



The Angelus

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral • Kansas City, Missouri

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From the Dean

It is simplicity of keeping warm and staying upright on the ice.

Beloved in Christ,
As we begin a new year of Grace, I want to share with you excerpts from *The Blessings of Winter* by Patricia Nakamura.

Winter is a gift...the first bit of cold wind sharpens the senses. It is a clean touch on the skin, a sharp scent in the nostrils.

Winter has its own sound. In the brittle dark, the middle of the night, there is no hum of insects or gurgle of frogs, no soft purr of goslings settling. Winter is the hoo hoot too HOOO! The shriek of something hunting, the chorus of coyotes whose yips and howls touch the spine. Early morning, a fisherman's boat crunches through the water, crackling a thin ice skin. In another month...we may walk there.

Winter has a long view; the leaves no longer obscure. The riotous greens are calmed, the reds and pinks and purples dulled, the reeds dried and shrunken. Through bare branches, mere suggestions of trees, we see farther. We see beyond things close to us, familiar, to others distant, new, perhaps, in a year's time.

Winter's light is clear, even at night, starlight and snowshine meeting, we perceive details obscure in more extravagant seasons.

And clear perception is desperately needed now....

Go out into the cold. Watch a fuchsia sunset; wait for the evening star, the cold moon. They are not concerned with our wars and rumors of wars. Chilly contemplation may show us a clear path out of death and destruction....

Go out into the silence. Listen for icy voices, reasoned, clear. Wait for the way to harden and gleam in winter's light. Breathe deeply of frost and cold to clear the brain and cool the anger.

*O ye dews and frost, bless ye the Lord;
O ye frost and cold, bless ye the Lord;
O ye ice and snow, bless ye the Lord;
Praise him and magnify him forever.*

Winter is black and white, Ansel Adams, after summer's polychrome Gauguin. Winter is plainsong, after summer's wild polyphony.

May this winter be a time of calm and peace, of clarity and reason, for us all (The Living Church, 12/21/2003).

Slowly, at first unnoticeably, daylight builds as winter begins. For us in the northern hemisphere, the season of Epiphany comes at the ideal time, when nature itself bears witness to the coming of the One who is Light from Light. As our merry-making and high celebrations of Christmastide give way to January White Sales and thoughts of receipts and forms 1040, we resolve not settle too quickly into ruts of our own making. It will not be life as usual, for we are now bearers of the True Light.

You may know Barbara Robinson's book *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. In a delightful tale, the rambunctious Herdman children take over the annual Sunday School production, striking fear into young children and just about as much fear into the adults. The Herdmans had never heard the story, so their interpretations of what Mary, Joseph, and the Wisemen should really say and do are not exactly according to Scripture. But for those wise enough to see, the Christmas story—thankfully—will never be the same. Despite the same costumes and same script, well, the Birth of Jesus takes on a whole new meaning.

In our lives, and in the work of this Cathedral, may this winter, this January, this Epiphany season, take on a whole new meaning. For, as Gladys Herdman playing the Angel of Lord put it so very well: "Hey! Unto you a child is born!"

With affection,
Terry+



photo by David Pierson

The candy cane Advent calendar was one of the many projects completed during the Advent Activities and Arts class during the first week of Advent.

Organ renovation complete, played for Christmas

The planned renovation of the Cathedral organ is nearly completed. The bulk of the mechanical and tonal work was accomplished by December 18, just in time for Christmas.

Only a few items need to be added, particularly the 8' Hautbois replacing the Regal in the Swell division, and a new addition called a Cymbelstern. These are little bells on a rotating mechanism; the bells produce a nice "jingly" sound. The Cymbelstern is an anonymous gift which honors Leona and me.

In essence, the entire Great division makes a new sound. Pipes were added at the lower end of many of the ranks, and the pipes replaced were cut down to provide the pitches higher up. Accordingly, the scales of the pipes are broader, making the sound fuller and richer.

The multiple rank Mixtures have been recomposed so that they are less intense at the higher pitch levels. Two new flutes at the 8' (standard pitch that we sing) and the 16' (sounding an octave lower levels) levels have replaced other ranks which simply weren't producing the right sounds and which could not be restored. The trumpet pipes are the same, though they have been regulated.

In the Swell division, the Mixtures have been recomposed and the Offenflute extended downward and made a little fuller. In this division and all the others, Mr. Leslie Smith and Mr. John Stabler of Fergus, Ontario, completely retuned the instrument. The Spanish Trumpets have been reversed: the 8' is now the 4' and vice versa.

The organ has newly recovered keys in bone and ebony - the old keys were wood



Organist Dr. John Obetz with Mr. Leslie Smith

and had become badly pitted. The action has been improved - it had become quite flimsy - and electrical assists have been added to the coupling mechanism, that is the mechanism that allows the Swell or Positiv or Fanfare divisions to be played on the Great. At a later time, it may be necessary to add similar assists to the Swell to Positiv coupler as well.

The stop jams which control the choice of stops to use are also brand new and much easier to see. The new pistons (buttons) for changing stop combinations are much, much more reliable than the old ones.

Michael Quimby and his associates accomplished with the mechanical work. He discovered that slider seals that are supposed to surround the holes that admit air to the pipes had migrated in such a way that the seals were partially covering the opening. They have been replaced.

Likewise, some of the chests were covered with masking tape, which was replaced with considerably more durable material. Mr. Quimby also discovered that the voltage regulator is not working at full capacity, and he is working to correct the problem. The Quimby company also cleaned the instrument; although there will, however, continue to be problems with insects which come through openings between the wall and the roof.

The organ was used for the first time at the Christmas Eve services. Jieun Kim Newland and I spent a sizable number of hours getting ready for those services. In particular, she had several major pieces to prepare and, of course, played them with consummate artistry.

The project could not have been accomplished had we not had the Perry and Charlotte Faeth Endowment for music as the funding source. Thank you, Charlotte.

In February, after Dr. John Obetz returns from a vacation, a cameo concert will be presented by "Four Johns and a Jieun," including Dr. Obetz; Dr. John Ditto; John Fowler, organist for the 5:00 p.m. service; Jieun Kim Newland, the Curdy Organ Scholar; and me.

It is my opinion that the Cathedral organ is significantly improved and that it will serve us well for many, many years to come.

— by John Schaefer, Canon Musician
photos by Julie Toma



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

Fifty years ago in Montgomery

If the “true mission of the Church” is to be upheld, then it must “touch every phase of community life.” These words were uttered not by Martin Luther King, Jr., but by his father in 1940. In that same speech he prayed “God hasten the time when every minister will become a registered voter and a part of every movement for the betterment of our people.”

It is merely interesting then, and not surprising, that almost exactly 50 years ago, one of the first things that his son, Martin Luther King, Jr., did upon accepting his position at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church was to insist that each and every member of the congregation become a registered voter. He also organized a social and political action committee, “designed to keep the congregation intellectually informed on the social, political, and economic situations.”

After all – remember when and where this was. This was 1955 in Montgomery, Alabama – and an amazing confluence of events was about to take place. In May of that year, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered



desegregation of the public schools “with all deliberate speed,” implementing the earlier Brown decision. Then, in November, the Interstate Commerce Commission banned segregation in buses and all waiting rooms involved in interstate travel.

Less than two weeks later, Mrs. Rosa Parks, a 42-year-old seamstress, refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery bus and was arrested. Dr. King became involved, and on December 5, 1955, the famous Montgomery Bus Boycott began.

On the first night of the protest, Dr. King preached that, “Our actions must be guided by the deepest principles of our Christian faith. Love must be our regulating ideal. Once again we must hear the words of Jesus echo-

ing across the centuries: ‘love your enemies, bless them that curse you, and pray for them that despitefully use you.’”

The Rosa Parks incident has been described as “the catalytic event which started Dr. King on the road to become America’s crusader and most famous civil rights leader”. But one wonders.

This seems more like a combination of many influences: a foundation of Christianity and social justice laid by his father; the acceptance of a ministry that happened to place Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in that particular city at that particular time; an atmosphere stoked by decisions made by the United States Supreme Court and other federal officials; and a simple decision by one woman.

Finally, who can tell the impact of the birth of Dr. King’s first child in Montgomery in November of 1955? That can create a powerful motivation for an individual to fight for a better future – particularly when it comes on the heels of a lynching and brutal defacing of a 14-year-old child just a few months earlier in Mississippi.

Even Rosa Parks said that there was more to all of this than many commentators have implied. “People always say that I didn’t give up my seat because I was tired, but that is not true. I was not tired physically, or no more tired than I usually was at the end of the day. I was not old, although some people have an image of me being old then. I was forty-two. No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in.”

All of these events coming together in one place, at one time, centered around one man. Perhaps it’s all coincidence – perhaps it’s the inexorable movement of history down a path towards justice — or perhaps God does indeed move in mysterious ways.

— by John Hornbeck

Adult Education

All classes begin at 9:15 a.m.

BEGINNING JANUARY 2

Adult Forum • Founders’ Hall

January 2 • The Dean’s Forum with The Very Rev. Terry White

January 9, 16, 23 and 30 • Situational Christianity with David Rice • Join us in January for a special series of group discussions as we examine contemporary situations that require Christians to make decisions regarding their faith and their relations with others. Examples of possible discussion topics include: Mom Gives Her Money Away; Catharine the Office Evangelist, Divorce Among Friends, Robert is a Thief, and Dad Wants to Remarry.

BEGINNING JANUARY 9

Religious Book Discussion • Common Room

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis: One reviewer described this book as what “may be the most influential Christian book of the twentieth century,” and it should be a wonderful selection to lead us from the Christmas season into Lent.

The book began as a series of radio broadcasts by C.S. Lewis on the BBC in London during World War II. The purpose was to address some of the central elements of the Christian faith – a kind of non-denominational “back to basics” approach.

Gary Hicks, who is also a mentor in our Education for Ministry program, will be the facilitator for this discussion. The book is available at the Cathedral Bookstore.

Episcopal 101: Understanding Anglican Christianity •

Lower level, Founders’ Hall

An 8-week course beginning Sunday January 9 through March 6 from 9:15-10 a.m. (no class February 6).

It’s Your Choice! • Youth Room

If you’re looking for a group to hang out with on Sunday mornings and share informal discussions and fellowship, perhaps this is for you. This group may evolve into a parenting group, Scripture study or just plain coffee talk ... it’s your choice!

Lenten
Academy

Wednesday Evenings

February 16, 23

March 2, 9

Table top games

Back when I was a bachelor, in the days before marriage; back even in the days before full time employment, I used to play "WarHammer: The Game of Fantasy Battles" (Geek Alert: WarHammer is a Dungeons & Dragons related game, where you pretend to be elves, dwarves, and other not-necessarily-"real" people.) My brother Isaac and I would spend hours painting little tiny figures, assembling them into an army, and playing out epic wars between them using a set of amazingly complicated rules.

Well, it turns out that girls can smell that kind of geekiness from miles away and playing WarHammer made it hard to get dates. So Isaac and I gave up on it. Then last summer I got married, and all of a sudden I thought, "Hey, I'm married. I don't need to get dates anymore. I can play WarHammer again!" So I set about finding a group of similarly minded folks to play with.

I found in the Yellow Pages a store called "Table Top Games" where they sell little figures, rule books, and other geek-related paraphernalia. I drove on down and found that, sure enough, they had a back room full of 8' by 4' tables where folks could gather and play games late into the night. I inquired as to what games were played when, and was told that Thursday night (my only free night) was board game night, but that I might find someone to play WarHammer if I was lucky.

So I went the next Thursday night, hoping to find a group of well-adjusted, socially acceptable, non-neurotic guys whose only eccentricity was liking to paint little pewter statues and pretend they were an army of fantasy warriors engaged in an epic struggle to the death. What I found instead was a motley collection of really nice people who liked to play board games.

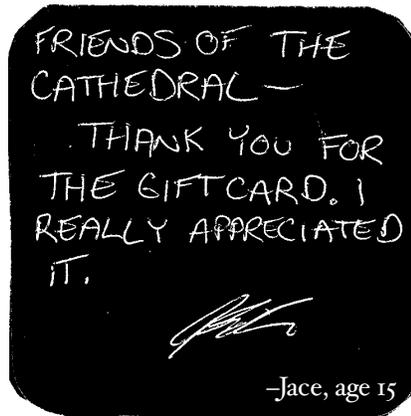
And these were not your ordinary board games. There was not one Monopoly board in the room. No Parcheesi, no Trivial Pursuit, no game of any kind that I had ever heard of. But what games! Dozens of games, all different, all fun, and all so interesting: they were nothing like the board games I used to play as a kid. I went every Thursday evening for those summer months, and had a great time. I even bought a few games to share with friends.

Now it is time to share with you. Board games are the perfect way to spend the evening. Much more entertaining, interactive, and relaxing than watching television. You can be a pirate, build a railroad empire, enforce the law in the old west, or buy and trade gems in a middle eastern bazaar. Board games can engage and challenge people of all ages.

The new Table Top Games small group wants you. The most fun is had when lots of people show up, each bringing some of their favorite games, and multiple games are going at the same time so that everyone gets to play. We are meeting the first and third Tuesdays of each month for now. In January, that would be the 4th and the 18th. We'll start around 6:00 p.m. Feel free to come late, but keep in mind that the parking lot is generally full on Tuesdays by 7:00 p.m. If that doesn't leave you time for dinner, bring some along. Bring enough to share even.

One of the best parts about belonging to a church is that you get to meet and know a bunch of people that you never would have met otherwise. There are so many wonderful people hanging around here, and I just want to create an opportunity for us to get together and have a good time; to enjoy each others' uniqueness. See you over the game board!

— by the Rev. Benjamin J. Newland,
Associate Priest



Thank You!

Due to the generous support of our Cathedral family, donations exceeding \$1400 were received in 2004, which allowed for the purchase of \$25 Wal-Mart gift cards. The cards are then used as birthday presents for Kansas City area foster care teenagers, some of whom might not have otherwise received a gift on their birthday.

***On behalf of our children,
thank you for your generous support.***

— from The Foster Care Outreach Group of the
Cathedral's Social Action Committee

For someone like me who didn't see this coming, it put a big smile on my face. Thank you! I appreciate all the support our local churches give me and others in DFS custody. It shows a lot of love, again thank you!

—Elizabeth

Are you interested in making a difference in the lives of Kanas City area children who are in the foster care system? Please watch upcoming bulletins for the date and time of our next Foster Care Outreach meeting, tentatively scheduled for late January. Questions? Call David Pierson, 913.341.8841 or email moteladdict@yahoo.com.

Sermons, announcements, The Angelus, and pictures of recent events are just some of what you will find at our website!

visit on us on the web: www.ghtc-kc.org