

Advent brings a new beginning for Bible reading

As Advent begins, we find ourselves in a new church year. This means that the Bible readings we hear every Sunday are beginning a new yearly series.

Studying the Bible is a practice that goes back to pre-Christian days, as early Jews met regularly to read and study the Scriptures. As Christianity grew, reading the Bible remained important during worship and many systems for selecting readings have come and gone.

Our Sunday scripture readings are organized into a three-year cycle called the Lectionary. It is product of the Vatican II conference in the 1960s and is used by the Roman Catholic, Episcopal and Lutheran churches with some minor changes. The

three years in the Sunday lectionary are labeled A, B and C and we are now in year A, which in this case runs from the first Sunday in Advent 2004 through the last Sunday in Pentecost 2005.

The readings for each Sunday come from different parts of the Bible and are listed in the Book of Common Prayer beginning on page 888. First, we hear a selection from the Old Testament or the Apocrypha followed by all or part of a Psalm. That is followed by an excerpt from one of the epistles, Acts or Revelation. The last reading is always from the Gospels.

Most of the Gospels are read over the three years. During Year A, readings are taken mostly from Matthew, Year B features readings from Mark and Year C covers Luke. Readings from John are used during Lent and Easter and at other times of all three years. Most of the epistles are also read over the cycle. Old Testament readings are usually chosen individually to complement either the epistle or Gospel reading, so it is fairly common to have a theme run through two or all three of the readings on a Sunday.

The Daily Office (Morning and Evening Prayer) has its own two-year lectionary for its seven-day-a-week cycle and we have just started Year 1 of the Daily Lectionary. In the Daily Lectionary, we read all or parts of each New Testament book twice and major parts of the Old Testament once.

Also, the Psalms are covered in a seven-week cycle that repeats several times a year. The Daily Office Lectionary is listed in the Book of Common Prayer beginning on page 934.

Beginning in Advent, the Cathedral will offer Morning Prayer at 8:30 a.m. and Evening Prayer at 5:30 p.m. each weekday.

Of course, you don't have to know any of this to get something out of reading the Bible, whether in church on Sundays, as part of Morning Prayer during the week or on your own at home. One advantage of having the readings set out in advance is that we can go through the Bible in an organized way. Anyone who comes to church every Sunday will hear all of the Gospels and most of the rest of the Bible, which is something that can't be promised if the readings are chosen a week at a time. The Lectionary also adds to the idea of "communion" as all Episcopalians hear or read

the Bible in the same way every week, whether during the liturgy, in a small group or alone. You can certainly read whatever you want, whenever you want, but following the Lectionary puts us in communion with each other.

A variation on the standard lectionary is becoming popular in many churches, the Revised Common Lectionary. The RCL is an ecumenical project and is very similar to the standard lectionary. The major difference is that the Old Testament readings are usually different. The Episcopal Church has agreed to make a slightly modified version of the RCL available for trial use and some churches, with their bishops' permission, have started using it.

You can find more information on the Episcopal Lectionary on the GHTC website, www.ghtc-kc.org. Go to "This Week" and you will find the readings for the following Sunday plus links to websites for each lectionary.

— by Chris Morrison

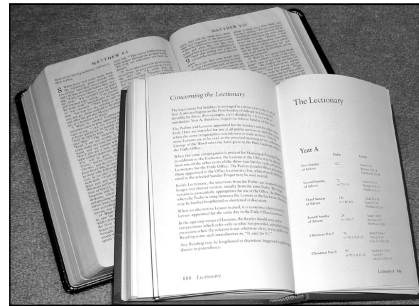


photo by Chris Morrison

Upcoming Music Events

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

7:30 p.m.

Fine Arts Chorale Concert



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

2:00 p.m.

Kansas City Chorale Concert



MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

12 noon

City Come Again
William Jewell College



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

7:30 p.m.

William Baker Festival Singers



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

5:00 p.m.

Messiah Singalong



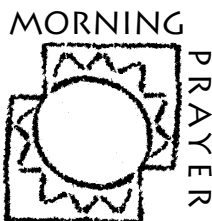
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

3:00 p.m.

William Baker Festival Singers

Call the Cathedral office for details,
816.474.8260.

Weekday Services



8:30 a.m.



12:05 p.m.



5:30 p.m.

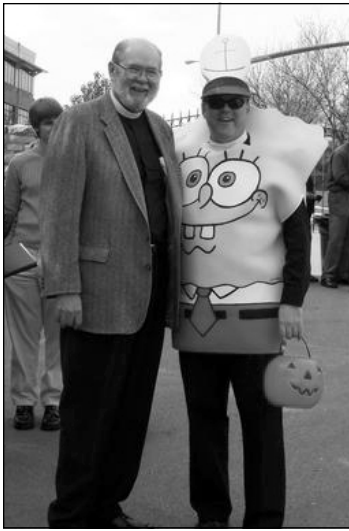


photo by Dave Pierson



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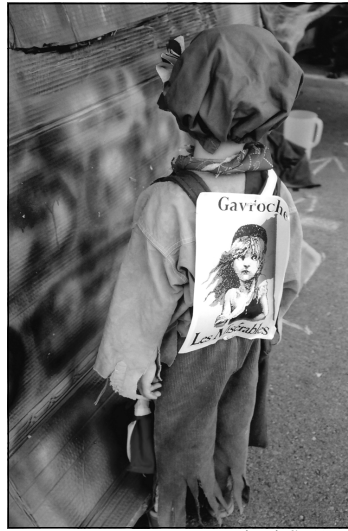


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TRUNK OR TREAT 2004



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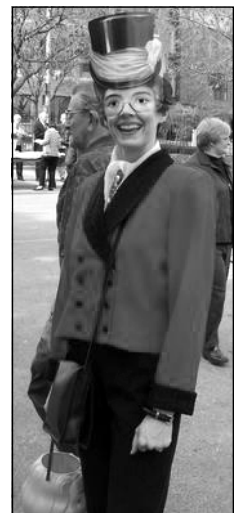


photo by Dave Pierson

Weekly Activities

SUNDAY

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 9:15 a.m. *New Beginnings*: Advent Activities
- 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- Children's Chapel
- Grace Choraliers
- 5:00 p.m. Order for Evening & Eucharist

MONDAY-FRIDAY

- 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 12:05 p.m. Holy Eucharist
- 5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

TUESDAY

- 1:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY

- 6:30 p.m. Benedictine Spirituality Group
- 7:00 p.m. Youth Group

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. EFM
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Small Group
- 7:30 p.m. Trinity Choir

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

- 9:15 a.m. The Tallis Singers

Activities for the Month of December

1 • WEDNESDAY

- 7:00 p.m. Advent Series Classes
- 8:15 p.m. Compline

5 • SUNDAY

- 11:45 a.m. Music Committee
- 11:45 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal
- 6:15 p.m. Centering Prayer Small Group

7 • TUESDAY

- 6:30 p.m. Needlework/Quilting Small Group

8 • WEDNESDAY

- 7:00 p.m. Advent Series Classes
- 8:15 p.m. Compline

9 • THURSDAY

- 6:30 p.m. Thursday Evening Bible Study

11 • SATURDAY

- 9:00 a.m. Altar Guild Clean-Up

12 • SUNDAY

- 11:45 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal
- 11:45 a.m. Social Action Committee
- 6:00 p.m. Caroling Party

13 • MONDAY

- 4:30 p.m. Buildings and Grounds Committee
- 5:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee
- 7:00 p.m. New Marriages Small Group Organizational Meeting

14 • TUESDAY

- 7:00 p.m. *The Angelus* Small Group
- 7:00 p.m. Cancer Support Group
- 7:00 p.m. Table Top Games Small Group
- Organizational Meeting

15 • WEDNESDAY

- 7:30 a.m. Finance Committee
- 7:00 p.m. Advent Series Classes
- 8:15 p.m. Compline

16 • THURSDAY

- 5:00 p.m. Vestry

18 • SATURDAY

- 10:00 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal

19 • SUNDAY

- 11:45 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal

24 • FRIDAY • CHRISTMAS EVE

- 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Pageant
- 10:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

25 • SATURDAY • CHRISTMAS DAY

- 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

26 • SUNDAY

- 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Lessons and Carols – *only service this day*

27 • MONDAY

Cathedral Office Closed

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. Terry White
Dean

The Rev. Benjamin J. Newland
Associate Priest

The Rev. Linda Yeager
Deacon

The Rev. Bryan England
Deacon

The Rev. Bruce Hall
Deacon

Mr. John L. Schaefer
Canon Musician

The Very Rev. J. Earl Cavanaugh
Dean Emeritus

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*The Word was made flesh and
dwelt among us.*

photo by Chris Morrison