

October 2009

# Grace Notes

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH STERLING, IL

NEWSLETTER OF GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH • 707 1ST AVENUE • STERLING, IL 61081 • (815)615-0442

## FALL HAS FALLEN

The dew is on the pumpkin, the first frost warning was this morning and there is a refreshing crispness in the air. It reminds me of the great saint, John XXIII, as he attempted to throw open the windows of the church and let in some fresh air. Some love it, some hate it and are running for the thermostat to turn up the heat!

For the Roman Church it is just like that. Most were thrilled by Vatican II but there are still many who fight to return to the good old days, who would do almost anything to reverse the legacy of John.

All of us at one time or another yearn for the Good Old Days, or as my six year old granddaughter calls them... the Golden years. Even a six-year old can have selective memory loss. So, what some experience as refreshing, others see as the source of sniffles. The reality is that there are those on each side of any issue that wish to make their way the only way. This is called politics and it is truly a messy affair. In some parts of the world the only way such things are settled is with guns... murder and mayhem. But even the more civilized approaches often result in spiritual murder and mayhem. Name calling, gossip, innuendo and backbiting are the tools of those who politic in an unseemly manner to get their own way. Such behavior is beyond the pale of a Christian life.

But worst of all is the Christian propensity to "pick up my toys and go home." After the Reformation this dandy little alternative raised it's ugly head and is now the order of the day. The Baptists split in two over the issue of slavery. Now there are probably ten times as many Baptist Denominations as any other. How many groups claim to be Anglican? In this town there are two groups claiming to be Roman Catholic, and the Non-denominational groups are the most denominated of all! There are now over 42,000 denominations...all contrary to the most explicit teachings of Him whom we claim to follow, Jesus, the Christ, the Lord of all! Perhaps we should instead do what we teach our children: "pick up our toys and put them away!"

—FR. DAVID+

## Outreach News

Don't forget Food For The Poor. There are offering envelopes on the table by the kitchen that are coded so that we get the credit! One of our members is working toward going on a missionary trip with this group. Wow! More on that another time.

School is back in session. Washington School kids are in need of supplies. A box in the Parish Hall is there for you to deposit goodies in. Pens, pencils, pads, binders, etc. The kids are deeply appreciative of our help.

The food pantry in Rock Falls could use some volunteer help. If you have some morning time available stop by and see Pastor Ruth Ann.

The Firehouse of God rescue mission still feeds the hungry. Grace Church provides food and cleaning supplies to Pastor Brian and his crew. They too, can always use some noon-time helpers.

## Wednesday Night Bible Study

We will be finishing the Acts of the Apostles shortly on October 7th. On October 14th we will begin studying the book of Daniel. This is the first great book in the class of literature described as Apocalyptic, always a fascinating subject even to those outside the world of religion.

**Study The Book of Daniel**  
**Wednesdays at 5:30 PM**  
**Beginning October 14th**

## Adult Sunday School

We continue the study of the book, "The Shack" at 9 am each Sunday. Elizabeth is our guide as we explore the implications of this amazing book.

When we finish with this book we will go on to a practical study involving boundaries, physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual. More on that next month.

**BROADCASTING ON DEMAND AT [gracechurchstg.org](http://gracechurchstg.org)**

The Prayers of a Righteous Man Availeth Much  
**MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST**

**October 10, 2009—7:30 am**

BISCUITS & GRAVY— BAGELS & CREAM CHEESE— JUICE & COFFEE  
IN THE PARISH HALL

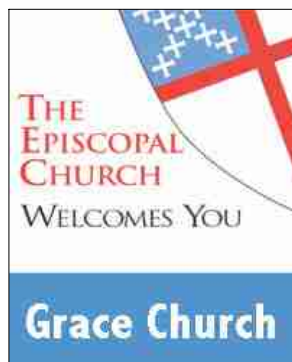


**BLESSING OF THE  
ANIMALS**

SAINT FRANCIS DAY  
**OCTOBER 4, 2009—10:15 AM**  
BRING YOU PETS TO CHURCH

---

**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
707 1ST AVENUE  
STERLING, IL 61081



**Parish Movie Night  
October 30, 2009  
Pot-Luck at 5:30 pm**



John Steinbeck's classic story of loyalty and friendship focuses on two traveling farm workers, George and Lennie. George has taken on responsibility for the mildly retarded Lennie, who constantly seems to fall into trouble of one sort or another. George and Lennie don't plan to travel forever - someday, they will have a little place of their own...

Gary Sinise plays George, and also directed the film.

**Tellers Needed**

What is a teller? Tellers work in teams of two counting the collection each week immediately following the 10:15 service. They credit the proper pledge accounts, make out the deposit slip and take the funds to the bank. The tellers work under the direction and supervision of the Finance Commission of the Vestry. If interested call the office or speak with Brooke on Sundays.

**Kairos Outside Information Meeting**

This interdenominational ministry to wives and loved ones of incarcerated men will meet October 10 at 10:30 am in the parish hall. You will be brought up to date on the planning and when we can expect the first weekend. All are welcome to attend and see what this is all about. This is led by Shiela Duerst, Elizabeth Rude & Shiela Geeting.

**Father David Away Again!**

He will be attending the annual Clergy Conference on the 19 & 20th. He also be away over the weekend of November 15th to visit with Raymond Michael as he graduates from basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

**Ladies Bunco Night  
October 17th at the Church  
Call Debbie Duerst to be a part of  
this fun evening.**

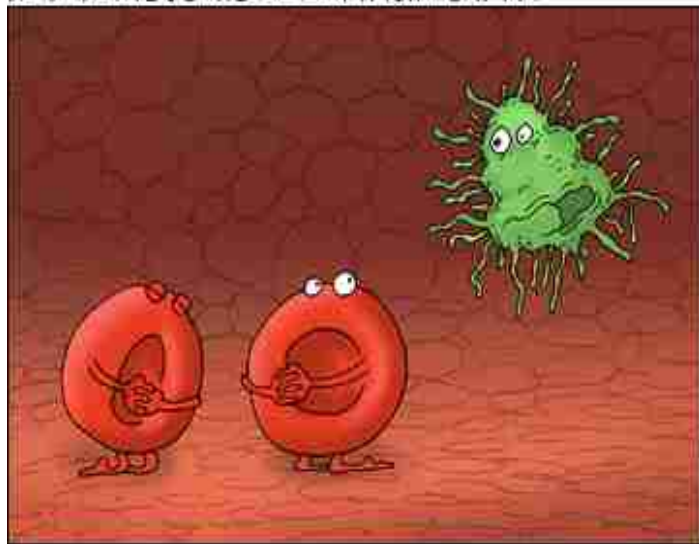
**Electronic Publication**

Many of our parishioners receive Grace Notes via the Internet as an email attachment which saves a significant amount on postage, paper and printing. Let the office know if you would like to be added to the list.

**Vestry Meetings**

The Vestry meets on the third Thursday of each month at 5 pm in the Parish Hall. Reports are heard from the various commissioners and business matters are acted upon. Ministry ideas are discussed and events are planned. All members of the congregation are welcome to participate in these meetings.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT GQ, INC



09-21-2009

ARE YOU RED BLOOD CELLS AWARE THAT YOU  
ARE WORSHIPPING IN VEIN

## *A Word of Knowledge* **CHURCH GOVERNANCE**

The way churches govern themselves can differ greatly. A church ruled by the congregation is called a Congregational Church, for their polity is congregational in nature. Most protestant churches operate on this basis. The clergy are merely hirelings.

A church ruled by Bishops would be described as "Episcopal". Even though our church is Episcopal it is not quite like other churches that have Bishops. The Roman church is not really ruled by bishops because it is ruled by one Bishop and therefore quite autocratic and monolithic in nature. There are provinces of the Anglican Communion that function much like that with the Archbishop ruling with an iron hand. There are some clergy in our own church that run their congregations on that model.

By and large, though, we are quite a mixture in that the power and authority of Bishops, Priests and Laity are held in check by the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church. These documents are created and amended in a democratic fashion via The General Convention that meets every three years. But even they can't make any Doctinal changes. That can only be done by an Ecumenical Council.

Each Diocese has it's own, additional, Canons and policies also created and amended in a democratic manner via the annual Diocesan Convention.

The local congregations are not a 'church' in the Protestant sense of the word but are certainly identifiable entities in the eyes of the law. They are non-profit corporations. The congregation at it's annual meeting can adopt or change by-laws and create policy through the budget process. Yet limits are placed on the congregation by the Constitution and Canons of the Church. For example, a congregation might like to part company with their priest by removing his salary from the budget. They don't have the authority to do that.

Between meetings the Vestry is responsible for administering the budget, for the real property, and for the congregation's relation with its clergy. Yet even there, the power is limited. A Vestry can't hire a Rector without the approval of the Bishop. A Vestry can't sell or mortgage the property without the approval of the Bishop and the Standing Committee and, while the Priest alone, is responsible for how the property is used he should have the wisdom to seek input from interested parties, especially the Vestry. Even though the Priest is in charge of the property, the worship and hiring or termination of employees, his power is limited as well. He might like to paint the Parish Hall chartreuse but if the paint and brushes are not in the budget he can't unless he obtains designated gifts for that purpose. As a practical matter, he should get the input and advise of the Vestry when contemplating something as radical as chartreuse. In fact, in Mission congregations, the group analogous to the Vestry is called the Bishop's Advisory Committee. While not so stated in Canon Law, the

Vestry is therefore a council of advice for the Rector. At Grace we go one step farther. Each member of the Vestry is responsible for an area of ministry such as Finance, Worship, Education, Building & Grounds, Parish Life, Administration and Outreach. Each commission may be made up of sub-committees. For example, the Finance Commission is made up of Stewardship, Audit and Endowment committees. Commission appointments are made by the Vestry at it's annual retreat.

---

### **The Prayer Closet**

For Healing: Merideth, Sandi, Bea, Melinda, Chris, Jean, Chad, Beverly, Carol, David, Marilyn, Ray, Jesse, Karissa, Helen, Henry, Jean, Athena, Amy, Glenn, Laurell, Roger, Brooke, Joan, Arlene, Alex, Sally, Steve, Hermine, Roman and Linda.

For the homebound: Helen, Char, Miriam, Kathy, and June.  
For Employment: Emily, Steve, Ray, Troy, Andrew, Rommee, Josh, Paula, Melissa, Tiffany, Danny, Don and Jeremy.  
For Special Needs: Self-Help Enterprises, Marge, Tom & Carol, Justin, Jen, John, Olivia and Rachael, John & Marissa, Pat & Lewie.

For the Departed: Gregory Kontos, George Gould, Frank Willhite, Marth Woessner, Stephanie Duerst, Evan Kontos  
For members of the Armed Forces: Olivia, Greg, Raymond, Matt, Tommy, Jamie, David, Rich, Robert, Larry, Chris, John, Julie, Don, Roger, Eric, Marcus, Andy, Mike, Jennifer, Todd and the 102nd MC Company.

---

### **Happy Birthday!**

Richie Linville, Julie Fulfs, Debbie Haglund Tiffany Zamarripa, Colony Linville Antony Parks Earl Cochran, Shiela Geeting.

---

### **Happy Anniversary**

Pat & Deb Fecht, Ralph & Peg Romanelli

---

