



# Amazing Grace

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

*March 2007*



## *Holy Week Schedule*

**“I invite you, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent...”**  
**[BCP 265]**

		<b>Holy Week</b>	
Monday, April 2	12:00 Noon	Holy Eucharist	no child care
Tuesday, April 3	12:00 Noon	Holy Eucharist	no child care
Wednesday, April 4	12:00 Noon	Holy Eucharist [no evening service]	no child care
Maundy Thursday, April 5	7:00 PM	Holy Eucharist The Sacrament is reserved in the Garden of Repose Prayer Vigil 8:00 pm - 9:00 am Sign up at church to participate in the Prayer Vigil	child care available
Good Friday, April 6	12:00 Noon	The Good Friday Liturgy The Solemn Collects Communion from the Reserved Sacrament	child care available
Good Friday	7:00 pm	Tenebrae	child care available
Holy Saturday	12:00 Noon	Holy Saturday Liturgy	no child care

**“I invite you, in the name of the Church, to the celebration of the Resurrection....”**

Easter Day, April 8	8:00 and 10:15 am	Festival Holy Eucharist	childcare available at both services
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The Rector’s Easter Egg Hunt for toddlers through 6<sup>th</sup> grade will take place on the lawn (weather permitting) immediately following the 10:15 service.

A festive coffee hour will follow both services.



## *Anniversary Celebrations*

A surprise item on the agenda of the Annual Meeting was enthusiastic recognition of two important events of 2006 – the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mother Susan’s ordination to the priesthood and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her ministry at Grace. She later said that she was speechless – a rare experience for her – when she was presented with a new combined Book of Common Prayer and Hymnal to replace the copy she has worn out in ministry to us. The presentation was followed by announcement of plans for a festive celebration on June 8, the anniversary of her ordination, and finally by a joyful standing ovation.

The book was open later for everyone to sign. They also left notes expressing their love and



gratitude. At the 10:15 service, children brought a book they had made themselves at Children’s Chapel, together with a tree of ceramic hearts signed with their thanks.



Photos by (left) Lolly Ockerstrom and Jerry Venters (above)

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## *Congratulations*

We join in prayers of thanksgiving for the birth of Zoe Elizabeth Juarez on February 20 and send our congratulations to parents Adam and Libby, big brother Alex, and grandparents Zoe Holmes and Steve Turek. Be sure to see the pictures posted on the bulletin board outside the office.

## *Wedding Plans*

We join in prayers for Duane Gooch and Krista Siegfried and good wishes for their happiness as they prepare for their wedding on April 28.

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# The Vestry

Important business at the Annual Meeting on February 11 was recognition of outgoing Vestry members John Clappsaddle and Rebecca Morris and election of new members to three-year terms. In recognition of their service, Mother Susan presented Rebecca and John (pictured left) with framed prints of Ron Brink's watercolors of the church. Kimberly Brugger, Bradley Chance, Sharon Grimes, and Richard Moore were presented by the nominating committee and were elected unanimously. Mother Susan announced her appointment of Richard Moore as Senior Warden.



Kim (far right, below), who usually worships at the 8:00 service, has been a member of Grace since 2005. She is an active participant in the Franklin Friends ministry and has taken the lead in organizing an Integrity chapter at Grace. She is a Senior Project Leader at Cerner Corporation and has

managed people and projects both nationally and internationally.

Brad (second from right) joined Grace just over a year ago. A New Testament scholar, he is Professor of Religion and Department Chair at William Jewell College. He serves as lector, intercessor, and licensed Eucharistic Minister at the 10:15 service and leads biblical studies at Adult Forum and for the Lay Academy. He has a twenty-seven-year-old daughter.

Sharon (left), who worships at the 8:00 service, joined the congregation – then named Church of the Messiah – in 1992. She is active in programs for children and co-teaches the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade Sunshine Academy class. She has planned and helped with Grace receptions and is often a photographer at church events. Sharon works as Executive Assistant at the Mid-America Regional Council. She and her husband, Edward, have two adult children and two grandchildren.



Richard (second from left), who has been a member of Grace since 2003, has served as Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair, and Chair of the Building Renewal Committee. He sings in the choir and is a lector and intercessor at the 10:15 service. He is President of Commerce Mortgage Corporation. He and his wife, Linda Hezel, have two sons, Christopher and David.

Also pictured (center) is Citty Haden, chair of the nominating committee.

*Photographs by Jerry Venters*



Grace Church's children (and adults) watch the 2006 Year in Review multi-media program during annual meeting. *Photograph by Cassy Venters*

## *Black History month*

To celebrate and honor Black History Month, A.J. Byrd came to Grace Church as guest preacher at the 10:15 service on February 18. A Liberty native and William Jewell alumnus, he is a leader at 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church and in the wider Liberty African-American community. Guest soloist for the service was soprano Mallory Clark, a student at the UMKC Conservatory of Music. Children's Chapel was suspended so that children could share the whole worship experience.



*Photographs by Jerry Venters*

## *Living the Baptismal Covenant*

In each issue, the *Amazing Grace* newsletter shares stories of ways Grace Church people live out answers to the Baptismal questions (BCP, p. 305).

**Linda Hezel** is a health care educator who passionately believes that stewardship of the whole of creation is a way to respect the “dignity of every human being.” She points out that we “make intentional decisions every day about our lives and earth’s resources” and she strives for “the exercise of humility” to maintain perspective on humanity as “one of many species,” with responsibility not to dominate but to protect the life of all.

With master’s and doctor’s degrees in nursing, she has turned from teaching in the classroom to promote wider understanding of those “intentional decisions.” She can be an advocate for the environment at local meetings on land use or at others where she recommends “a low carbon diet” to counter global warming. Her great conviction, though, is that “growing healthy food is the ultimate health practice.” She makes practical application of that conviction on the land surrounding the Kearney home she shares with her husband, Senior Warden Richard Moore, and their sons, Christopher and David. There she works to restore the native habitat as well as to produce healthy food. Many Grace Church people rely on her free range chickens for eggs or her bee hives for honey. She also has an orchard of native fruit trees.



She has put both her extensive research and her practical experience to work in Grace’s Renewal project to design and supervise the planting of the “ecoscape” which surrounds our buildings. It consists entirely of hardy native Missouri plants that thrive in this climate without elaborate spraying and fertilizing.

## Grace's Grocery



The business of the Annual Meeting concluded with adjournment downstairs for the blessing and ribbon cutting of Grace's Grocery – A Holy Owned Subsidiary of God's Love. The Grocery will supply the backpacks that provide weekend food for our ministry to 24 children at Franklin School and 17 of their brothers and sisters.

Food from Franklin Friends Ingathering fills the shelves which line the walls of the brightly colored Children's Center. The arrangement allows packers to work directly from the shelves.

The Grocery Store also involves a new Ingathering system. A department manager has been assigned to each area of the store to be responsible for recruiting others to help with inventory, shelving, and preparation for packing. The six departments and their managers are the Meat Market (chicken and tuna), Priscilla Knapp; Entrees (microwave cups), Ross Warnell; Produce (fruit, applesauce, and fruit snacks), Jackie Davis; Dessert Case

(pudding, Gold Fish, raisins), Karen Brink; Cereal Aisle (cold cereal, oatmeal, ramen noodle pouches), Jay and Julie Goodman; and Bakery (fruit bars, cereal bars, and pop tarts), Cynthia Clifton. Children at Children's Chapel will be Stock Clerks, transferring Ingathering contributions from the barrels to the Loading Dock, ready for managers to put on the shelves. The congregation has been organized into Ingathering Groups, with a group to act as Suppliers for each department.

*Photographs by Ron Brink*



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## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Blueberry, strawberry, chocolate chip, pecan, banana, even plain – the G-Men of Grace took orders for them all at the “all-you-can-eat” pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday.

*Photograph by Lolly Ockerstrom*

## Grace Episcopal Church

520 South 291 Highway  
Liberty, MO 64068

Phone: 816-781-6262  
<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**

**Sharon Grimes**

**Laura Gayle Green**

**Terry Hayter**

**Jim Hill**

**Carol Sevier**

**Jerry Venters**

**Mark Walters**

**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**

**Patrick Morgan and Terry Hayter—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 Adult Forum—Major Faith Traditions*

On February 18 the Adult Forum series on Major Faith Traditions continued with a presentation on Hinduism by Dilip Das. He is a chemical engineer by profession and works for Bayer CropScience as Principal Engineer. Educated in both India and the United States, he serves as a local priest to perform Hindu devotional ceremonies in the Kansas City area. He and his wife, Mala, have two children. She is president of the sociocultural group SANGAM.



*Photograph by Jerry Venters*



*Photograph by Lolly Ockerstrom*

The series concluded on February 25 with a presentation on Islam by Mahnaz Shabbir. A first-generation American Muslim woman, Mrs. Shabbir has been president of the Heartland Muslim Council and is a board member of the Kansas City Interfaith Council. She has been widely honored for her leadership in community activities as well as for her effectiveness as a speaker about Islam, both locally and nationally. She was an outstanding presenter at the 2005 Symposium of the Academy for Lay Education and Ministry. She is president of Shabbir Advisors, an integrated strategic management consulting company. She is the mother of four sons.

## *February Vestry Meeting*

At an organizational meeting February 27 the Vestry elected Kim Brugger as Junior Warden, Ann Marie Shannon as Secretary, and Citty Haden as Assistant Treasurer. Henry Bramman was elected earlier as Treasurer to fill the vacancy left by the untimely death of Ron Swope. The appointment of John Clapsaddle as Clerk of the Works was also endorsed. Elected as delegates to Diocesan Convention, which will take place November 2-3 at Tan-Tar-A, were Kim Brugger, Brad Chance, and Terry Hayter, with Sharon Grimes, Richard Moore, and Ann Marie Shannon as alternates.

Kim Brugger reported on progress on establishing an Integrity chapter at Grace. Integrity is an organization within the Episcopal Church striving for the inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons and their straight friends. The Vestry has previously approved hosting a chapter at Grace. There will be a presentation on Integrity at Adult Forum on March 18, when members of the group will also host Coffee Hour.