



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MESSENGER

January 2021

From the Priest in Charge

Well, we made it through the holidays, and got some good press to boot! Thank you to all who helped make our Christmas Eve Lesson and Carols a great success. I am sorry that some of the late comers were unaware of the hot chocolate that was available for frigid worshippers, and that the Green Berry Lodge was open for restrooms and warm-ups. Despite the cold, a good time was had by all. The roaring fire helped keep the worst of the chill away, and we made it onto the front page of the News Tribune, above the fold, on Christmas Day!!

January is always a busy time in the office as we prepare for the Annual Meeting (January 24), finalize the budget for 2021, collect and collate the data to send to the national church. It can get a little hectic, and so we ask you to help as best you can.

- If you have not sent your pledge card in yet (I know, it has been a crazy and unpredictable year!!) please fill it out and return it to the church office.
- If you are responsible for a report that goes into the Annual Report, do not wait to be reminded, get it in as soon as possible.

It may not seem like much, but this will really help us out in the office.

And speaking of a busy January, THE BISHOP IS (VIRTUALLY) COMING!! On January 10, Bishop Deon will be joining us for virtual worship and a virtual coffee hour time together after the service. Look for the article with more information about what to look forward to elsewhere in *The Messenger*.

As we enter the season of Epiphany, I encourage you to continue to make space in your busy life for your relationship with Jesus to grow. There is a lot of good about being able to work from home, but one of the downsides is that the line between work and rest can get blurred. Add to that the reality of the stresses that are added by living in a time of pandemic, and we have a real recipe for burnout and exhaustion. Remember the importance of Sabbath. God reminds us that it is important to make space for it as well.

See you in [Zoom] church,

Grace and Peace,

THE BISHOP IS COMING



On Sunday January 10, 2021, Bp. Deon will be joining us at our normal Sunday virtual worship at 9:30 a.m. to help us celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. The bishop will be the celebrant and preacher for the day and will be joining us for our coffee hour discussion. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know the bishop better, and he to get to know us better. I encourage everyone to make it a point to join us.

Bp. Deon has some questions that he would like us to consider in preparation for our time together.

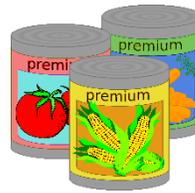
- o What is working well at Grace?
- o How are we practicing evangelism and outreach in our neighborhood/community?
- o What are we willing to let go of for something new to grow or thrive here at Grace?
- o Where do we hear God calling Grace in the next two years?
- o How can the Bishop's office be helpful in our ministry together?

Since I assume everyone would like to have an opportunity to speak with, and hear, the Bishop, we will not be breaking up into small groups for discussion but will stay in our large group. I know you will all be on your best behavior, what with the bishop being present!!

ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

On **Sunday January 24, 2021**, following the normal 9:30 a.m. service, we will be holding the Annual Meeting. The meeting will begin at **10:45 a.m.**, following the determination that we in fact have a quorum of voting members present on-line. Our bylaws say that 30 qualified voters are a quorum, so please do join us. The Annual Report will be available for download, and we will make a link available for it as soon as it is prepared.

DRIVE-BY FOOD DRIVE Saturday, January 9, 2021



As the cold weather is here, let's help stock the pantry at the Samaritan Center by dropping off canned goods (vegetables, fruits, soups, individual meals) in the parking lot behind the church on

Saturday, January 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (If the parking lot is impassable because of ice or snow, the food drive will be cancelled and rescheduled, and a notice will be sent out by email.)

Thank you for sharing your plenty with those less fortunate.



DEACON'S CORNER**A Visible Sign of the Christmas Spirit**

I do not know how long a practice is required to occur before it is considered a tradition; but this extended family seems to have established a tradition of having a specific item that is discussed when they are together for Thanksgiving. For the third year, after Thanksgiving, this family asked me if there was someone or a family for which their monetary contributions could make a difference.

This year I told the Grace parishioner of a Families Forward family who are hard workers but do not have a vehicle for transportation. They depend upon the public bus service to get to work which, of course, creates problems on the weekend when there is no bus service. The father has his Commercial Driver License; but a truck driving job cannot be reality, again, until the family has their own transportation.

The family had completed an application for Wheels for Working Families; but they do not meet the residency requirement until February. Their Families Forward advocates are on the outlook for a vehicle the family can afford on their nursing home wages but to no avail yet.

Because of this extended family's generosity, a transportation restricted fund has been established within my deacon's discretionary fund for this needy family. If a decent affordable vehicle is found or if they are so fortunate to be the recipient of a vehicle from Wheels for Working Families, the funds will go for those associated costs.

As your deacon, it was certainly a joy to call the mother of this family of three to tell her of the news of a transportation fund for her family. She was so appreciative that she had difficulty talking through her tears. She did manage to say, "Oh, you don't know what this does to me."

If you know someone wanting to sell a decent, affordable vehicle or want to donate to this family's transportation fund, please contact me at p.hartsfield12@gmail.com or (573) 694-6777.

**Treasurer's Report
Tom Nield**

The status of the finances of Grace Church as of November 30, 2020, are as follows:

Pledge Income - \$199,801, Budgeted Pledge - \$219,262, difference **(\$19,461)**

Investment Income - \$19,050, Budgeted Investment - \$18,333, difference \$717

Budgeted Expenses - \$256,086, Actual Expenses - \$260,977, difference **(\$4,891)**

For the month of November, income exceeded expenses by \$8,902.

**Presidential Management Fellows
Ken Luebbering**

The McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University recently announced that 6 of its graduate students and 2 alumni have been named as Finalists and expected to become Presidential Management Fellows this spring. They are among 551 Finalists chosen from 6,820 applicants. One of those six students is Gabrielle Crossnoe, formerly of our parish. She is the daughter of Debbie and The Reverend Marshall Crossnoe. Gabrielle expects to complete her MA in public policy in May. According to the McCourt School's announcement, "the Presidential Management Fellows Program (PMF) is a two-year, full-time paid government fellowship that is highly competitive. The finalists will have the opportunity to interview for opportunities with their desired government agencies, and upon successful completion of the Fellowship, they are eligible to transition into full-time government positions." Gabrielle commented, "Once I obtain a fellowship position, then I'll have access to the program's leadership training [and] professional mentorship," opportunities. "The bottom line is, I am excited about the opportunity to start a career in federal public service through this fellowship."

CASTE: THE ORIGINS OF OUR DISCONTENTS

by Isabel Wilkerson

**BEGINNING WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 10, 2021**

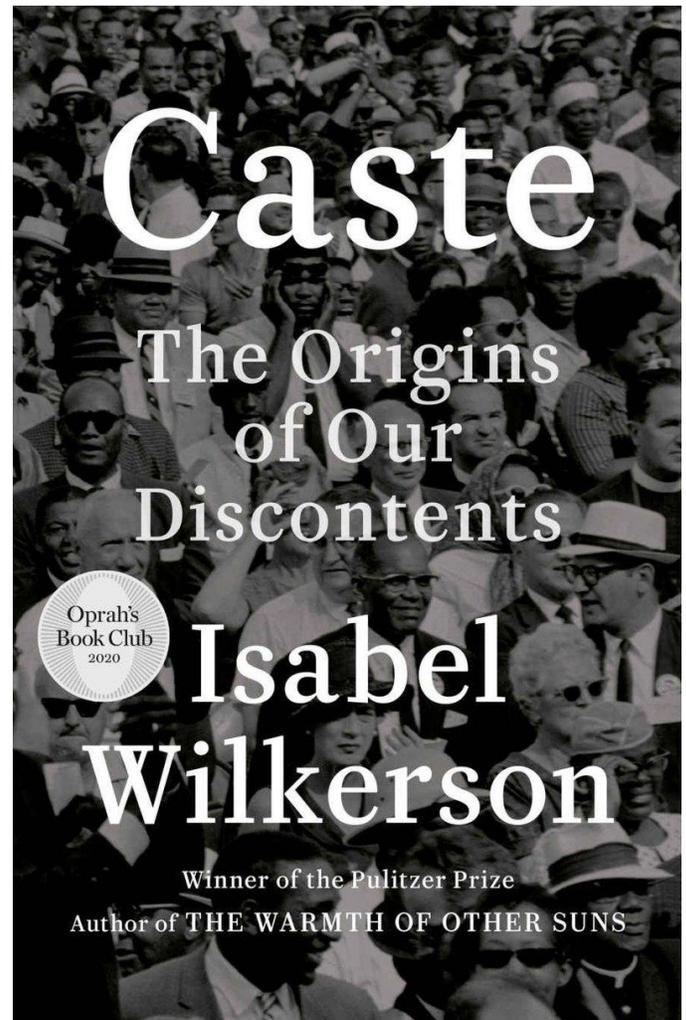
FROM THE REVIEW ON AMAZON

The Pulitzer Prize–winning, bestselling author of *The Warmth of Other Suns* examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are still defined by a hierarchy of human divisions.

“As we go about our daily lives, caste is the wordless usher in a darkened theater, flashlight cast down in the aisles, guiding us to our assigned seats for a performance. The hierarchy of caste is not about feelings or morality. It is about power—which groups have it and which do not.”

In this brilliant book, Isabel Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched narrative and stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings.

PICK UP A COPY AT YOUR [LOCAL BOOKSTORE](#), [AMAZON](#),
OR YOUR [PUBLIC LIBRARY](#)



Adult Forum
The First Christmas
by Marcus Borg & Dominic Crossan

STUDY CONTINUES THROUGH
JANUARY 27, 2021

Borg/Crossan acknowledge that Christmas is a sentimental time for most of us. But they argue that the stories in Matthew and Luke are more than sentimental. Rather, they are "both personal and political. They speak of personal and political transformation. Set in their first-century context, they are comprehensive and passionate visions of another way of seeing life and of living our lives." The birth stories are, they argue, "richer and more challenging than is commonly imagined . . . they speak, and speak powerfully, about our deepest yearnings and about God's promises and passions . . . They are about us -- our hopes and fears. And they are about a different kind of world. God's dream for us is not simply peace of mind, but peace on earth." (viii - x)

Our work, begun in Advent, with the Matthew and Luke "Christmas stories" continues for the next four weeks with a focused scripture study of this intriguing text. We'll try to wrestle with the question "What do the gospels really teach about Jesus's birth? "

Some important details in the stories:

Jan 6: Chapter 6 (David's city of Bethlehem)

The meaning of Jesus' birth:

Jan 13: Chapter 7 (Light against darkness)

Jan 20: Chapter 8 (Fulfillment of prophecy)

Jan 27: Chapter 9 (Joy to the world)

Feb 3: Reflection on the Study – If desired/or needed.

The resources you will need for our study of *The First Christmas* are:

- A good Bible translation.
- Hopefully, some reading time with the Borg/Crossan text.
- Of course, an inquiring mind is always a prerequisite of learning for those of us who consider ourselves "unfinished."

This study is an opportunity to engage with the minds of two leading contemporary Jesus scholars on the meaning of the Jesus event, as foreshadowed in the birth stories themselves.

Please join us at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom to participate in this discussion using the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/91409183245?pwd=c2JWODN6MUUyVXFhZVQ2R1lIVzh0dz09>

Or

Call telephone #312-626-6799 and enter Meeting ID: 914 0918 3245 and Passcode: 016465

May our expectant waiting in this season be joyous. And may it lead to epiphany!

Musical Offerings at Grace

Karel Lowery

Members of the Chancel Choir volunteered to participate in ensembles that prepared the Trisagion for Advent and hymns for Christmas Eve. These were wonderful opportunities to be together in small groups for singing with masks on! Two of our anthems were used in the Diocesan Journey through Advent and Christmas!

As 2021 begins, we plan to continue bringing hymns sung by small groups into the weekly worship services. Several parishioners have suggested this would help support their singing at home.

We are so grateful for all the talent at Grace Church that allows us to have wonderful musical offerings each week. We hope to bring many more offerings to you in the weeks and months ahead.

I want to say thank you to all the choir members (along with the rest of our singing congregation) who braved the cold on Christmas Eve to make our Lessons and Carols service a success. It would have been fun to sing with accordion and guitar, but a capella singing worked out just fine!!

As always, I am so grateful to be a part of the music team at Grace. Beth and Dan Eckles spend a lot of time playing and recording.

2020 was quite a year for community ministry within Grace Church. I was pleased that we were able to continue to provide services to the community despite COVID-19. Policies were changed to keep people safe, and we were fortunate that no one caught the virus while providing any services.

Samaritan Center no longer had our volunteers come in to prepare the bags of food for the clients. Samaritan staff and volunteers switched to prepackaged food boxes that were made up ahead and distributed through a drive through style format. They worked with clients on foot or on the bus and accommodated social workers and volunteers who were picking up for those clients who could not make it in themselves.

We no longer could go into the Salvation Army to prepare food. Instead, our families prepared the food and delivered it to the side door for the residents and persons from the community the third Sunday each month. The meals were then served to the residents and packaged by staff for the community to pick up. Thank you to Brent and Deann Hemphill, the Youth Group coordinated by Tom Nield and Susan Richter, Ted and Barbara Koenig, Chris and Eunice Straub, George and Paula Hartsfield, Todd and Michelle Rodemeyer, Dennis and Nancy Belcher, the Hensley family, Katie and Kevin Spears, The Sierra Leone Association, Robyn Burnett and Ken Luebbering, Jim and Christy Pond, Karyl Lowery and the Grace Church choir, and Boy Scout Troop 10 and Crew 10 coordinated by Tom Nield.

Relative to the Angel Tree, we could no longer have a tree at church where parishioners could pick out gifts to buy. Instead, you could go to Walmart or the Capital Mall and select angels. There was a barrel there in which to drop your gifts. In addition, you could go to a website and buy toys from Walmart which would be sent to the Salvation Army.

Salvation Army bell ringing went on as usual. The only difference this year was the ringers were wearing masks. Thanks to Helen Barnett, Albert Myers, Jordan Myers, Chris and Eunice Straub, Harry and Suzanne Richter, the Krause Family, Laura Conley, Susan Lissant, and Bill and Beverly Nesbitt.

Relative to food collection for both Samaritan Center and Salvation Army, Sally Reid organized a process where we can bring canned goods to the parking lot at church on the second Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Chris and Eunice Straub have been volunteering with this ministry. We also collected coats and canned goods for the Salvation Army at the event at Memorial Park welcoming Father Bill and Beverly in October.

Changes were made at Common Ground. Clients were told not to come to Common Ground. Services were provided over the phone. Our volunteers who work on Tuesdays every month would fill out the application over the phone and turn the application over to one of the Common Ground staff. The staff would then contact the applicant within a day or two and take care of their needs.

So again, thanks to everyone who participated in the various ministries in 2022. I look forward to 2021. **We are looking for persons to host a meal at the Salvation Army in October of this year. Please contact me if you have any questions.**



The Women's Bible Study will meet on Thursday, January 14, at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom. Our lesson is entitled, "Journeys with Angels: Looking UP."

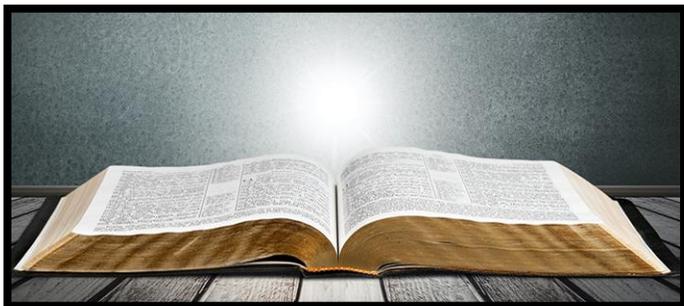
It is the first of four sessions of noticing and learning from God's heavenly messengers. There is a long list of Scripture readings, which are Psalm 8; Matt. 13:39b-43,47-50; I Corinthians 6:3; Job 38:1-7; Rev. 1:16a, 20; Exodus 25: 17-22, 26:1; 2 Chronicles 3:10-14; Ezekiel 1:5-14, 10:15-20; Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 1:11-12; and Luke 2:8-11.

How does the Scripture's portrait of angels correspond with pictures on Christmas cards, or does it? All women are welcome to join us for this interesting study.

Please use one of the following options to join the Women's Bible Study:

- Use the following link or paste the address into your browser: <https://zoom.us/j/97679386886?pwd=UVJWTeXU3dDJJaZkdTmRiNDR5ZExoQT09>
- Call telephone # 312 626 6799 and enter Meeting ID: 976 7938 6886 and Passcode: 65101

All women are welcome to join the Bible Study!



Sunday School will continue through Zoom lessons going forward in 2021. The schedule of classes will be the same with the 2nd-5th grade youth and the Pre-K/K-1 group meeting at 8:45 a.m. on the 3rd and 4th Sundays, respectively. Due to the Bishop's visit on the 2nd Sunday of January, the Middle/High School Youth will not meet that day. Those youth should watch their email for an update as to when they will meet. Our numbers in attendance remain pretty much constant. The teachers are open to suggestions for other ways we can present Christian formation to our youth. Please contact Karel Lowery, Cathy Libey, Julie Harker, Michelle Rodemeyer, Tom Nield or Suzanne Richter with your ideas.

Lectors and Intercessors

January 3

Old Testament & Psalm Tom Nield

New Testament Sarah Schedler

Intercessor Ted Koenig

January 10

Old Testament & Psalm Beverly Nesbit

New Testament Edmund Ikeh

Intercessor Vicki Meyers

January 17

Old Testament & Psalm Nanette Ellis

New Testament Beth Eckles

Intercessor Dan Eckles

January 24

Old Testament & Psalm Sally Reid

New Testament Mike Reid

Intercessor Janie Johnson

January 31, 2021

Old Testament & Psalm Ted Koenig

New Testament Susan Lissant

Intercessor Dave Johnson

We rang the bell for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign at the Walmart on Stadium and Gerbes East on December 19.

The next day Crew 10 prepared a meal of turkey, ham, twice baked mashed potatoes, stuffing, green beans, and candied carrots, and Troop 10 members provided gooey butter cake, brownies, and cookies for dessert for the Salvation Army. It was weird not being able to serve what we made for the shelter residents. Hopefully, we will be able to do so next year.

The boy troop rescheduled its lock-in from the first weekend of December to later in the month. It was held at Capital City Productions instead of Grace Church. The boys took advantage of the big screen projectors and professional sound system, hooking up their gaming systems to play games and watch movies. The girls will hold their lock-in in January.

We have a busy January. Crew members are gearing up for another trek to Ely, MN to participate in Northern Tier's Okpik program over Martin Luther King weekend. The following weekend is the annual Klondike Derby where the troops will pull their sleds to all the separate events and the Crew will assist with running the air rifle range. We will start selling tickets for the Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, which is early this year, February 16. Due to the pandemic, we will be doing takeout only. You can purchase your tickets online at our website, www.gracescouting.org.

2020 was a challenging year. Our membership stayed stable because we worked extremely hard to stay active despite the pandemic. Compared to other scouting programs in our district, we are in a rather good position for 2021. Your continued support is key to our success for which we are so thankful!

We do High Adventure, and Cool Stuff!

Liturgy of the Word with a Rite for Spiritual Communion

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom and live streamed on [Grace Church Facebook page](#). A virtual Coffee Hour will follow the service on Zoom.

Compline

Monday and Thursday evenings at 8:30 p.m. on Zoom

A recorded version will be posted to [Parishioners and Friends of Grace Episcopal Discussion Facebook Page](#) by 9:00 p.m. those evenings.

Morning Prayer

Thursday mornings at 8:30 on Zoom and live streamed on [Grace Church Facebook page](#)

Adult Forum— “The First Christmas” by Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan This study will look at what the gospels (Matthew and Luke) really teach about Jesus’s birth.

Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Zoom.

Christian Education for Youth

3rd Sunday of the month—2nd-5th grade youth at 8:45 a.m. on Zoom

4th Sunday of the month—PRE-K/KIND/-1st grade youth at 11:00 a.m. on Zoom

Middle and High School youth—Due to the Bishop’s visit in January, they will not meet at their regular time. Please watch your email for an update.

Please contact the church office (573-635-4405 or office@gracechurchjc.org) for the various Zoom links.



January Birthdays

- 2 - Peter Alfred Goldschmidt,
Louisa Nylander
- 3 – Paul Graham, Felicia John,
Malaika Kamara
- 4 – Beth Eckles
- 8 – Bryan Tracy
- 10 – Martha Goodin, Bob Harker
- 11 – Katherine Schedler, Solomon Rogers
- 12 – Carl Bone
- 14 – Lisa Fox, Alexis Seeney
- 17 – Lorenzo Greene, Linton Bartlett
- 18 – Jeanie Bryant
- 19 – Tom Nield, Paul Leslie
- 22 – Chris Straub
- 23 – Thomas Nield, Justin Rodemeyer,
Catherine Hensley
- 24 – Lena Hunt
- 25 – Devon Kanga
- 26 – Dan Teubner
- 27 – Mark Johnson, Liz Lehmann,
Gary Harbison
- 29 – Sherry Russell, Kenneth Seeney,
Bishop Smith, Jeredine Hughes
- 31 – Chris Johnson, Christine Overfelt,
Rudi Dallmyer



Episcopal Church
217 Adams St.
Jefferson City, MO 65101

DEADLINE

The deadline for the December Messenger is

Monday, Feb. 15th.

Submit articles for the Messenger

to the editor, Sally Reid:

sallyjcmo@hotmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS

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Fax 636-5512

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rector@gracechurchjc.org (630-430-7859)

Church office office@gracechurchjc.org

Website gracechurchjc.org

VESTRY MEMBERS

Jamie Hall, Senior Warden
Harry Richter, Junior Warden

Minette Barlay
David Heise
Ted Koenig
Susan Lissant
Jim Perch
Christy Pond
Sally Reid
David Rice
Dotty Sanning
Kevin Thompson

Tom Nield, Treasurer
Caroline Kerr, Secretary

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Jim Markham
D'Arcy Crane
Cheryle Nield