 14 Don Chubb
Karolyn Sharp
- 15 Ron Langston
Michael Massey
- 16 Janet Chubb
- 17 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

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



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

Order What you Want,
When You Want It!

GraceCathedral.qbstores.com

About the window...

This month's cover features the St. Nicholas window which is located in the exterior door of the West Transept. This popular window combines ancient and modern symbols. St. Nicholas became known as the "Protector of Children and Sailors." He poured out his fortune to care for poor children and others in need, as symbolized by the three gold balls and money bags. The boat represents the countless legends of his deeds of kindness to sailors who frequented the seaport of Myra, and later his "captaining" of the church as Bishop of Myra. Over the generations, St. Nick evolved into our modern Santa Claus, shown in the lower left corner.



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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



December
2023

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*