

# The Cathedral chimes

Grace Episcopal Cathedral  
Topeka, Kansas

September 2024  
Vol. 97, No. 7

## From the Dean



Dear friends,

Let this be the first public mention I'm aware of concerning something pretty big: November

2025 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the fire that consumed much of the interior of Grace Cathedral.

For the uninitiated, the fire began November 25, 1975, a Tuesday night two days prior to Thanksgiving. There was snow on the roads, and Cathedral Canon Robert Temple and Financial Secretary Dorothy Burgess were the only ones present for a service of Holy Eucharist in the chapel. According to an account made not long after, "To this day Miss Burgess wonders if she heard a door close in the empty Cathedral while she knelt [in the adjoining room] or whether it was her imagination." The two worshippers left around 6 p.m.; some time after, a fire was intentionally kindled in the Cathedral. At 12:39 a.m., the fire was spotted and the alarm sounded. Five hours later, firefighters had bravely contained the blaze, but the damage was done and the interior was more or less lost.

Recovery would run in stages, including a service celebrating restoration in 1978; but even in my

*Continued on page 2.*



"What good is it, my brothers and sisters,  
if you say you have faith but do not have works?  
Can faith save you?"

If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily  
food, and one of you says to them,  
'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,' and  
yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is  
the good of that?

So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead."

— James 2:14-17

## From the Dean continued

time as Dean, the large north window was finally replaced just last year with more stained glass. Until May of 2023, it had been only clear glass to replace what was lost that night in 1975 – the better part of five patient decades having passed.

The night of the fire continues to be a pivot point from which so much internal and local history is recounted. Even perfect strangers who have just learned what I do for a living are quick to point it out.

While this is undoubtedly a compelling tale, what I really hope to make clear is that this Cathedral community has continued on and continued to thrive well beyond the trappings of the fire story. We don't dwell in the past for its own sake. A chance to tell about the fire is a chance to tell the world what happened *after* the fire, after the world's attention drifted on to other things. These are the moments of resolve that clarify a congregation's mission. And God is in the midst of it all.

So when we are mark this moment in our common story next year (and we will be careful to do so), I hope it won't be with too heavy a regret over what is lost and gone, but with a sense of celebration for what followed on: service, learning, worship, being a healing presence in our city and diocese.

Look for more information about our commemoration of these events over the next several months.

Dean Lightcap

## Adult Forum resumes in September

September 8: Writing the Episcopal Beat with Melodie Woerman

September 15: Relationship of Church and State with the Rev. George Wiley

September 22 & 29: Wine and Religion with Dean Lightcap

The Adult Forum will meet at 9:30 a.m. in All Saints Hall.

## Cathedral Choirs schedule fall rehearsals — All are welcome!

- **Cathedral Choir:** Thursdays at 7 p.m. Contact Dr. Eduardo García-Novelli — [egarcianovelli@gracecathedraltopeka.org](mailto:egarcianovelli@gracecathedraltopeka.org)
- **Handbell Choir:** Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. Contact Dr. Donald Livingston — [dlivingston@gracecathedraltopeka.org](mailto:dlivingston@gracecathedraltopeka.org)

## September Senior Saints luncheon, Wednesday, September 11

Join us for social time at 11 a.m., followed by a catered lunch at 11:30 in All Saints Hall. The guest speaker will be Cathedral member Larry Wolgast on the topic "Steamships, covered wagons and a Stone Fort. How German immigrants crossed the plains to settle in Kansas."

There's a sign-up sheet on the west side table in the Cathedral. A \$10 donation is appreciated for the lunch. The deadline to RSVP is Sept. 9.

Just a reminder that if you sign up and later find out you can't attend, please notify the office before noon on Monday. The caterer plans their meals and charges us based on the number of reservations we submit on Monday prior to the lunch. If we don't receive your cancellation in time, then the church is responsible for the cost. Thank you!

## Justice Ministry at Grace

Our Justice Ministry's new year begins in late September — focusing this year on affordable housing, homelessness, and violence reduction. You are invited to attend **one** of three listening sessions where we will:

- Listen to your concerns for yourself, your loved ones and those in our community;
- Hear about how the justice ministry gives you a voice and an action plan to work toward solving problems here in Shawnee County;
- Be reminded why our justice work is so important and progress depends on your involvement.

Choose a date and let us know you will attend: Tues., Sept 24, 5 - 7 p.m.; Sun., Sept 29, Noon - 2 p.m.; or Wed., Oct. 2, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Melissa Weikel 785-215-0501 or Linda Gallaway 785-230-2460.

## Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 18, 2024





GREAT SPACES Music and Arts Series  
September offerings



G R E A T S P A C E S

*Kristi Baker - Lampe*

piano

Grace Cathedral  
Sunday, September 22 | 3:00pm



G R E A T S P A C E S

**Endurez!**  
Medieval Love Songs

Blue Earth Camerata  
David Simmons Wood, Artistic Director

Grace Cathedral  
Sunday, September 29 | 3:00pm



**The Cloister Gallery**

Showing in September—Quilts by members of the Cathedral Quilters





# NANCY PERRY'S LIFE of CARING

By Ruth Ohm

On September 20, Topeka will celebrate another Nancy Perry Day of Caring. This special volunteer event was established by the United Way to honor Nancy Perry, who served as the Director of the United Way for 25 years.

On this day (so popular it includes Thursday, September 19, as well), community volunteers will serve at a number of agencies to help with various projects. At Grace Cathedral, a group of youth from Robinson Middle School will paint one of the youth rooms, under the direction of their teachers and Kathy Smith, our Director of Children's Ministries.

Nancy's early passion was teaching kindergarten at Avondale East. Her long-term goal was to become a principal. Life offered different options, and she became "Miss Nancy" on "Romper Room" (1967-1971) and later, the host of the talk show *Noon Day with Nancy on KSNT*.



In 1983 she began her career at the United Way where she helped establish the "Imagination Library," where every child gets a free book

from birth until age five. She shared a story of a father whose child was given a book for him to read to her. He said he was unable to read. A year later, he returned for the next year's book and announced that he had learned to read, and was thrilled to take the book home to read to his daughter.



Other youth programs developed/supported through the United Way included "Success by Six" and the "Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program" through the YWCA. At the time, the United Way sought funding for 35 agencies to support community needs.

Nancy said it was a wonderful honor having her name attached to such an important day, since "usually these things happen after you pass away." That sense of honor extends to the entire Perry family (including husband Ken, daughter Anne and family and son Brad and family) participate in the event, annually providing services as a family of about 15 to a community project.

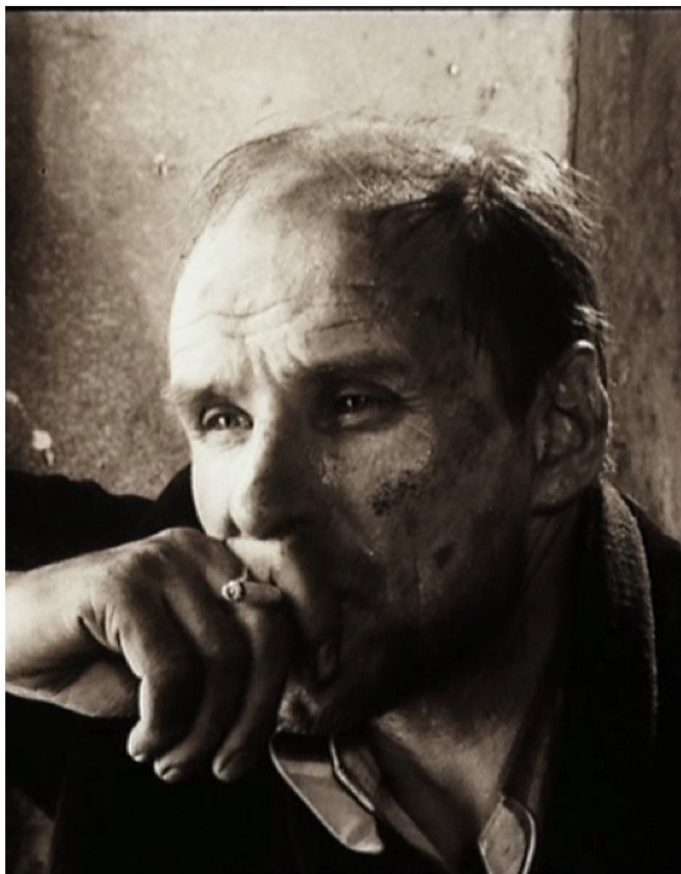
Nancy and Ken Perry joined Grace Cathedral over 55 years ago. They were raised in different Christian traditions (Nancy, Methodist and Ken, Catholic). After their marriage in 1963, they

searched for a church that would fit both of them. When brought to the Cathedral by a friend, they fell in love with Grace, found a church home, and "never looked back."

Volunteerism is synonymous with Nancy Perry. At Grace Cathedral, Nancy currently serves on the Altar Guild, Finance Committee, Hospitality Committee, and the Friday "Head Start" Sandwich Committee. She recently retired after serving for many years on the Diocesan Discernment Committee. Over her years at Grace, Nancy has been a vestry member and Senior Warden three times, a choir member, a Sunday school teacher with Ken, and a member of the Daughters of the King. She has also served as a leader for special events planning – after the fire in 1975, she helped plan a fundraising gala that featured Bob Hope and fashion icon Edith Head. A fire sale was also a huge success.

Nancy says participating in ministries at Grace Cathedral and volunteerism in general offers an opportunity for fellowship with others. Getting to know others is clearly a source of great joy to Nancy. Her warmth, energy, adventurous spirit, and caring nature make it a great joy to know her!!





# You Could Almost Touch

Art of the Close-Up in Cinema

Images of emotion from revered directors and cinematographers with meditations by Torey Lightcap, Dean of Grace Cathedral

October-November 2024

The Cloister Gallery | Grace Cathedral  
701 SW 8th Ave. in Topeka

## 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

## September birthdays

- 2 Bobbie Athon  
Julianne Greene
- 3 Jacquie Lightcap  
LaWayne Zemp
- 4 Alan Johnson
- 6 Charlotte Reid
- 7 Dennis Richter  
Josiah Todwong
- 9 Janet Nelson  
Canaan Reid
- 12 Robert Durst  
Roy Ridgeway  
Tami Smith
- 13 Julie Dittmer
- 16 Bob Happeny  
Sharon McCourt-Ostrowski  
Nicole Nielsen
- 17 TJay 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
- 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...

St. James the Lesser provides our Epistle readings for the month of September. The stained glass window on this month's cover featuring St. James the Lesser is among the windows in the Cathedral's Chancel depicting the first Disciples called by Jesus. James stresses that true faith lives in works. Read what he has to say about that on our cover as well.



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## September 2024

### 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 Sarah Shipman, *Curate*  
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**

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