



# The Angelus

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral • Kansas City, Missouri

Vol.73, No.7 • July 2004

## An outward and visible sign

As I write this article for the July edition of *The Angelus* I have been married for approximately three days and five hours. I have been dispensing marital advice for several years now in my role as premarital counselor, but now I'm an expert.

Ridiculous, you say? Of course it is. I am no more an expert on marriage today than I was last week, although I do have a new perspective that while not unique, is certainly fresh.

Marriage is a sacrament. It is one of those things that the church claims as a specific sign of God's presence in our lives. Like other sacraments, it is subject to abuse, neglect, ignorance and tragedy. On occasion, however, it can provide a very real and physical link between our created lives and God's creator self. The wedding June 12, in which I played a role, was such a sacrament for me.

The Q&A quoted in the inset above is an excerpt from the Book of Common Prayer's Catechism. On the bottom of page 857 these words of wisdom appear, describing in a few elegant words the nature of sacraments. A sacrament is something we can see, that represents something we cannot.

In Baptism, the outward and visible sign is washing with water. The inward and spiritual grace is the cleansing of our souls and forgiving of our sins that marks us as new Christians.

In the Eucharist, the outward and visible sign is a meal. The inward and spiritual grace is the union with God

that we experience in sharing this meal with each other in the presence of Christ, the incarnation of God.

On page 423 of the BCP, we hear that "[marriage] signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church ... ." In this case, the outward and visible sign is the joining of two people in a lifetime bond of love. The inward and spiritual grace is the mystery of that bond of love that exists between the incarnation of God and we who are called to be his Church.

Of course, sacraments do not always live up to their calling. Baptized people continue to sin, those who receive the Eucharist remain divided, and not all marriages work. The outward and visible part of the sacraments are only human.

The inward and spiritual part of the sacraments, however, belong to God, and in God, are beyond our ability to abuse or ignore. Thus it is that when a sacrament is recognized for what it is that we catch a glimpse of the very nature of God.

From my perspective, the wedding ceremony in which Jieun and I participated as instruments of the sacrament, made wide open that connection between the outward and visible, and the inward and spiritual. Our particular union was overwhelming in its own right, but beyond that was the mystery of the union of all of us with God and God's incarnation. I hope I was not the only one who saw this wedding as a sign of something deeper dwelling in this church and present amongst its people.

Thank you all for the sacrament.

—by The Rev. Benjamin J. Newland

*Q: What are the Sacraments?*

*A: ...outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace...*



photo by Sergio C. Moreno



photo by Jan Frizzle



photo by Jan Frizzle

# Seven summer and autumn retreat weekends at Rivendell

Rivendell is an Episcopal retreat center, located in Dunnegan, Mo., which describes itself as “A Community of Prayer” and “A House of Hospitality.” Seven weekends have been set aside for special retreats and conferences throughout the summer and early autumn.

*July 22-24 • Mary Magdalene, Apostle to the Apostles*

Mary Magdalene ... Who was she, really? Prostitute? Jesus’ secret wife? Christian feminist prototype? We’ll explore what is actually recorded about this endlessly fascinating woman in scripture, trace some of her transformations in Christian tradition and devotion, and consider her significance for our own time. We’ll also discuss other women leaders in the first century Christian movement – and celebrate an extra day of Easter joy in honor of the first witness to the Resurrection. This gathering begins Thursday, July 22 with Evening Prayer at 5:30 and dinner following, and continues through Saturday lunch. For guests who are able to stay, they are encouraged to participate in Rivendell’s festive Saturday evening celebration and Sunday Eucharist at St. Alban’s, Bolivar, Mo.

*July 27-29 • Silent Retreat*

While guests are always welcome to come to Rivendell for personal retreats, silent or otherwise, this time is especially set apart for this purpose. Retreat guests may participate in the Daily Office and Eucharist; spiritual direction will be available if desired. Tuesday noon through Thursday after lunch.

*August 6-8 • Deification: a neglected vision of salvation (conference and retreat)*

“O wondrous type! O vision fair/ of glory that the Church may share ...” a well-known transfiguration hymn (#137, Hymnal 1982) begins. What might it mean for us to share the glory of Christ, the perfect human perfectly united with God, which shone forth on the Holy Mount? As we celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration, we’ll explore and reflect on a profoundly hopeful theme of Christian theology and spirituality: Theosis, “deification” or “divinization.” Though central in Eastern Orthodoxy, deification has often been overlooked, misunderstood, or viewed with suspicion in the West. In this retreat, we will listen for what this teaching might mean for us, in prayer and in daily life. This retreat will

*Seven retreats are planned for this summer and fall but you can arrange an individual retreat at any time by contacting Rivendell.*

*August 13-15 • Mary the Virgin: Mother of God, Mother of the Poor*

“He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.” (Magnificat, the “Song of Mary”) Sounds more like an announcement of the Revolution than a sweet little devotional song, doesn’t it? Why does Mary keep showing up among the poor and oppressed? We’ll hear some of the wonderful stories of Marian apparitions through the centuries, and consider what place Mary may have in our own lives – and celebrate the Feast of St. Mary the Virgin, August 15. Begins Friday with Evening Prayer at 5:30 and supper; continues through Sunday early afternoon.

*August 20-22 • The Gospel in Children’s Books*

The stories we hear as children remain with us the rest of our lives, and shape our view of the world. Many of us have certain

beloved books that evoke wonder, trust, a sense of security, the power of love or the unfathomable mystery of the human condition. This weekend is not just for parents, grandparents and teachers, but for anyone who has ever wept over *The Giving Tree* or *The Velveteen Rabbit*. Bring a favorite children’s book to share, preferably one with beautiful pictures.

*September 24-26 • First Annual Frodo and Bilbo’s Birthday Weekend*

If you love *The Lord of the Rings*, join the celebration! We’ll have time for conversation about theological themes in J.R.R. Tolkien’s masterpiece and its possibilities as a companion and guide on our own spiritual journeys – as well as opportunities for reading, songs movie viewing, games, and, of course, some good hobbit fare. This year’s celebration will include the stories of creation, fall and ultimate hope which form the mythic substrata of *The Lord of the Rings*. Friday evening through Sunday midday; Sunday worship at St. Alban’s, Bolivar, Mo.

*October 14-16 • Teresa of Avila and the quest for community*

The great 16th century mystic Teresa of Avila was not only astonishingly insightful (and often hilarious) author, but a tireless reformer and founder of religious communities as well. With her keen psychological and spiritual insight and her extensive experience, she is a very practical guide to the possibilities, problems and pitfalls of living with other people – not only in intentional religious community but in families, workplaces and congregations as well. This conference will draw primarily on *The Way of Perfection*, with a few choice tidbits from her *Foundations*. Begins with Evening Prayer at 5:30 Thursday evening; ends Saturday after lunch. Guests are welcome to extend their stay through Rivendell’s Saturday evening celebration and Sunday morning Eucharist at St. Alban’s, Bolivar, Mo.

To reserve a place for any of these events, or to schedule individual quiet retreat time, please call Rivendell at 417.754.1054 or email them at [Rivendell@trilakes.net](mailto:Rivendell@trilakes.net).

There is never a charge for any retreat or conference scheduled by the Rivendell Community. Donations are welcome, but none is ever requested or required.

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*For information about any of these retreats, contact Rivendell at 417.754.1054 or by email at [Rivendell@trilakes.net](mailto:Rivendell@trilakes.net).*

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## The Angelus

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

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## Memorials and thanksgivings

Sunday, June 6, 2004 • The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for Lydia Marien and Diane Gee by Doris K. Dillenberger. At the baptismal font, flowers are given in thanksgiving for her grandchildren, Nathan, Sean and Erik, by Patricia Burns; and in thanksgiving for her grandson, Harrison Adams Sloan, by Mrs. Herbert A. Sloan; also in thanksgiving for Charles Braden Fowler. At the chapel altar, flowers are given in loving memory of her parents, Constance and James Irwin, by Elizabeth Irwin Gordon; and in memory of Joseph D. Sampson by Rod and Dorothy Sampson, and in thanksgiving for Rod Sampson by his family. Memorial candles are given in memory of her father, Jacob E. Klassen, by Janet Seaman.

Sunday, June 13, 2004 • The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ed and Carolyn Campbell, by Pat and Rodger Wright. At the baptismal font, flowers are given in thanksgiving for The Rev. Linda Yeager by Bonnie and Paul Lowrey. At the chapel altar, flowers are given in thanksgiving for Patti Ryder, Vickie Ryder and Betsy Titterington by Alan and Phyllis Ryder; and in thanksgiving for Stephanie Bess Biddle by her mother. Memorial candles are given in memory of her mother, Florence Klassen, by Janet Seaman.

Sunday, June 20, 2004 • The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of her husband, Tom, by Sally and by his children, Thomas, Sharon, Susan and Sally Ann Wood; and in memory of her husband, William, by Barbara Buckner. At the baptismal font, flowers are given by Catharine Gardner and Ann T. Reed; and in thanksgiving for Tamar Purtseladze and Jake McDowell. At the Chapel altar, flowers are given in memory of Marjorie Elliott. The wreath on the tower door is given in thanksgiving for the 50th anniversary of their wedding, by Earl and Nancy Cavanaugh.

Sunday, June 27, 2004 • The flowers at the altar are given in loving memory of Maria Alexandra Mauro by her parents, Sandra and Albert Mauro, and her sister and brother, Rachel and Albert, Jr.; and in thanksgiving for Stephen, Monty and Lilly by Tricia Pellet Lyddon. At the baptismal font, flowers are given in loving memory of William Coleman Branton by his family; and in loving memory of her godmothers, Martha Abbott and Dorothy Canham by Nancy Tucker O'Shea.

## Bishop Spencer Place breaks ground

On Friday, June 11, Bishop Spencer Place jazzed up the Plaza-Westport area with their groundbreaking ceremony for the Jefferson Building.

The SCAMPS played prior to the Ceremony and The Marching Cobras performed at noon followed by a lunch.

Bishop Spencer Place, a member of the Saint Luke's Hospital network of providers, is located at the corner of 43rd and Madison. It began operation in 1995. This new expansion is a four-story building with 54 independent living units and a resident Community center.



*photo donated by Bishop Spencer Place*

*Bishop Spencer Place's new building will provide 54 living units and should be completed next year.*

J.E. Dunn Construction of Kansas City is the general contractor and the architect is SFCS out of Roanoke, Virginia. Completion is expected by the end of 2005.



*photo donated by Bishop Spencer Place*

*Bishop Barry Howe attended the ground breaking ceremony for Bishop Spencer Place's newest building*

## Thank You!

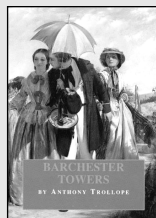


*photo by Jan Frizzle*

Thank you! Bless your holy hands and hearts to all who made "Da Wedding Reception" possible with offerings of foods, time, talent and monetary donations. It takes a bit of faith to plan such an event with no budget, but thanks to you we were able to present a love feast for our very special couple on June 12.

— by Joyce Morrow,  
Holy Hands Coordinator,  
On behalf of the Holy Hands Committee

## The Blakeslee Reading Society



BARCHESTER TOWERS  
by Anthony Trollope

July 20 • 7:00 p.m.

For further information,  
please call 816.741.0992.

# Diocesan events involve everyone

Because we are a cathedral, we are blessed to host a number of diocesan events. For example, next November, when the Diocesan Convention, is held in Kansas City, the Cathedral will be the site for the convention Eucharist. In addition, we serve as a location for ordination for deacons and priests of our diocese.

Ordination is one of the sacraments of the church. It is also the climax of years of discernment, study and sacrifice for the ordinand and his/her family. It should be and is a liturgy that reflects both the importance of this goal and the holiness of the charge. Often, at an ordination, the church is filled with people who are not members, including clergy of the diocese, plus other Episcopalians, plus friends of the ordinand who aren't Episcopalian at all.

It is not only a sacred blessing to be part of these events, but it is also a golden opportunity to welcome guests and to spread the love of Christ to all who attend. Many of our parishioners exemplify these qualities. First, John Schaefer and the Cathedral choir(s) frequently provide the music for ordinations. They share their gifts and create a holy environment. The acolytes also serve at these events, using their expertise to help keep the liturgy flowing smoothly.

Our ushers often offer assistance by distributing the ordination booklets and directing the guests to their seats. They answer questions and provide information about the Cathedral.

The members of the altar guild busy themselves with the preparation of the altar for the liturgy, providing wine and wafers, polishing silver, and washing and ironing altar linens.

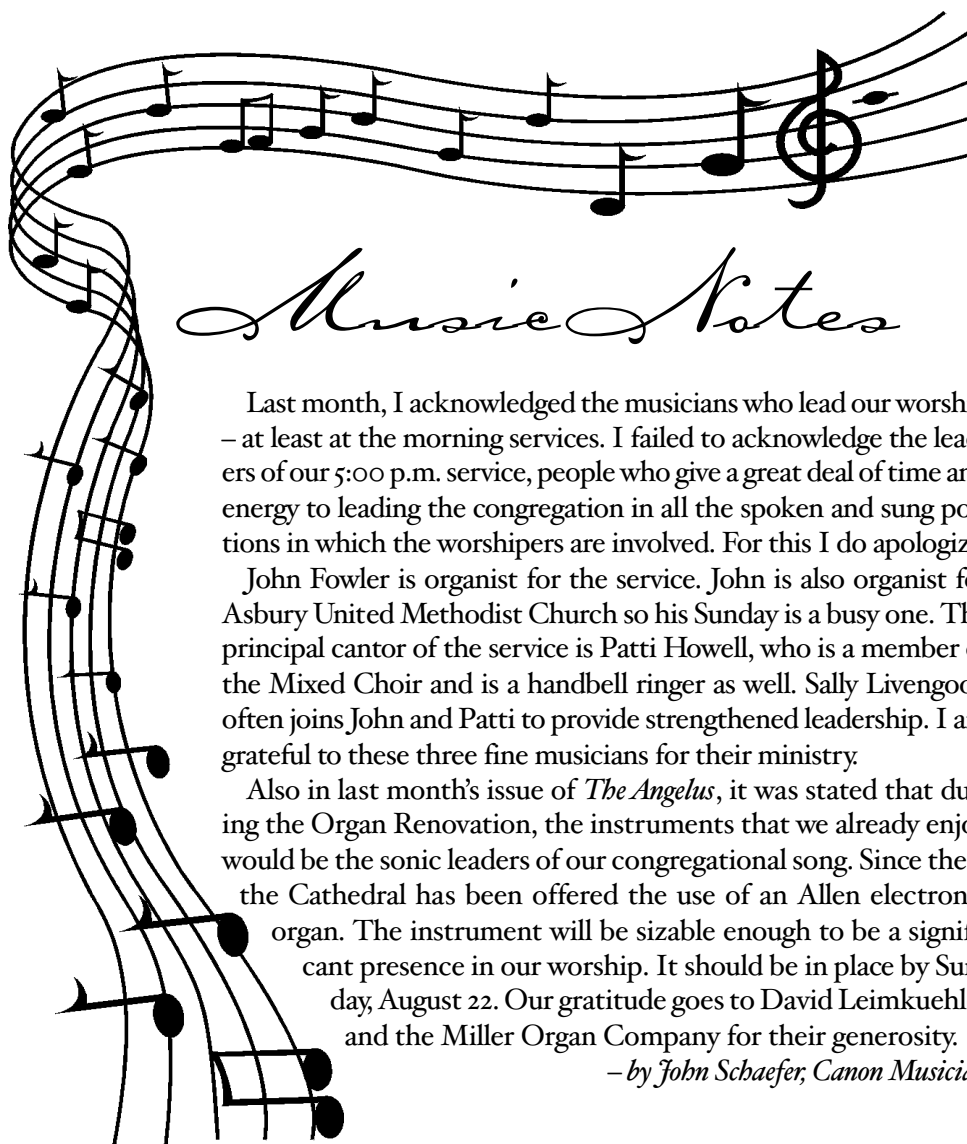
Our clergy regularly assist with the service, making pre-arrangements as well, to ensure that the service will be trouble-free for those who are serving at the altar and are not accustomed to our "space." Our clergy also serve as a welcoming committee for the bishop and others.

Receptions after the service are coordinated by Holy Hands' helpers, who always create a welcoming environment, accompanied by appealing and tasty food and beverages.

The sextons apply their special brand of cleanliness in anticipation of our guests. Even our nursery coordinator is called upon to provide childcare for many diocesan special events.

How many Cathedralites does it take to make a diocesan event run smoothly? All of us!

— by The Rev. Linda Yeager, Deacon



## Music Notes

Last month, I acknowledged the musicians who lead our worship – at least at the morning services. I failed to acknowledge the leaders of our 5:00 p.m. service, people who give a great deal of time and energy to leading the congregation in all the spoken and sung portions in which the worshipers are involved. For this I do apologize.

John Fowler is organist for the service. John is also organist for Asbury United Methodist Church so his Sunday is a busy one. The principal cantor of the service is Patti Howell, who is a member of the Mixed Choir and is a handbell ringer as well. Sally Livengood often joins John and Patti to provide strengthened leadership. I am grateful to these three fine musicians for their ministry.

Also in last month's issue of *The Angelus*, it was stated that during the Organ Renovation, the instruments that we already enjoy would be the sonic leaders of our congregational song. Since then, the Cathedral has been offered the use of an Allen electronic organ. The instrument will be sizable enough to be a significant presence in our worship. It should be in place by Sunday, August 22. Our gratitude goes to David Leimkuehler and the Miller Organ Company for their generosity.

— by John Schaefer, Canon Musician

## Voice from the Vestry

*Due to technical difficulties, this article is unavailable this month. The summary will be available on the web at [www.ghtc-kc.org](http://www.ghtc-kc.org). See next month's issue for the summary of the July Vestry meeting.*

## Volunteer opportunities available

St. Luke's Hospital has a variety of volunteer opportunities available. All offer flexible days and hours. Following are some of the ways that you could be involved.

**Visit Patients.** Provide companionship and a sympathetic ear. Several areas needing assistance include: stroke, cancer, heart and renal patient services.

**Spiritual Wellness.** Welcome first-day patients for the Chaplain's Office

**Hand-in-Hand.** Visit and soothe patients with moisturizing hand massage

**Research.** Individual with research project and/or grant writing experience is needed in the Emergency Department.

Contact Betty Holiday, our cathedral volunteer coordinator, for this important St. Luke's opportunity.

Volunteer Services is also in need of new or "gently used" magazines and paperbacks—English and Spanish; VCR and videos; all sizes (especially large sizes) of clothes for trauma patients, can be new or used but in clean, good condition; all sizes; shorts and T-shirts; underwear/socks.

St. Luke's Hospital received the Malcolm Baldrige National quality award in March. This prestigious honor was the first ever for a Kansas City-based organization.

— by Jan Frizzle