



Amazing Grace

Celebrations and Thanksgivings for Life at Grace Episcopal Church—Liberty, Missouri

April 2007

Alleluia!
Christ is risen.

Easter Sunday

Festival Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Festive Coffee Hour following each service

*Rector's Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn (weather
permitting) following the 10:15 service*

The Lord is risen indeed.

Alleluia!

Living The Baptismal Covenant

“Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?” “Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?” “Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?”

To each of these questions, we answered, “I will, with God’s help.” (BCP, p. 305)

Each issue of the *Amazing Grace* shares stories of how Grace Church people live out the promises of this Baptismal Covenant.

“Natural” is a word you hear often when **John Burroughs** talks about the intentional way he lives his life as a physician and as a father. His use of it expresses his understanding that “respect [for] the dignity of every human being” is integral to both medical practice and the rearing of children.

John explains that his profession is one “where serving, caring for others, is naturally part of what we do” and that caring and serving are part of living spiritually. He says that in his practice as a family physician he tries to find ways to help his patients with dignity and respect. That is especially important, he continues, for his nursing home patients. It was essential when he served as a hospice director, a position he intends to go back to. He also points out that discussing spirituality is a natural part of decisions as families deal with death. Although he does not discuss his own religious beliefs unless he’s asked, he finds that “God comes naturally into the conversation” with people dealing with sadness and pain.

John’s religious story is a familiar one. He was involved in church activities when he was growing up, but drifted away during his college years at Duke and the Wake Forest medical school and then during his residency in Idaho. Having children brought him back to the church. He believes that it is one of his important responsibilities as a father to show them through his example how to treat others with dignity and respect. He is also moved by children’s natural spirituality. He came to Grace in 2004 and has since especially enjoyed the open expressions of differing views at Adult Forum.



John, with (l to r) Erin, Fiona, Brigid, and Nolan.

Photograph by Cassy Venters

Human Family Reunion

Mother Susan McCann and Grace Church will be among the honorees at this year’s Human Family Reunion sponsored by HateBusters. All members of the parish are invited to attend the event at William Jewell on April 24 at 6:30 pm. Others recognized will include the Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council, Liberty’s Fellowship of the Concerned, Liberty’s First Baptist Church, and several William Jewell students.

New Worshipers at Grace

Liz Graham and Carla Umland, with their daughter, Erin, regularly join the packers in Grace’s Grocery after Sunday coffee hour to fill backpacks for Franklin Friends. Their active participation is typical of the busy lives all three lead.

Both Liz and Carla spend long work weeks carrying out responsibilities at Proctor and Gamble’s Kansas City soap plant. Liz works with production, packaging, and shipping of “Dawn” detergent, with current pressures leading to considerable overtime. Even so, she’s enrolled in accounting classes at William Jewell to increase the expertise she brought from her business major at CMSU. On weekends she enjoys sports, including tennis and swimming, and she’s looking for a “good competitive racket ball partner”!



Carla is Fire Protection Site Leader and Site Facilities Project Manager at the plant. She spent four years in the Navy repairing nuclear fast attack submarines and studied engineering at Longview while working as Assistant Engineer for a local company. She graduated from the Missouri Fire Academy in August of 2006. Her weekends include “fiddling around with cars” and enjoying motorcycle riding. Repair and renovation of the Liberty home they bought from an elderly couple also demand weekend time from both Carla and Liz.

Eight-year-old daughter, Erin, combines both sports and motorcycles in her weekend fun. She loves her Sunshine Academy class and thinks that backpacking in the Grocery is a great way to make friends. She’s a third-grader at Schumacher School. She and classmate Mattie Davis have been friends since their pre-school days and members of the Brownie and Girl Scout troops led by Carla. Mattie and her mother, Jackie Davis, helped Carla, Liz, and Erin discover Grace as a happy church home.

The last member of the family (unfortunately not pictured) is Lily, the Jac-a-Bee or Jack Russell /Beagle mix. According to her humans, she’s the ideal inside-outside dog – a beagle couch potato when you’re inside and a hyperactive Jack Russell for outside companionship.

Photograph by Ron Brink

Urban Farming

As Grace considers the best use of the considerable land surrounding our building, the Adult Forum presentation on March 25 explored the possibilities of “urban farming,” growing food crops on plots of land in the middle of cities. Through an urban farming project, Grace Church might expand our commitment to ministries that feed hungry people. Joining the audience for the Forum and Coffee Hour were friends from First Baptist Church, where members share Grace’s interest in a food-growing project.



Guest presenters were Katherine Kelly, Executive

Director of the Kansas City Center for Urban Agriculture and Project Manager, Growing Growers Program at Kansas State University; and Daniel Dermittel, Associate Director of the Center. Both are also Farmers, at Kansas City Community Farm. According to the speakers, an important goal of the Center is development of strong communities through both nutritional and financial benefits of growing and selling fresh food. The presenters explained that the Center offers both education and technical help to non-profit groups seeking to begin urban farming.

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Photographs by Priscilla Knapp

New Worshipers at Grace

A magazine article, followed by internet research, helped Joe and Jody May and toddler Cabot find Grace Church. Joe grew up as a Roman Catholic and Jody, as a Methodist. They wanted to find a church where both could feel at home, especially one that was open and inclusive. Jody was greatly impressed by a *Newsweek* article on new Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori and started researching the Episcopal Church on the web to find out more about a church that would choose a strong and intelligent woman as its leader. What she found persuaded her and Joe that the “middle road” of the Episcopal Church united their religious heritage.

From their first visit, they found Grace warmly welcoming and were especially delighted by the delivery of cookie bags to their home. It seemed to Jody that Grace “actually wanted new people to join!” Now they appreciate having excellent child care as they worship at the early service. Cabot loves the nursery, as well as the colored squares of light behind the font. Every Sunday as the family leaves he chortles as he wiggles down from his father’s arms to toddle over to put little hands on either side of those low enough for him to reach.



A Holt native, Joe went to school in Kearney before going on to Southwest Missouri State, now Missouri State, in Springfield. He works for Verizon in Liberty. Jody grew up in Wisconsin and attended the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse before doing graduate study in Marketing Research at the original campus in Madison. She came to Kansas City to work in consumer research for Hallmark, but now after Cabot’s birth does similar research part-time for a smaller company. Joe’s a “history buff in general,” while Jody’s a runner who also likes to read and enjoys traveling all over the country to visit relatives.

Photograph by Priscilla Knapp

Integrity

At Adult Forum on March 18, Kim Brugger opened a lively discussion of Integrity with a PowerPoint presentation outlining the purpose of the organization and the formation of chapters. Kim, who is Junior Warden and one of Grace’s delegates to diocesan convention, has been a leader in establishing a chapter at Grace. Integrity members also served strawberries, grapes, and a variety of pastries during Coffee Hour at Forum time and after the 10:15 service.

Through the PowerPoint presentation, Kim explained that Integrity is a nonprofit organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Episcopalians and their straight friends. Since its founding in 1974, Integrity has been a grassroots voice for the full inclusion of LGBT persons in the Episcopal Church and their equal access to its rites. In

addition to advocacy, its activities include worship, fellowship, education, communication, outreach, and service to the church.



Grace Church Integrity members have been granted Chapter-in-Formation status by the national organization and all interested members of the congregation, whatever their sexual orientation, are invited to join. Further information about the organization and about joining is available on line at www.integrityusa.org. By vote of the Vestry last fall, Grace is host church for the group. Mother Susan is their chaplain.

Photograph by Cassy Venters

Sonshine Academy

This year children in the Sonshine Academy observed Lent through crafts and activities based on Eucharistic lectionary selections from Luke's Gospel.

The pre-schoolers and the 1st-3rd graders were fascinated by Jesus' comparison of himself to a mother hen who gathers her chicks under her wings (Luke 13:34). In the pre-school class the children molded little chicks from clay, while the 1st-3rd grade children made feathery chickens and created a mural showing the hen protecting her chicks from a menacing fox named "Trouble." They gave the chicks their own names.



As their project for the season, the 4th-6th grade class undertook a Lenten Journey. The project involved creating a diorama, including a colorful mountain range, to illustrate the journey Jesus made toward Jerusalem in the last weeks of his life. The children also kept Lenten Journals to chronicle their own experiences.

*Pre-school and 1st-3rd grade photographs by Tina Myers
4th-6th grade photographs by Sharon Grimes*



Grace's Grocery

Colorful new signs now identify the Grocery that houses food for Franklin Friends backpacks and label the shelves for each department. They were generously created for the ministry by Hallmark artist Sue Pike-Bower, whose sister, Diane, is a Grace Church communicant. All participants in the ministry join in gratitude to Sue.

In the Dessert Aisle of the Grocery it's raining an April shower of raisins. Thanks to the initiative of Linda Hezel, the department will be stocked with enough raisins to last through this school year. When Linda saw that the ingathering list from Department Manager Karen Brink included raisins as well as pudding and Gold Fish, she started doing research on the internet to see possible sources of corporate contributions. That led her to the California Raisin Board and finally to a successful grant proposal. The result is the Board's donation of 900 1-oz packages of

raisins. Now each of the 41 backpacks and the 5 supplemental snack bags will contain 2 packages of raisins each week until school is out.

Photograph by Ron Brink





Grace Episcopal Church

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<http://www.graceepiscopalliberty.com>

Vestry

The Rev. Susan G. McCann—*Rector*

Richard Moore—*Senior Warden*

Kim Brugger—*Junior Warden*

Ann Marie Shannon—*Clerk*

Troy Brooks

Brad Chance

Laura Gayle Green

Sharon Grimes

Terry Hayter

Jim Hill

Carol Sevier

Jerry Venters

Mark Walters

Leadership

Henry Bramman—*Treasurer*

Citty Haden—*Asst. Treasurer*

John Clapsaddle—*Clerk of the Works*

Julie Goodman—*Parish Nurse*

Cassy Venters—*Stewardship Chair*

Ann Marie Shannon and Cassy Venters—*Newsletter
Co-Editors*

Terry Hayter and Pat Morgan—*Co-Webmasters*

Staff

Brett Terry—*Organist, Choirmaster, Director of
Music*

Larry Winter—*Handbell Director*

Andreea Chiselita—*Nursery*

Verna Morgan—*Nursery*

Rachela Talpes—*Sexton*

Service Times

Sundays

Holy Eucharist I: 8:00am

Sonshine Academy: 9:00am

Adult Forum: 9:00am

Holy Eucharist II: 10:15am

March Vestry Meeting

At the March 13 meeting Vestry members discussed ideas in the opening chapters of Stephanie Spellers' book, *Radical Welcome: Embracing God, The Other, and the Spirit of Transformation*. The conversation emphasized the difference between a church of Radical Welcome and a church which is simply inviting or inclusive. It explored possible relationships between Grace and "The Other," including the African-American community, Hispanics, lgbt persons, and people living in poverty. Discussion of the book will continue at the April Vestry meeting. The Vestry also reviewed financial reports, approved the 2006 Parochial Report, and discussed current developments in the Anglican Communion.

January-March Financial Snapshot

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Income	50,309.73	53,625.14	-3,315.41
Expense	54,201.41	57,506.46	-3,305.05

The detailed statement is posted on the bulletin board outside the office, accessible to everyone.

Franklin Friends Snapshot

January 5—March 30

Franklin Children now receiving backpacks containing week end food: 41

Simple meals provided each week: 246

Meals so far this year: 3,654

Other children receiving supplementary snacks: 5

Snacks so far this year: 75

Simple meals provided February-December, 2006: 7,871

Newsletter Editors

Beginning with the May issue, Diane Pike will assume editorship of *Amazing Grace*, succeeding Ann Marie Shannon and Cassy Venters. Ann Marie and Cassy have divided responsibilities, with Ann Marie providing copy and Cassy formatting it. Diane will take on both jobs. She is an EM and lector at the 8:00 service and is joining both vocal and hand bell choirs in anticipation of music for Easter.