

Grace Notes

Volume 2012, No.1

January, 2012

Published monthly in the interest of Grace Episcopal Church, Ponca City, OK

RECTOR'S

E

M For well over twenty years, my life has been lived and ministry
A has been exercised and shared within the context of Grace
R Church, Ponca City. I don't even know how to begin to express
K what that has meant to me, especially in just a brief newsletter
S article.

You have seen my family expand and experience the normal ups and downs we all go through, and whatever situation we were in you have stood shoulder to shoulder with us. You have seen our children grow into adulthood, celebrated with us in our joys and comforted us in our sorrows, you have been and remain now dear and beloved sisters and brothers in Christ.

During my time as Rector of Grace Church, we have ended one century of worship and service in Ponca City and, with God's grace, have begun another. This faithful, steadfast parish has continued to embrace its mission and ministry in every way it could, and my family and I are privileged to have been invited to share in it.

Now it is time to embrace a new direction on my life's journey. As most all of you already know, I have resigned as your rector and will retire from full-time ministry at the end of this month. Exactly what that will "look like" (as the popular phrase now puts it), I guess I will just discover as time moves forward — but it's important to remember that my life is moving forward and that I have every expectation that this change will be good for Grace Church and for my family and me.

Thank you for these years. I leave with my heart full of gratitude and love for you all.

EPIPHANY PAGEANT

Mark your calendar and invite your family and friends to the 67th annual parish celebration of our Epiphany Pageant.

The celebration begins at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, January 6 (the "Twelfth Night" after Christmas) with the Festival of Lights and Epiphany Pageant, performed by the children and youth of Grace Church.



The evening will conclude with a reception for all in attendance, hosted by the 2011 Epiphany Queen, Robbie Ruehlen.



JOIN THE CHOIR !!

The adult vocal choir is starting up again for the new year. We can always use more voices and would love to have you join us. Practice is on Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m.

PRAYER LIST

Please look over the Prayer List that is in your weekly Sunday bulletin. There are many names listed that have been there for several months. If you have someone listed that has recovered or needs to be moved to another category, please contact the office so that we may keep the list current.





EVENSONG
SUNDAY, JANUARY 8
5:00 P.M.

*Nations shall come to your
 light, and kings to the
 brightness of your dawn.*

Isaiah 60:3, NRSV



THE EPIPHANY STORY

Epiphany is celebrated annually in Christian churches on January 6. The word "epiphany" comes from a Greek word meaning "manifestation" or "showing forth." Epiphany celebrates the visit of the magi, or wise men to the baby Jesus. These men, also known as kings, saw the star that led them to Bethlehem.

The fact that these wise men were Gentiles, not Jews, teaches us an important theological lesson: Their search for the Savior shows that Jesus came for all people. Christ is Savior of the world – the whole world!



Father Ken Armstrong
January 22

JANUARY ALTAR FLOWERS

- 1 The altar flowers will be given to the glory of God by Stan & Suzy Bivin in loving memory of her father, Lowell Clifton; and by Warren & Joan Dick in thanksgiving for their great-granddaughters, Reagan, Addison, Claire, and Lauren.



- 8 The altar flowers will be given to the glory of God by William & Jennifer Gay Eckel in loving memory of her parents, Richard & Patricia Gay; and by Frank & Angi Kennedy in loving memory of her father, Don Luedeman.
- 15 The altar flowers will be given to the glory of God by Ann Armstrong and her children and grandchildren in thanksgiving for Father Ken's birthday; and by Judy Branch in thanksgiving for the birthday of her grandson, Joshua Branch.
- 22 The altar flowers will be given to the glory of God by Marjorie Dew, Barbara Dew Rupert, Betsy Dew, Nancy Dew Hardeback and Robert Dew in loving memory of John Dew.
- 29 The altar flowers will be given to the glory of God by Ken & Yvonne Holmes in thanksgiving for their grandchildren; and by Clyde & Nadine Frisby in thanksgiving for their anniversary.



More ushers are needed on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please call Raymond

Ham at 765-5177, or contact the Parish office by phone at 765-7609 or by email at gracechurchpc@sbcglobal.net.

SANCTUARY LAMP CANDLE CALENDAR for JANUARY

- 1 The sanctuary lamp candle will be given to the glory of God by Patrick & Nicholas Winterrowd in thanksgiving for the birthday of their father, Richard Winterrowd.



- 8 The sanctuary lamp candle will be given to the glory of God by Al & Marsha Moore in thanksgiving for their grandsons, Andrew & Ethan, and their granddaughter, Gracyn.

- 15 The sanctuary lamp candle will be given to the glory of God by Frank & Angi Kennedy in thanksgiving for the birthday of Mary Frances Stuck.

- 22 The sanctuary lamp candle will be given to the glory of God by the Kennedy family in loving memory of Roy Kennedy.

- 29 The sanctuary lamp candle will be given to the glory of God by Claire Winterrowd Duncan in thanksgiving for the birthdays of her godmothers, Diane Beekman and Cindy Chandler.



CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT CENTER NEEDS:



Construction paper, diaper wipes and packaged, non-perishable snacks such as "gold fish" or "animal crackers." **Please join Daughters of the King in helping to meet these needs by leaving your items** in the Adult Sunday school room by noon on Thursday, January 12.

BUDGET REPORT

November, 2011

Period	Operating Income Received	Operating Expenses Paid	Balance
November, 2011	\$ 28,348	\$ 19,820	\$ 8,528
Year to Date	\$ 259,659	\$ 257,062	\$ 2,597

2012 Altar Flower Calendar 2012 Sanctuary Lamp Calendar

There are three **vases** left for 2012 – February 20 and 27, and July 31.

There are four **lamps** available for 2012 – January 29, April 15, and September 9 and 30.

If you are interested in donating for any of these dates, please contact Cynthia Winterrowd at 580-762-4975 or by email at cynthia.winterrowd@gmail.com.



January 15 – Special Congregational Meeting with the Rector Search Committee and Vestry after church. A brunch will be provided. You will receive an invitation and an RSVP is requested.



Our thanks to all for your support this past year. We extend our best wishes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2012.

ECW Gift Shop

Joan Dick & Jane Worstell

The smallest things can change our lives . . . one hand reaching out to another . . . one prayer whispered in faith . . . one moment that shines with His presence . . . With deep appreciation and warmest Thanks! Thank You all so much for your generosity! We really appreciate it!

Andi Luedeman

Golden Villa would like to thank you for the generous donation to go towards food. With your continued support for us we will be able to continue to care for loved ones in our community. Thank you very much.

Melissa Kirchner, Director



ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational meeting will be **January 29** following church. Lunch will be provided.

Remember, if you have a report for the meeting booklet, it needs to be in the office by January 10.

THANK YOU'S RECEIVED

A NOTE OF



Dear Friends,

Thank You for recognizing the importance of providing food to elementary age school children here in Kay County by your recent generous gifts to the Regional Food Banks - Food4Kids Program. All gifts up to \$1 million were matched during the month of December by an Oklahoma energy company.

As you know, the program provides nutritious/kid-friendly food for the chronically hungry children and their pre-school siblings every weekend during the school year. A sack(s) of food is sent home each Friday in a back pack provided by the Food Bank ... to be returned on Monday morning, ready to be filled again for the next weekend.

Just passing the 6 year mark of offering the program only in Blackwell and Ponca City schools, the program now includes most of the elementary schools in Kay County. Results have surpassed all expectations ... a well-fed child is healthier and better able to learn. Ability to concentrate on school work and school attendance has improved. School counselors and teachers give the program high reviews. The children may forget to bring their homework to school, but the blue backpacks always get returned!

You are a shining star in the eyes of the kids that have a full tummy and warmth in their hearts during this holiday season and winter months. Many Blessings!

Linda Sparks, Volunteer Coordinator
Food4Kids - Kay County

(THANK YOUs continued)



What a blessing you are to the shelter. Thank you for thinking of us. Your generosity to Domestic Violence Programs of North Central Oklahoma is so appreciated.

The goal of the Domestic Violence Program is to continue to make a difference in the lives of battered women and their children. The difference that you make in the lives of our clients through donations and other services is limitless.

Please accept our gratitude for your loving kindness.

*Amanda Doran, Executive Director
Domestic Violence Program of No. Central Oklahoma*



A special thank you for the donation made to the Child Development Center, Inc. We are so appreciative of your interest and support for the children from our local community. This early childhood program is supported by those who know that young children need a great start in life and when their own family cannot provide, we as a community take a valiant step up for them.

The CDC has been in operation for over 45 years in this city preparing young children to meet the challenges that face them while helping them to grow into their full potential before they start the school years.

May you and your families be blessed during this Christmas season.

*Kim Jump, Executive Director
Child Development Center, Inc.*



(more THANK YOUs)

With thanks to Grace Episcopal Church for your expression of support through your donation. This will help provide materials for our learners and tutors to use. Your contribution will be felt throughout the community as we work to eradicate illiteracy.

*Marcia Hickman, Director
Ponca City Area Literacy Council*



This is one of those times I find myself at a loss for words to thank you with. I know I have used every word possible in the dictionary to express the gratitude I feel concerning your continued support. We have done a good work here at the Mission, and it has only been possible because of people like you. Together, we have rolled up our sleeves and got busy with the task at hand. Each day we see more and more need, and each day we see the support come to meet those needs.

I am fully persuaded that one day we shall stand before our Father in heaven and He will show us how many lives we have touched. Our daily work is routine to us, and we find ourselves just working a little harder and a little longer, with the day ending and lives having been changed. We leave the Mission tired, but knowing we have made a difference.

Please know that in everything we do, you are a part of it. From the food baskets to the clothing and the hot meals to the spiritual food, we are impacting lives each day. Thank you for making all of this possible.

Servants for the Lord,

*Gary & June Jackson, Directors
The Mission*

MEMBERSHIP TRANSFERS

Michael Lynn Waring has transferred membership to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wichita.

Maxine Hunt has transferred membership to St. John's Episcopal Church, Springfield, Missouri.



Membership Transfer

David & JoAnne Weinberg have transferred membership to St. Chad's Episcopal Church, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

REFRESHMENTS & FELLOWSHIP

There are still lots of open dates to provide refreshments for the Sunday morning fellowship following the 9:30 am Eucharist.



If you are willing to provide refreshments, please put your name on the sheet on the table across from the gift shop or contact Marcia Davis at 765-2227.



Memorial contributions to the glory of God were received in loving memory of Marjorie Decker.

Memorial Contributions to the glory of God were received in loving memory of Jo Ann Muchmore.

FACING INJUSTICE

As the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. approaches, many cities and many churches will recall the courage and challenge of the civil rights leader who suffered and died for his beliefs.

When he confronted those who dealt out injustice, he and his followers were stopped, jailed, sometimes beaten, ridiculed and threatened. They were called rabble-rousers, Communists, disturbers of the peace and worse. Many people stood by and did nothing.



It is no wonder that Dr. King said, "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." Whatever else we remember about Dr. King, we should recall that he chose not to remain silent in the face of injustice. Can we say the same about ourselves?

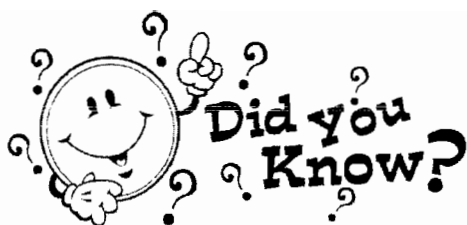
When anyone is treated without respect, without fair play, without kindness or Christian love, we must not remain mute. We should follow the suggestion of Dr. King: "With our faith, we will transform the jangling discords of our nations into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood."

All In The Same Boat

The portion of the church building where the congregation sits is called the nave or boat. It reflects the understanding that the church is the ark of salvation, offering life in Jesus Christ to all who will receive it.

Often in stained-glass windows one can find a picture of a boat, sometimes with a cross as the mast to symbolize the church. As you sit in worship on Sunday look around you. We're all in the same boat!





Only two organizations are recipients of Outreach funds from the Grace Church operating budget: \$1500 for the Friendship Feast and \$1000 for Trinity Dental. All other outreach is funded by financial gifts received in addition to your pledge. This year our Outreach funds were able to help all the organizations listed below for a total of almost \$5000. The Outreach committee focuses primarily on local organizations. If you know of a worthy cause, please contact Diane Beekman. And be generous in your gifts to Outreach.

*Child Development Center
Domestic Violence of Ponca City
Back Pack Program
American Legion Veteran's Day Parade
BARHD (formerly VOOM)
Salvation Army Angel Tree
Emergency Resource Center
Operation Pioneer Spirit
Winter coat project*

*Marland Children's Home
The Mission
Hope Ranch
New Hope
Dearing House
Golden Villa
Literacy Council
St. Crispin camperships*



NEWLY
BAPTIZED



Savannah Grace Barnes,
daughter of Daniel & Anne Yant Barnes,
was sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and
marked as Christ's own forever
on December 24, 2011.

Alyzabeth Danielle Engle,
daughter of Thomas & Ashley Howell Engle,
was sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and
marked as Christ's own forever
on December 24, 2011.

Bienson Ly McCoy,
son of Chad & Mai Ly McCoy,
was sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and
marked as Christ's own forever
on December 24, 2011.

Keira Noel Trusty,
daughter of Richard & Stella Faas Trusty,
was sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and
marked as Christ's own forever
on December 24, 2011.

*We receive them into the household of God
with the charge to confess the faith
of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection,
and share with us in his eternal priesthood.*

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Patty Fruits
7 Lauren Boyd
8 Dwight Ham
Richard Winterrowd
Jamie Wells
13 Marsha Orr
14 Mary Beth Moore
22 Father Ken Armstrong
26 Marissa Belzer
Joshua Branch
Keri Bartley
Eli Wohletz
27 Sonja Van Hoesen
30 Terry Huston
Everette Van Hoesen
31 Ken Matheson
Charlie Wells



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Jim & Jannie Ross
13 Clyde & Nadine Frisby
25 Michael & Nancy Mott

If your name is missing from the birthday or anniversary list,
please call us at 765-7609 so we can update our records.
We do not want to leave anyone out!