



# The Angelus

Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral • Kansas City, Missouri

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## Like Trees Planted by Streams of Water

Maybe March isn't the time to open with a nature metaphor of streams and trees, but Lent certainly is. It might be that I'm just anticipating Spring, but Lent has those connotations for me as well. For me, Lent has never been that really depressing, dark, and dry season it was made out to be. Certainly a time of waiting, and maybe even a time of darkness, but the waiting and the darkness have never felt to me like depression or death. More like potential; like seeds sleeping in warm, damp soil.

*Thus says the LORD:  
Cursed are those who trust  
in mere mortals  
and make mere flesh their strength,  
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.  
They shall be like a shrub in the desert,  
and shall not see when relief comes.  
They shall live in the parched places of  
the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.  
Jeremiah 17:5-6*

The prophet opens with the dark side of the Tree-By-A-Stream metaphor, describing in vivid detail the desiccation and lifelessness of the tree planted too far from steady water. Of course, anyone who has ever planted something in the ground or taken a Junior High science class won't be surprised that trees planted in places that receive infrequent and irregular water grow poorly. They are smaller, less colorful, have weaker roots, and live shorter lives.

Yet Jeremiah is not giving gardening advice; he is a prophet, not a horticulturist. The value of this metaphor comes from our interpretation of it to address not our trees, but our spiritual lives.

*Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,  
whose trust is the LORD.  
They shall be like a tree planted by water,  
sending out its roots by the stream.  
It shall not fear when heat comes,  
and its leaves shall stay green;  
in the year of drought it is not anxious,  
and it does not cease to bear fruit.  
Jeremiah 17:7-8*

Unlike the tree planted away from steady, life-giving water, the tree planted by the stream is healthy, robust, and long-lived. Heat cannot wither its leaves, for its water comes

from deep in the earth. Even a year of drought does not worry this tree, for its source is more constant than the rain.

Again, we're not really talking about trees here. The metaphor speaks to our individual spiritual lives. There are several ways you can apply this, but my favorite is this: we are the tree, our spiritual lives are the roots, and God is the deep-flowing stream. In this way of thinking, our visible lives—happiness, peace, loving relationships—are strong when

the tree grows and the leaves are green. This green growth is fuelled by the unseen roots of our spirituality, which burrows root-like deep and wide to find God. The water is God's abundance, and we seek it out by planting ourselves near the source. It is still possible for our leaves to wither in the heat of life, but as long as our roots go down to God, we need not fear even the drought.

The metaphor works on a community level as well. Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral is a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. All of us together—our individual lives, our relationships with one another, and the works we accomplish together—are the tree. The Cathedral itself—the worship and life we have

here as well as the greater Christian history to which we are connected—is the roots. And again, God is the deep-flowing stream, always moving beside and below us to feed our hungers and fuel our growth.

Every community endures times of heat and occasional drought. Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral has seen its share of heat these past two years. Perhaps you felt only a dry breeze, or perhaps you feel like it hasn't rained in months. Either way, we need not fear that we will become a shrub planted in the wilderness, living in an uninhabited land. The Cathedral's roots go deep, and the stream of God runs very nearby indeed.

Each Lent we have an opportunity to dwell in our roots. We have the chance to make quiet our visible lives and live into the slow, hidden, seeking of our spiritual roots as they quest for God's stream flowing by. Let us take the opportunity this Lenten season to rediscover and enrich the spiritual roots of this Cathedral community, that we may more strongly and joyously live out our Easter lives when that Spring time comes.

-by The Rev. Benjamin J. Newland



# Here We Go Again – Finding God With Us

When you are first diagnosed with cancer, you are often told that you will have a new awareness of your body. That is medical-speak for “you will become paranoid.” I was referring to this tendency in the October 2003 issue of *The Angelus*, when I wrote “Long after my surgery and radiation treatments, after ten years of being cancer free, every time I discover a swollen lymph node, or even a troublesome blemish, I wonder if my old nemesis has returned for another round.”

I was actually referring to a physical I had in August, and the anxiety I felt when the doctor discovered a swollen lymph node in my neck. Usually, like this time, these bumps and blemishes prove to be nothing more than bumps and blemishes. The lump discovered in August went away. Life went about its merry way.

Occasionally, however, they are something else. So it is with a profound appreciation for the absurdity of life that I find myself once again a cancer patient, having just helped start a support group for cancer patients and survivors. In early January, another swollen lymph node on the left side of my neck was diagnosed as being a squamous cell carcinoma. That was the good news. The bad news was that it was a secondary cancer; the primary tumor was hiding somewhere in my head and neck region.

The day before my 55th birthday, I was wheeled into an operating room to find the primary and to remove the secondary cancers. I woke up feeling much better than one would expect after having one's throat cut. I later found out the surgeons had found the primary tumor in the back of my throat, and decided it could all be handled with radiation treatments.

*Déjà vu* is alive and well in Kansas City.

While somewhat gratified that a cure is probable with an uncut throat, and looking forward once again to having my head bolted to a radiation machine every day until it looks like an overly done Thanksgiving turkey, I do feel somewhat like the first crewman in the movie *Alien* to have the creature inside of him. I want that sucker out of me, and it's still in there!

What does this all mean?

The first question that is usually asked is, “Why me?” And the absolutely worst thing a pastoral counselor can do is to provide the answer to that question. To summarize Elizabeth Kübler-Ross, the only correct answer is, “Why not you?” We are human beings. Human beings get cancer: atheist human beings, Buddhist human beings, Muslim human beings, and Christian human beings. They all get cancer. Why not me? But no one wants to hear that, you have to discover it for yourself.

My cancer may have been caused by any number of things. It may have been caused by the orange-colored dust that swirled around in the rotor-wash of my helicopter in that landing zone in Vietnam thirty-five years ago. It may have been caused by all the cigarettes I smoked before Linda and I came to our senses and quit twelve years ago. Ironically, it may have been caused by the radiation therapy I received to cure me of the cancer I had eleven years ago.

It really doesn't matter how it was caused. As Gregory Peck said to David Niven in the *Guns of Navarone*, “Well, you're in it now, up to your neck!” Pun intended.

People ask me how I am doing, and I usually respond, “Good.” They don't believe me, but it's really true. I am feeling pretty good about all this. The biggest bummer about the whole thing is that Linda's and my participa-

tion in a family cruise in the Western Caribbean has been terminated.

I had a date with an eight-year-old great niece to climb a rock wall on a cruise ship, but you can't sail the Caribbean while your head is being microwaved in Overland Park. But other than that, I'm pretty good with all this.

I learned last April that it is much easier to accept your own illness than the illness of a loved one. When informed by her surgeon that the growth in Linda's breast was malignant, I passed out. I was told my pulse had slowed to about 40 beats per minute. Her struggle with cancer personalized the struggle I had been having with God for several years. It also helped put me into a clinical depression that I had the good sense to recognize and to seek treatment for. But my own cancer is just part of life, my life, which I plan on living to the fullest.

Where is God in all this? Right there. God is in the hearts and hands of the women and men who minister to us through the health care system. God is in the love and concern my family, my friends, and even total strangers express through their prayers and messages of support. God is in the midst of a group of cancer survivors who meet at the Cathedral every second Tuesday of the month to share their stories and to support others as they share theirs. But mostly, God is with us, just as God promised to be.

- by *The Rev. Bryan England, Deacon*

## Help Needed to Provide for Music

Wouldn't it be nice to have brasses on Easter?

“But,” you may say, “we always do have brasses on Easter!” Ah, you may have heard that the Cathedral budget requests for this year were cut considerably. There are no available funds in the 2004 music budget for extra musicians for Holy Week and Easter.

Therefore, we are inviting members and friends of the congregation

to remember and honor those who have been or are special in their lives by making a gift to either the Music Department or the Memorial Fund so that we can, indeed, have our usual, splendid music enrichments on Good Friday, Easter Eve and Easter Day.

If you need more information, please phone Canon Schaefer at the Cathedral.



## The Angelus

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

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# Ordination to the Diaconate

*Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Jeremiah 1: 4-5*

On Saturday, February 7, six Ordinands were presented to Bishop Barry R. Howe to be ordained to the Diaconate in the Diocese of West Missouri. Solemnly declaring their belief that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God, that they contain all things necessary to salvation, their willingness to conform to the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Episcopal Church, and after The People vowed to uphold them in their ministry they were ordained in the presence of their families and friends, and many Diocesan clergy.

Music was provided by the combined choirs of St. Andrew's and Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral with Choirmaster Krista

Blackwood. Organists were John Schaefer and Rita van de Lune. The Litanist was Joseph Chambers and the preacher was The Rev. Dr. J. David Eick from the Church of the Redeemer.



The new Deacons and their assignments are: Larry J. Allen to St. Michael's, Independence; William Henry Crain as Chaplain at St. Luke's Hospital; Bruce Turner Hall to Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral; Dayna Lynn Geddes Jewson to Christ Church, Warrensburg; Peisha Geneva Roumas to St. Mary Magdalene and Galen David Snodgrass to Grace Church, Carthage.

We are fortunate to have Bruce assigned to our Cathedral. He is a welcome addition during this time of transition as we prepare for the selection of our new dean.

*-by Mary Byrne / photo by Jan Frizzle*

## See the Lyric Opera for free – and work for a good cause

Would you like to enjoy the Kansas City Lyric Opera for free and help earn money for GHTC's Social Action Committee at the same time? It's easy. Join with your Cathedral friends to serve as volunteer ushers for the matinee performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" on Sunday, March 21.

As a volunteer usher, you will help Opera patrons to their seats before the performance and enjoy the performance along with everyone else when the lights go down. Then the Lyric sends the Cathedral a check for your services.

It's truly a "win, win, win" situation - you provide a valuable service to a great cultural organization, you enjoy a wonderful performance for free, and you help the Cathedral earn money to fund its social ministries.

"Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Lyric will be a wonderful theatrical experience. The music is by Benjamin Britten and the libretto is by Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears (after Shakespeare). The opera will be performed in English with easy-to-read text above the stage. The running time is 3 hours with intermissions.

For more information or to sign up to volunteer, contact Gary Hicks at 816.941.7295, e-mail [gary@garyhicks.net](mailto:gary@garyhicks.net) or Jim Jennings at 913.722.5235, e-mail [parciful@kc.rr.com](mailto:parciful@kc.rr.com).



## Pledging Important for Ministry

Pledging to the Cathedral is a sign that you believe that the Cathedral has an important ministry and that you want to support that ministry.

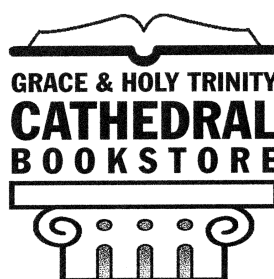
2004 will be a difficult year financially for the Cathedral. If additional pledge dollars are not received, the Vestry will have to consider cutting further essential programs at the Cathedral.

If you have not pledged for 2004, please consider doing so; and if you have pledged, please consider increasing your pledge.

*-by Doyle White, Treasurer*

## Cathedral's Financial Status

JANUARY	BUDGETED YTD	ACTUAL YTD	VARIANCE
INCOME	\$ 69,717	\$ 60,313	\$ (9,404)
EXPENSES	\$ 99,404	\$ 93,031	\$ 6,373
VARIANCE	\$ (29,687)	\$ (32,718)	



Have you visited the Cathedral Bookstore lately?

*Bookstore is open  
Sundays before and after services*

# The Making of an Angel

*"Through the eyes of faith, I see the work of angels daily orchestrating my life on behalf of our Heavenly Conductor."\**

Stephanie Pumphries believes there is something special about stained glass and the way the light shines through it. So a few years ago she took a class and learned how to make stained glass figures – how to design the image, cut the glass and smolder the lead around each piece of glass. Stephanie also thinks there is something about angels and the way light shines through them as well, so it was only natural for her to combine her two interests and make stained glass angels.

Stephanie enjoys having a close relationship with God and, to her, making the angels helps in that relationship.

"You can't just sit down and start working on an angel. You have to plan." Praying to God helps with that planning in picking out colors and size. Coincidence doesn't hurt ei-

ther—last summer when the air show was performing at the downtown airport, Stephanie was working on a blue angel. At the same time a real Blue Angel flew over her house!

The idea to sell her artwork came to fruition one Sunday morning as she conversed with another parishioner during coffee hour about the stained glass process. One thing led to another, and with some encouragement from Deacon Linda Yeager, she now sells some of her angels in the bookstore. There are both large and small angels, all individually designed and made with different colors. Stephanie also makes crosses out of the glass beads, which are for sale too. Not only do Stephanie's creations make a great gift for a friend, but for the Cathedral as well since part of the proceeds stay with the church.

*—story and photo by Rachel Chambers*

*\*Taken from the compilation book, Angels: Angels Strengthen our Spirit*



# Adult Forum Offerings for March

*Cathedral Happenings: KCCK • March 7* The Kansas City Community Kitchen opens its doors and hearts to more than 500 people a day Monday through Friday, including the homeless, the working poor, the elderly and families with children. Cook teams prepare the donated food items and a warm lunch is served to those in need. Another important ministry has evolved—the Culinary Cornerstones. This program provides training in life skills and food service and helps people move into jobs and become self-sufficient. You are invited to find out more about what's cooking at the KCCK!

*Varieties of the Protestant Reformation • March 14* The Protestant Reformation of the sixteenth century was not simply a revolt against corruption and abuse, nor was it a single, unified movement. Several major reform groups emerged, and each of them differed from the

others on fundamental issues such as grace, the sacraments, and the nature of the church. Learn more about the origins of the diverse Christian beliefs of our time.

*Ecumenism • March 21* Despite differences in beliefs and practices, Christians have always cherished the ideal of a unified body of believers. Ecumenism is the movement to bring Christians of many convictions together into one faith community, one body of Christ. Where are we now? Please join us for discussion of the possibilities and limitations of modern ecumenism.

*Cathedral Happenings: Children's Ministry • March 28* Come and hear about future plans for Christian formation for our children at GHTC. Jackye Finnie, acting Children's Education Director, will lead our discussion as we talk about our vision and goals for Children's Christian Education.

# Memorials and Thanksgivings

February 1, 2004 • The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of her daughter, Julie Carlson, by Virginia Brown; and in loving memory of her mother, Louise Hutt Shackelford, by Mr. and Mrs. Charles N. Seidlitz, Jr. At the baptismal font: in memory of her father Everett Gibson, by Mr. and Mrs. Whitney E. Kerr, Sr. At the chapel altar: in memory of Carl and Audrey Ryder by Phyllis and Alan Ryder. Memorial Candles are given in loving memory of her mother, Florence Klassen, by Janet E. Seaman.

February 8, 2004 • The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of Bill Buckner by Barbara and Bob Buckner; and in thanksgiving for their granddaughter, Sarah Richmond McMullen, by Larry and Marilyn McMullen. At the baptismal font: in loving memory of her son, Eric, by Miriam Marrs; and in thanksgiving for Matthew Guilfoil. At the Chapel altar: in thanksgiving for the birthday of Eleanor Gordon by Alan and Phyllis Ryder; and in loving memory of Preble Hall and Albert Eugene Curdy by Isabel Curdy. Memorial candles are given in loving memory of her mother, Harriett Grant, by Elaine Grant.

February 15, 2004 • The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of her father, Chester Wright, by Suzanne Wright. At the chapel altar: in thanksgiving for the birthday of Bryan Ryder, by Alan and Phyllis Ryder.

February 22, 2004 • The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for their grandson, Matthew James McMullen, by Larry and Marilyn McMullen; and in loving memory of her father, William H. Shackelford, Jr. by Mr. and Mrs. Charles N. Seidlitz, Jr. At the baptismal font: in loving memory of her mother, Helen Frances Rusconi, by Robin Rusconi and Jay McKeown. At the chapel altar: in thanksgiving for the wedding anniversary of Ken and Judy Ryder by Alan and Phyllis Ryder.

February 29, 2004 • The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Richard H. Kiene, Sr. and Richard H. Kiene, Jr., by Jean, Lisa and Hotchy. At the Chapel altar: in thanksgiving for her granddaughter, Paige Terrell, by Mrs. Herbert Sloan.

*Notice:* There are no baptismal font flowers during the lenten season.

Visit the Cathedral on the Internet at  
[www.ghtc-kc.org](http://www.ghtc-kc.org)