



The Angelus

Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral • Kansas City, Missouri

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Christmas and the Opera

It was my privilege two weeks ago to be invited to attend the comic opera *Elixir of Love* by Gaetano Donizetti. The opera itself was a marvelous production, and it reminded me of parallels which often face us in life. This opera, or any opera, is experienced on a number of levels. The production itself may range from the mediocre to the magnificent and the opera goer's experience is affected by that level of performance.

But beyond the individual production there is the experience of the opera being a part of a repertoire. That is, an opera goer through the years may see a given opera one, two, three times or more. So she has an opportunity to compare experiences, which enrich her appreciation for that opera. Perhaps one of the leads had a lead in another opera, which reminds the viewer of that experience. There is this layer of experience of the opera repertoire which over time increases a person's appreciation for this art form. There is, as well, in opera a mixture of story, music, theatre and emotion which delights the opera lover. The story bears meaning, the music is a primary art form which delights and moves one emotionally as well as intellectually, the acting is a vehicle for the story and interpretation for the music. All of these become so intertwined that they become a single experience for the audience and its individual members.

Advent and Christmas are somewhat like that. There are many levels of experience. There is the cultural experience of buying for and receiving gifts from those who love each other. There is for many the opportunity of experiencing the delight of children, unadorned delight. Oh, yes, there is also the possibility that we will see some child or some adult's petulance, greed and pique. But this level of experi-

ence is an important one motivating us to behavior in particular ways during Advent and Christmas. Then there is the matter of the economy; if the business community does well, we all do better. If business suffers between Thanksgiving day and Christmas, it affects many decisions in our national life.

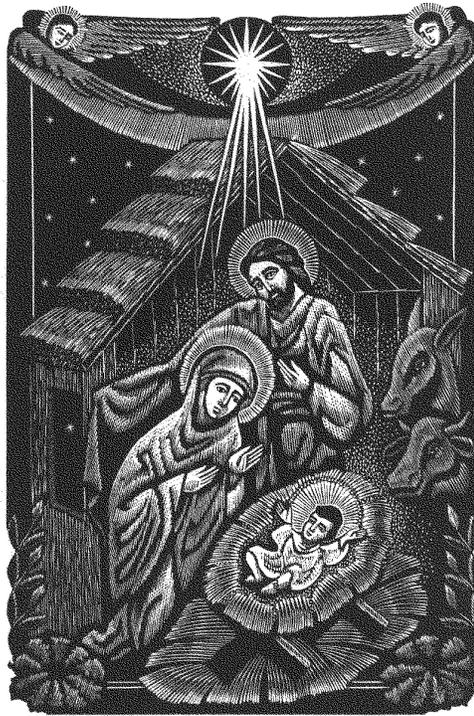
I could go on with this, but for those of us who call ourselves Christians Advent and Christmas can be primarily about soul preparation and true adoration of the God who loves and prepared so well for us and for the world's objective redemption. This level of experience bears a level of meaning that we should never allow to escape us. One of the ways my family has celebrated Christmas in the past is through Advent calendars and attendance at events in preparation, the Christmas midnight mass which carries with it a glory that surpasses many of our liturgies and finally the celebration of the twelve days of Christmas recognizing that for Christians Christmas is a season, not a day. We for many years have given a gift a day, little things, treats, outings, an

ice cream cone, something very special and unexpected come January! We have extended through that the joy of family, avoided the abrupt ending of anticipation which comes with the 'Tree' and found ways to grow in our faith in Jesus who is the heart of this celebration.

Many levels of understanding and we each experience them. May the seasons that are upon us provide you with opportunities for love and for growing, for behavior in explicitly Christian ways going way beyond the cultural expectations of this time of year.

"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled..." Luke 2:1

- by The Very Rev. Dr. James A. Hubbard



Mary pondered all these things in her heart.

- SACRED ART OF LAVRANS NIELSEN

Deaconesses

What treasures are to be found in our library! Recently, while perusing our collection, I came across a small book entitled *Deaconesses*. Finding this outdated term intriguing, I opened it and began examining the interior, careful of the crumbling pages. I discovered that the book was published in 1897 and traces the role of women in the church from Christ's time to the late nineteenth century.

Much of it reads as if it were a contemporary work, and that which shows its age still manages to have grace. For example, when addressing the issue of women entering ministry, the author, Lucy Rider Meyer, says,

"The sentiment of the Christian masses is rapidly rising...and the enfranchisement and elevation of our Christian sisterhood will soon become complete...Beyond all questions, the home will continue to be woman's proudest empire, her glory and delight. The home rests in a law of nature as immutable as the fadeless eternities. No man need tremble for his home because women's heart is growing larger and her mental sweep less confined, or because a few women are willing to forego the sweetness of one home, that they may gladden and sweeten many homes."

When referring to women in scripture, the author reminds the reader, "In studying the life of Christ, we cannot but be impressed with the large number of ministering women mentioned. First there was the little company that gathered around our Savior, accompanied Him in His later journeys and supplied the personal wants of the One 'who was rich, but for our sakes became poor.' Who does not remember Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward, and the Marys—the 'Mary blessed above women,' His mother—Mary of Magdala—Mary, the wife of Clopas? Who does not think of Mary and Martha in the home at Bethany, and of the unnamed women, whose quick and boundless hospitality kept the infant Church from scattering, and at whose hands the believers 'broke bread from house to house,' after the Pentecostal baptism?"

This little book also discusses deaconesses

Organ Project Delayed - Chris Morrison's story on the organ renovation was an excellent piece of work. I am embarrassed to have to inform you that the project will be delayed because of a back log of work for both Leslie Smith and Michael Quimby. Both gentlemen were concerned that they would not be finished with the task by Easter. Accordingly, the renovation is no scheduled to begin in August next year and should be completed by mid November. We are sorry for having misinformed you but are pleased with both Mr. Smith and Mr. Quimby for their caring concern. - Canon Schaefer.

and their work not only in the Bible, but also in the early church of Europe and America. When speaking of the Episcopal Church, the author claims that it was among the first in America to recognize the value of deaconess work. As early as 1855, a house was established in Baltimore for two women consecrated as deaconesses by the bishop of that diocese. At this time, deaconesses were women who associated themselves together into communities for religious work in the Episcopal Church. At the General Convention in 1889, a canon was adopted that included the following points: The deaconess must

1. Be unmarried
2. Assist in the care of the poor and the sick, in the religious training of the young and in the work of moral reformation.
3. Be at least 25 years of age and have a testimonial certifying that she is a communicant in good standing and is morally strong.
4. Have the express authority in writing of the bishop of that diocese that she may work there.

The book also talks about the difference between a Sister and a Deaconess, commenting that the titles were often used interchangeably, but some differences were that a deaconess was a general officer of the Church, while a sister was not; a deaconess's vows were not for life, as those of a sister usually were; and a deaconess retained the full control of her own property, which the sister "dutifully relinquishes."

This little book, in remarkable condition, caught me a bit by surprise, for it wasn't until after Vatican II that the church began to think about restoring the historic diaconate. In 1971 the Episcopal Church began to ordain deacons; the 1979 Book of Common Prayer included deacons as vital parts of the liturgy. Women were also accepted into the diaconate at that time.

As a woman and a deacon, I honor these deaconesses who came before, who established the role of servant hood for the diaconate. As you participate in the liturgy on Sunday, please notice the roles of the deacons in the service, such as setting the table, serving the wine, assisting the priest, introducing the Prayers of the People and the confession, and proclaiming the gospel. When I pronounce the dismissal, I usually say, "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." There are other dismissals, and occasionally I use one of them, but my favorite dismissal instructs us to live in love and service all week long.

We women aren't called deaconesses anymore, but my heart sings to the history they lived.

- by The Rev. Linda Yeager

Messiah Singalong

For well over 20 years, the Cathedral has offered a "Messiah" sing along to the community. In good times and bad, the music of the Handel and scriptural passages that he set gladden the heart and restore the spirit.

This year, the sing along, which will consist of Parts I and II of Handel's most celebrated oratorio will be held on Saturday, December 20, beginning at 5 p.m.. This is a change from past years when the sing along was held on Sunday afternoons.

Jack Ergo of Graceland College in Lamoni, Iowa returns to be the conductor. Mr. Ergo was the principal musician for the Community of Christ church for many years; he is a most knowledgeable and communicative conductor. The soloists are Paulette Votava Resch and David White, both of who sang the Italienisches Liederbuch recital in November; and Jay Carter and Bruce Burstert who, along with Mr. White, are members of the Cathedral Choir and have sung in several previous singalongs.



Jack Ergo, Conductor

The audience is the chorus throughout the performance. Singers bring their own score or purchase on upon arrival. There is no admission charge, but donations are warmly welcomed. The sing along is not funded by the Cathedral budget.

To know more about the "Messiah" sing along, please contact Canon Schaefer at the Cathedral (816) 474-8260 ext. 113.

- by Canon Schaefer

The Angelus

A laypersons' newspaper published in the interest of Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral.

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Submissions from parishioners and small groups are welcome and encouraged. All entries are requested by the 15th day of the month prior to publication via fax: (816) 474-5856 or e-mail: communications@ghtc-kc.org

Sabbath and Psalmology this Advent Season

As Christmastime nears, what thoughts fill your head—the birth of Christ? Holiday merriment and cheer? The frenzied shopping and wrapping of gifts? Visions of sugar plum fairies? Many of us entertain all these thoughts and more once the Plaza lights are turned on for another holiday season. Trying to fit it all in to an already over-filled schedule can become overwhelming while spirituality and the real meaning of Christmas can easily get lost in the shuffle. But there is help to keep the Reason for the Season: The Second Annual Advent Series.

The Advent Series came into being last year as a book discussion to help everyone prepare for Christmas and the birth of Christ. It was also designed to help give people a chance to rest and recharge their spirits during a hectic season. This year, the series is three weeks long on every Wednesday starting December 3 and ending December 17. The discussion classes start at 7:00 PM, followed by a quiet Compline at 8:30.

Dcn. Linda's classes will be based upon the book "Sabbath: Restoring the Sacred Rhythm

of Rest," by Wayne Muller. She will concentrate on the concept of Sabbath, which is to take time for reflection, renewal and a new perspective on things. "Sabbath is about finding God in the quiet spots...to find peace to prepare for the birth of Christ," states Deacon Linda. She added it's also about making it year-round habit, not just during this busy, festive holiday. The book is available at the church bookstore, but is not required for the class.

Fr. Ben will lead a three-part series on the Psalms. The first week he will explore the different kinds of Psalms, from praise to lamentations. In the second installment, Fr. Ben will discuss the use of Psalms in Liturgy, and on the last week, he will have everyone create their own Psalter from different books and materials and interpretations. Fr. Ben noted there would be no outside assignments or required materials for this class.

Alongside the adult classes, a fun children's class will be offered as well, complete with adventures, stories and arts and crafts. The nursery will also be open during this time for our youngest participants. - by Rachel Chambers

Prepare *your Spirit* for Christmas!

How do you normally prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth?

Consider including fellowship, faith and spiritual peace this Advent season. Join us on Wednesday evenings in Advent:

December 3, 10 and 17

7:00 p.m. classes for all ages
8:30 p.m. Compline

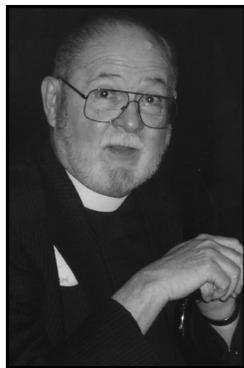


Dean Cavanaugh Receives Award

It comes as no surprise to most of us that our very own Dean Cavanaugh was a recipient of another award. This award from Bishop Spencer Place was both timely and significant. "It was presented to him for his exceptional and devoted work as Chaplain at Bishop Spencer Place and for his active leadership in the development of the Bishop Buchanan Benevolent Care Endowment. It is a concern to which he brings the passion that has marked his long and devoted ministry."

"After retiring as Dean of the Cathedral, he joined the effort to institute a Chaplaincy Program at Bishop Spencer Place. Recognizing the increasing need for the financial assistance for care, Dean Cavanaugh became active in the development of the Bishop Buchanan Benevolent Care Endowment Fund."

"Dean Cavanaugh has served over 50 years of ministry, establishing new congregations, restoring and rejuvenating older distressed churches, and in Kansas City, leading the congregation of our Cathedral for 20 years. A



The Very Rev. J. Earl Cavanaugh
- PHOTO BY JAN FRIZZLE

strong sense of outreach to the needs of the community, the homeless and hungry, the powerless and voiceless has marked his efforts. In the vanguard of those in our community seeking ways to help persons with AIDS, he exemplified the compassion and presence of our Lord."

"His ministry extended from the local parish to the work of the National Church, as a deputy to nine General Conventions, chairing the Committee on Social and Urban Affairs. He served as a member of the National Executive council and on the Council of Advice to two Presidents of the House of Deputies. He is still active serving in aspects of the National Church."

More than 200 guests gathered at the Hyatt Hotel October 22 to honor Dean Cavanaugh. It was a festive evening with Nancy at his side. All rejoiced in celebrating the work of this compassionate Dean, who has loved, nourished and cared for our community and for us in so many ways.

- by Jan Frizzle

What's an Offering?

When I put money in the plate I know what an offering is. I understand that the *treasury* referred to in the Gospel on November 9, was a big copper funnel. Drop a bunch of coins in and it made a huge racket, so everyone would know who made a big offering.

Is an offering only money? Well, no it isn't.

When the Grace Choraliers sing, it is an offering. They have practice for months to make it perfect. We sit in quiet reverence while they are making their offering. And no one claps; which is how it should be. Wouldn't it be awful if everyone stood and applauded when we put our checks in the plate on Sunday?

What about the Prelude and Postlude, aren't they like the Social Hour where we should visit with our friends and guests, while there is a nice background accompaniment? The Prelude and Postlude, be it an organ offering or a cello offering, or a bell choir offering, are offerings as much as the Choraliers of the Offertory Anthem or the Communion Anthem, or the money we contribute to keep the Cathedral healthy. They all deserve our respect and attention.

Would it be all right to sit in quiet reverence during the Prelude and Postlude? I think it would. - by David Barker

The Christmas Story in Stained Glass Windows

Stained glass windows add beauty, light and color to churches, but they also teach the stories of our faith and ask us to reflect on how these stories bear on our lives today. No story is more beautifully told in church windows than that of the birth of Christ. There are several outstanding examples in Missouri's Episcopal churches.

Often the telling of the Christmas story begins with the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary. The angel Gabriel was sent to Mary with the news that she had found favor with God and would bear a son. This event can be beautifully depicted in windows. The setting is often shown in great detail, but the real artistic feat is in capturing what the moment must have been like for the young Mary. Her emotions are conveyed in the way she is posed, the ways her hands are folded, and the expression in her eyes. In the Annunciation window at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral, tiny pieces of glass create a mosaic effect. The angel, dressed in red, holds a lily in his outstretched hand. Brilliant pieces of red, blue and gold glass make this window vibrant and powerful.



The Annunciation Window at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral.

The primary way that the Christmas story is told in church windows is in the depiction of the birth of Christ. Nativity windows vary from beautifully simple portrayals of the Madonna and Child to strikingly elaborate scenes with a host of characters. The Nativity window at Calvary in Columbia is a simple scene with Mary holding the baby on her lap and Joseph standing protectively behind her in the light of the Star of Bethlehem. The picture is portrayed predominately in hues of blue and purple. The window evokes the peace and tranquility of the moment.

By contrast, the Nativity window at St. Paul's in Kansas City is a large and colorful narrative window. Again, Mary is seated holding the baby Jesus. Joseph stands behind them with his hands clasped together as if in prayer. Two shepherds kneel beside the manger. Two more, one with a lamb draped across his shoulders, stand nearby. An ox and a donkey look over the top of a wall from another part of the

stable and the Star of Bethlehem shines in the background. A feeling of reverence pervades the scene.

Light is always important in stained glass, but is particularly so in Nativity windows. Glass designers consider light to be part of the material needed to create a window and they use it very deliberately. They are adept at using white and gold glass to draw the viewer's eye to the Christ Child as the focal point of the window. This is artistically appealing, but it is also important to the message of the window: Christ is the Light of the World. Sometimes the inner light of the Christ Child seems to illuminate the rest of the scene. Often the setting includes a lantern, which serves to show how man-made light pales in comparison to the Light of the World.

Other events related to the Christmas story are sometimes depicted in windows as well, including the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, the Epiphany, and the Flight into Egypt. Epiphany windows illustrate the wise men bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to honor the Christ Child. These windows, including the one at St. Philip's in Joplin, often use an incredibly rich range of colors in the depiction of the Magi and their gifts; magnificent hues of red, purple, and gold in particular.

No doubt images of the Christmas story will be portrayed somewhere in your church during Advent or Christmas, in a crèche, reproduced on a service leaflet, or perhaps in a stained glass window. Take time to contemplate the works of art and faith around you as part of your celebration of the season.

- by Robyn Burnett

Robyn Burnett is a parishioner at Grace Church, Jefferson City. She and her husband Ken Luebbering are co-authors of *Gospels in Glass: Stained Glass Windows in Missouri Churches* (Pebble Publishing, 2000). The trade paperback is a history of stained glass illustrated with 120 color photos from churches around Missouri. It is available in our Bookstore and other area bookstores.

An Opportunity to Share our Warmth

Winter is upon us, and the whistling wind reminds us to wrap our scarves more tightly around our necks, to pull our knitted caps down around our ears, to wear an extra pair of socks, and to enclose our freezing fingers in warm gloves. Many of the guests who eat lunch in the Kansas City Community Kitchen have no such insulation from the weather, even though they spend their days and nights in the frigid winter air.

Please share your warmth by giving gloves, hats, scarves and/or socks to those who have



none. We will distribute these items to the guests on an as need basis. You will find a basket in the tower; please place your offerings there. This is a continuing need throughout the winter months, so there is no expiration date for donations.

The biggest need is for men's items, followed by women's. We have a few children who share lunch with us as well and would benefit from the gift of warmth. Please call the Cathedral with any questions or comments.

- by The Rev. Linda Yeager, Deacon



New Arrivals

Jacqueline Eleanor Harris, was born October 15. She is the granddaughter of Jackye and Joe Finnie.

Matthew Hitchcock Deves, was born November 22. He is the son of Kim and Tim Deves, brother of Jackson and grandson of Tony and Sheila Hitchcock.

Maya Ellen McLeroy, was born November 3. She is the daughter of Brad and Kathleen McLeroy.

Gracelynn Frances Leonard, was born November 5. She is the daughter of Betsy and Beattie Leonard.

Memorials and Thanksgivings

November 2, 2003 • The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Harriet Minty Russell and Frederick Forsha Russell; and in loving memory of Frank Roscher by Charlene Roscher; also in thanksgiving for her daughter, Beverly Sloan, by Mrs. Herbert A. Sloan. At the baptismal font in thanksgiving for their daughter, Eliza Lynn Johnson, on the anniversary of her baptism, by Jeff and Valerie Johnson.

November 9, 2003 • The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Charline Schmelzer by Bill Fisher; and in loving memory of Lillian Cozzi Pellet by her daughter, Tricia Pellet Lyddon. At the baptismal font they are given in thanksgiving for Carl Ryder; and in loving memory of her parents, Muriel and Harry Hall, by Mr. and Mrs. Haywood Walker, Jr. At the chapel altar, the flowers are given in loving memory of Helen Curdy by Isabel Curdy.

November 16, 2003 • The flowers at the Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of his sister, Mary-Scott Kaiser, by Leo Crabbs, Jr. At the chapel altar, the flowers are given in loving memory of Charles Culloden Chapple by his wife, Sally Chapple.

November 23, 2003 • The Harvest Altar is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of her father, William H. Shackelford, Jr., by Mr. and Mrs. Charles N. Seidlitz, Jr. At the baptismal font, the flowers are given in thanksgiving for Amanda Tilley. At the chapel altar, the flowers are given in thanksgiving for Phyllis Ryder.

November 30, 2003 • The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the wedding anniversary of Brooke and Charles Dillman, by Mary Jo Browne; and in loving memory of Herbert Adams Sloan, Sr., by Mrs. H. A. Sloan and in thanksgiving for Frank Terrell, Jr. At the chapel altar in thanksgiving for Zachary Ryder and for Guy & Sue Mare, by Alan & Phyllis Ryder.

Dean Selection Committee Update

We are in Phase II of our selection process - the Call for Nominations and Applications. Nominations are coming to us from a variety of sources including parish members and friends, clergy, bishops, and the data base of the Church Deployment Office. Bishop Barry Howe, Candy McDowell and Mike McDonald, co-chairmen of the Selection Committee, briefly screen all the nominees' CDO Personal Profiles prior to calling for applications. During this initial screening, a few nominees are being "set aside" as they may fall well outside the parameters of what we are seeking in our new dean - e.g. approaching retirement age, lack of experience as a rector of a church, or may still be too new in his/her present position. The remaining nominees are being sent a copy of our Parish Profile booklet along with a letter from the co-chairmen asking for those who are interested in becoming a candidate to send a resume and to write a brief description of his/her spiritual journey and why he/she is a priest.

As of mid-November, calls for applications had been sent to over 4 dozen nominees.

As interested nominees respond to this call, we move into Phase III: Preliminary research of interested candidates. At this point, Bishop Howe speaks with the bishop of each of the responding nominees and joins the co-chairmen in doing a second screening of nominees before sending the strongest on for the entire Selection Committee to begin the telephone interview stage of the process. Some nominees have indicated they are not interested in being considered and others may withdraw from the process at a later date.

The telephone interview process includes conversations with not only each candidate, but also the candidate's bishop and a lay person from his/her current or recent congrega-

tion. Toward late January, after all the telephone interviews have been conducted, the Dean Selection Committee will select 4 to 7 of the strongest candidates for Committee members to visit in their present parish and then 3 or 4 will be invited to visit our cathedral. As many as 4 nominees may be presented to the Vestry and Bishop for consideration. From that group it is hoped that there will be one candidate "that rises to the top" and all agree should be our next dean. At that point, we will go through the formality or adhering to Canon XXVII Section 2 of the Diocese of West Missouri: "The Dean shall be nominated by the Bishop and shall be elected by the Cathedral Vestry."

Check the Sunday Bulletin announcements to learn how Phase I and Phase II are proceeding. Each week the following categories will be used and updated to provide the most current information possible: Total nominations, Set aside nominees, Nominees contacted, Nominees who have not responded, Interested nominees, Withdrawn/not interested, Candidates set aside, and Candidates under consideration.

- by Jan Frizzle.

A Collect for Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

Almighty God, giver of every good thing: Look graciously on this congregation of Grace and Holy Trinity: so that as compassionate and grateful Christians, we may welcome a faithful leader - a Dean - who will, with your blessing, care for us and help us continue our tradition of all-encompassing ministry and service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Cathedral's Financial Status

We have fallen significantly behind our year-to-date income target due almost entirely to a lag in the payment of pledges made. The Cathedral has always realized a strong correlation between commitments made and commitments kept. We anticipate that income will strengthen throughout the rest of the year as pledges are fulfilled. The staff has demonstrated good stewardship by keeping our expenses below budget.

Please keep the Cathedral in mind as we enter the holiday season. A variety of important ministries depend upon your commitment and generosity. - by Michael Thomas, Treasurer

	OCTOBER	BUDGETED YTD	ACTUAL YTD	VARIANCE
INCOME		\$ 1,069,687	\$ 1,024,233	\$ (45,454)
EXPENSES		\$ 1,119,832	\$ 1,072,522	\$ 47,310
VARIANCE		\$ (50,145)	\$ (48,289)	

The monthly financials reflect a true cash basis based on a three-year trend.

The Blakeslee Reading Society



SHE'S NOT THERE:
A LIFE IN TWO GENDERS
by Jennifer Finney Boylan

December 16, 7:00 p.m.

For further information
please call 816-741-0992

Cathedral Staff Faces

The third installment in an ongoing series.

The various programs and ministries at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral are the collective effort of several people. Some of them do much of their work in the spotlight, while others make their efforts known more quietly. This month, we meet three whose impact is irreplaceable, but not always seen directly.



John Schaefer

Canon John L. Schaefer, Music Director, has numerous responsibilities. Of those, the most conspicuous is playing the organ on Sundays and directing the Trinity

Mixed Choir and Youth Choir. In addition to the work of selecting music and rehearsing with the choirs, he also arranges recitals and other performances at the Cathedral and is very active in the music community.

Working in church music has been a lifelong desire for Canon Schaefer. His aunt and uncle were church organists, one in his native Ohio and the other in Washington, DC. The wonderful music appealed to him from a young age.

"It was fascinating to walk in there and look at all those keys," he said. "The organ seemed wonderfully large with all of those knobs that you pulled out and they made sounds."

Canon Schaefer studied music at Ohio State University, Union Theological Seminary in New York and New College in Oxford, England. He joined GHTC in 1976 after spending two years playing in a church in Massachusetts. One of his first requests from Dean Cavanaugh was to bring the Trinity Mixed Choir back together as a permanent ensemble, as opposed to one that sang only occasionally.

Over the years, Canon Schaefer has initiated the Trinity Youth Choir and groups for handbells and children. He will supervise the renovation of the Cathedral's organ in 2004. He says the work will help him and the choirs do a better job of leading our worship through music.

For all of the time and effort that goes into preparing music for the Cathedral, Canon Schaefer says it all comes down to making the worship experience richer. "That's what I try to do when I play, to enhance the words in such a way that people understand what they are singing so they can be spiritually enriched."



Betty Phillips

Betty Phillips is the head of the Cathedral Altar Guild, a position also known as Sacristan. Along with the other members of the Altar Guild, Phillips is responsible

for making sure the altar area of the church is ready for every worship service, including not only three services every Sunday, but also every wedding, funeral and other service that is held at the Cathedral.

Phillips has been active in Altar Guilds for many years, starting at the former St. George's Episcopal Church. When Phillips joined Grace and Holy Trinity in 1977, she joined the Altar Guild right away. When the need for a Sacristan came up, she was hired.

"Dean Cavanaugh twisted my arm," she joked. The duties of Sacristan are numerous. All members of the Altar Guild share in the washing and ironing of linens, polishing of silver and brass pieces and making sure everything is in place for services.

Phillips has many extra tasks, including ordering linens and other supplies, buying communion wafers and wine and working with people who have donated to the Cathedral Memorial Fund to purchase new silver and brass pieces as they are needed. Phillips says the work it is hard work that is time-consuming, which is part of makes it so rewarding.

"It keeps you in touch with the church and involved with the communicants," she said. "You have to be up on what's needed for all of the seasons and services."

Phillips is especially busy during Lent. Not only is this one of the seasons when all of the linens, chalices, candle holders and other pieces are cleaned thoroughly, but also a time when Phillips helps make palm crosses for Cathedral members to wear on Easter and for distribution at St. Luke's Hospital and Bishop Spencer Place.



Valerie Johnson

As Adult Education Coordinator, Valerie Johnson is responsible for overseeing such diverse programs as the Sunday morning Adult Forum, Lenten Academy, Episcopal 101 and

other educational offerings for adults. She works with an advisory committee of lay people and, of course, works very closely with Cathedral clergy to determine what should be offered.

Johnson says one of the main challenges of the job is to find people who can help teach classes.

"I want to find people who want to teach," she said. "I enjoy learning their interests and encouraging them to share."

One recent example is the "discovery" of Dr. David Rice, who has led two recent Adult Forums on the topic of heresies in the church.

Johnson has been a Cathedral member for about nine years, and has been Adult Education Coordinator since August 2001. Her background is in dental hygiene, which she taught at the UMKC School of Dentistry. When her son was about one year old, she found that she needed to spend more time at home. At the same time, the position became available at the Cathedral and she was hired for it.

Johnson said she enjoys the flexibility of the job, she works in the office and from home - thanks to computers, e-mail and telephone! As a mother of two, now, Valerie finds her day in the office as a 'day out' accomplishing projects and coordinating the details of programs.

"It is a comfort to know my children are welcome any time if I need to stop by to do a few things on other days. They are growing up surrounded by love. This is the place to be."

In the near future Johnson hopes to offer more programs, involve more people in teaching and is looking forward to working with the next coordinator for children education. She is currently preparing this year's program for Advent.

by Chris Morrison

Parish Focus Group Responses

The Dean Selection Committee facilitated six focus group sessions between September 17 and September 29, 2003. Forty-five randomly selected members of the Cathedral shared their perceptions, goals and ideas on questions pertaining to Cathedral life. Two committee members discussed Cathedral life with Bishop Howe. Comments below are a summary of the predominant thoughts, ideas, and feelings expressed by the participating members and Bishop Howe.

1. *Who/what first brought you to the Cathedral?* Many wonderful and varied reasons, people and programs account for the first experiences of the Cathedral members. Additionally, (a) the reputation of the Cathedral's music program including both the Sunday services and the community concerts, (b) the traditional Episcopal liturgy with a variety of formats, (c) invitations from clergy and members, and (d) the beauty of the buildings and grounds.

2. *Why did you return or keep coming back?* The same reasons as just stated for the first time attendance, plus (a) The people, both lay and clergy, (b) The sense of "coming home." (c) The feeling that the Cathedral is a holy place. (d) The option to choose to participate in structured programs such LEM and Altar Guild or the informal Small Group Ministries.

3. *In your perception, what are the strengths of the Cathedral?* The strengths of the Cathedral include all responses from questions 1 and 2 above and (a) the outreach programs and activities, (b) special events and celebrations such as Kirkin' o' the Tartan, (c) opportunities for spiritual growth, and (d) the Cathedral's downtown urban location.

4. *In your perception, what are the weaknesses of the Cathedral?* The weaknesses of the Cathedral, primarily, centered around awareness, perceptions and (a) lack of awareness by members, of programs and opportunities available for work and worship, (b) the underdeveloped education programs at all levels, (c) the insufficient amount of "published" information to facilitate initial member involvement in Cathedral work, and (d) the need for more extensive and more frequent use of the communications tools and methods.

5. *What is your perception of the leadership of the Cathedral?* Overall, very good for both lay and clergy. Enhanced leadership can be attained by (a) identifying and nurturing new leaders and other leadership styles, (b) clearly defining roles, responsibilities, and accountability for clergy and office staff, (c) review-

ing and restructuring the roles and responsibilities of each vestry member and the administrative committee members, and (d) cathedral members, especially those in leadership roles, taking more interest in diocesan and national church activities.

6. *What do you see as the role of the Cathedral in the future?* Clearly, a leadership role in the community and the larger Episcopal Community plus (a) an expanded role in Outreach community programs such as Habitat for Humanity and Kansas City Community Kitchen. (b) Be instrumental in bringing other ecumenical groups together for partnering and worship, (c) to provide support and leadership to other churches in the community and other Episcopal churches in the dioceses, and (d) be a model and support for the Diocese.

7. *What goals should the Cathedral set to attain?* Many ideas on goals were shared including (a) increase congregational membership, (b) increase financial stewardship through pledging, (c) involve more members in doing church work, and (d) maintain the dialogue and relationship with other ecumenical groups.

8. *What is most important to you at the Cathedral?* Same responses as those stated for questions 1, 2, and 3 above plus (a) the diversity and inclusiveness, (b) opportunities for outreach and involvement, (c) pastoral care and spiritual leadership and (d) the ease at which relationships are developed.

9. *What is your perception of the diversity of the congregation and community of the Cathedral?* Increasing diversity in all categories is significant and (a) good, but needs to broaden efforts to attract additional diversity in all areas, (b) need to embrace our neighboring Hispanic community more than in the past, (c) need to continue to focus on inclusion of everyone in our church, and (d) use our strengths, stated above in questions 1-3, to attract more visitors and members from all segments of the community.

10. *In your opinion, how should the Cathedral attract new members?* Overwhelmingly through the members, through those responses stated to questions 1-3 above, along with (a) engaging visitors, through follow-up calls or visitations, (b) providing a strong community presence and involvement, (c) through membership drives, and (d) through additional special community services such as the Cathedral's response to the events of 9/11/01.

- by Jackye Finnie, photo by Jan Frizzle



Jackye Finnie

*The Cathedral musicians
invite you to share the beauties
of the season in sight and sound...*



Friday and Saturday

December 5th and 6th

Civic Opera Theatre

presents

"THE WISE WOMEN"

by Conrad Susa

performance times are

8:00 p.m. on Friday

and 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

on Saturday

Thursday • December 11th

William Jewell College

offers its annual

"CITY COME AGAIN"

The service begins at 12:00 p.m.

Sunday • December 14th

the Kansas City Chorale

presents its

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The performance begins at 2:00 p.m.

Friday • December 19th

the William Baker Festival

Singers present their

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS

CONCERT

The performance begins at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday • December 20th

join us for our annual

"MESSIAH" SINGALONG

Jack Ergo, Conductor

Begins at 5:00 p.m.

For further information please contact
the Cathedral at (816) 474-8260

Weekly Activities

SUNDAY

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 9:10 a.m. Adult Forum
- 9:15 a.m. Grace Choraliers
- 10:15 a.m. Church School
- 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 5:00 p.m. Order for Evening & Eucharist
- 6:15 p.m. Centering Prayer Group

MON, TUE, THU, FRI

- 12:05 p.m. Daily Office

TUESDAY

- 9:30 a.m. Cathedral Outreach Program
- 1:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY

- 12:05 p.m. Holy Eucharist
- 6:00 p.m. Benedictine Spirituality Group
- 7:00 p.m. Youth Group
- 7:00 p.m. Episcopal 101

THURSDAY

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m. Cathedral Outreach Program
- 6:00 p.m. Cathedral Bell Ringers
- 6:30 p.m. Education for Ministry
- 7:30 p.m. Trinity Mixed Choir

FRIDAY

- 9:30 a.m. Moms' Bible Study

SATURDAY

- 9:15 a.m. Trinity Youth Choir

Activities for the Month of December

1 • MONDAY

- 4:00 p.m. Faeth Committee

2 • TUESDAY

- 7:00 p.m. Needlework Small Group

3 • WEDNESDAY

- 6:30 p.m. Couples' Bible Study
- 6:30 p.m. Advent Series: *Prepare your Spirit...*

5 • FRIDAY

- 6:30 p.m. Parenting Small Group
- 8:00 p.m. The Wise Women

6 • SATURDAY

- 2 and 5 p.m. The Wise Women

7 • SUNDAY

- 11:45 p.m. Music Committee
- 12:00 p.m. Healing Ministers' Luncheon

8 • MONDAY

- 7:00 p.m. Quilting Small Group

9 • TUESDAY

- 6:30 p.m. Gardening Small Group
- 7:00 p.m. The Angelus Small Group
- 7:30 p.m. Benny Kim - Violin Concert

10 • WEDNESDAY

- 6:30 p.m. Advent Series: *Prepare your Spirit...*

11 • THURSDAY

- 12:00 p.m. City Come Again
- 5:30 p.m. Disaster Recovery Committee
- 6:30 p.m. Couples' Bible Study

13 • SATURDAY

- 12:00 p.m. Interparochial Guild

14 • SUNDAY

- Blood Pressure Sunday - Morning Coffee Hours*

15 • MONDAY

- 4:30 p.m. Buildings and Grounds Cmte.

16 • TUESDAY

- 6:30 a.m. Guild of the Christ Child
- 7:00 p.m. Book Discussion Group
- 7:00 p.m. Cancer Support Group

17 • WEDNESDAY

- 7:30 p.m. Finance Committee
- 6:30 p.m. Advent Series: *Prepare your Spirit...*
- 6:30 p.m. Couples' Bible Study

18 • THURSDAY

- 5:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting

19 • FRIDAY

- 6:00 p.m. William Baker Singers Concert

20 • SATURDAY

- 5:00 p.m. "Messiah" Singalong

24 • WEDNESDAY

- 12:05 p.m. Holy Eucharist
- 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist
- 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist

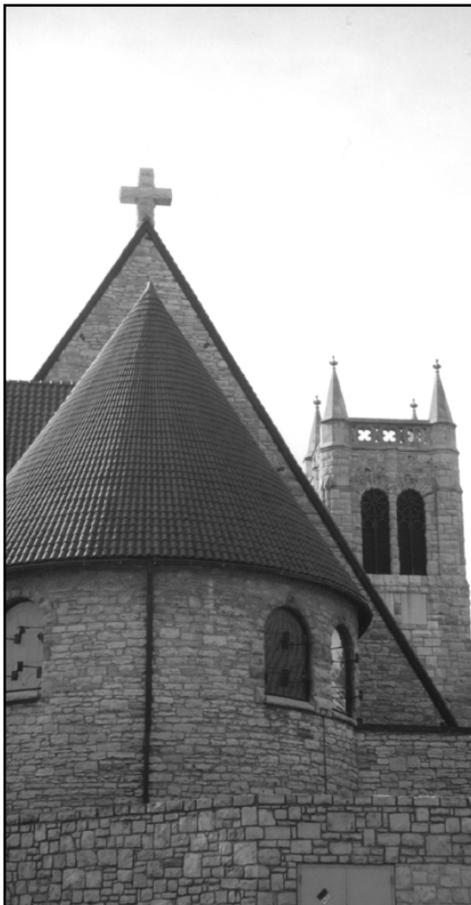
25 • THURSDAY

- 10:15 a.m. Christmas Day Holy Eucharist

28 • SUNDAY

- 5:00 p.m. Gregory Campbell - Trombone

Please verify times and dates of the events listed with the appropriate person(s) or by contacting the Cathedral Office.



Grace and
Holy Trinity
Cathedral

The Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri

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Bishop of West Missouri

The Very Rev. Dr. James A. Hubbard
Dean Interim

The Rev. Benjamin J. Newland
Associate Priest

The Rev. Dr. John J. O'Hearne
Assisting Priest

The Rev. Linda Yeager
Deacon

The Rev. Bryan England
Deacon

The Rev. Michael Shaffer
Deacon

Mr. John L. Schaefer
Canon Musician

The Very Rev. J. Earl Cavanaugh
Dean Emeritus and Pastoral Adjunct

*A view
from Broadway.
-photo by Jan Frizzle*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED