



OCTOBER 2017

# The Vine

Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches..." John 15:5

## The Means of Grace

**T**he General Thanksgiving is the powerful concluding prayer for our Anglican Morning Prayer service. This prayer offers up thanksgiving to God for many things, one of which is "the means of grace." "We bless you for ... the means of grace, and for the hope of glory." What is grace? And what are the means of grace?

We are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:18). So, what is grace? Grace is the gift of God, unearned and undeserved. It is His merciful kindness by which God turns us to Christ, keeps us, and strengthens us. GRACE – God’s Riches at Christ’s Expense. Sadly, in our culture gifts are usually something we exchange, not something simply given. For Christmas your brother gives you a \$50 gift card, you give him one of roughly equal value. This is not grace, it is a "gift" exchange. Therefore, grace is a difficult concept for us to grasp. Again, grace is the gift of God, unearned and undeserved.

What are the means of grace? The ways God imparts His gift of eternal life and ongoing strength to live the Christian life? 1. The Word of God. 2. The Sacraments of Jesus’ Church. 3. The work of the Holy Spirit.

**The Word of God** – Through the Word of God, we hear the Good News of our creation, our redemption through the work of Christ, and receive ongoing sustenance through the food of God’s Word. Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). The Word of God transforms our minds (Romans 12:2). Hebrews 4:12 reminds us that, "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of

soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." The Word of God is alive, "living and active," and transforms us from the inside out. The Word of God is a means of God’s grace.

**The Sacraments of Jesus’ Church** – The Sacraments of the Church are given to us by Jesus and administered through His Church as a means of grace. Just as Jesus chose to become incarnated in a human body, so He chooses to use physical elements to communicate His grace. Though baptism requires a response of faith, through it we receive God’s grace tangibly through the water. The same is true with Holy Communion. Each week Jesus imparts His grace to us through the wine (blood) and bread (body), natural elements which spiritually communicate His grace. As our catechism says, "I receive the strengthening and refreshing of my soul by the body and blood of Christ." The Sacraments of Jesus’ Church are a means of God’s grace.

**The Work of the Holy Spirit** – As we proclaim in the Nicene Creed each week, "We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life." The Holy Spirit is the giver of life! Galatians 5:22-23 speaks of the fruit of the Holy Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control). The fruit (result of) the Holy Spirit being active in your life is a changed and holy life. So we sing, "Come Holy Spirit, heavenly dove." The Holy Spirit is a means of God’s grace.

Are you seeking and experiencing all three "means of grace"? If not, embrace all three!

### Our Path of Christian Maturity

Worship  Grow  Serve

### The Faith Flash

Are you receiving our email newsletter, *The Faith Flash*? *The Faith Flash* comes out weekly with timely information and reminders. Sign up today by going to our website ([www.faithanglicanchurch.org](http://www.faithanglicanchurch.org)), or calling the church office (755-4848).

## Trusting God to Provide: Growing in Stewardship Over Time

About a month ago or maybe it was 2 months ago. It very well could have been last week. Yesterday... So goes the start of one of my first comedy albums from the time I was in High School or maybe it was Jr. High School. This thought occurred to me as I sat down to write an article. Time flies and now it is due or past due as the case might be. Today things just seem to come so fast and in a moment they are gone. It seems like only a couple of years ago I was graduating from Nursing School and my friend's mother offered me a place to stay. Her only request was that I come with her and her son to church in Oakhaven at Bishop Otey Episcopal Church. That was 1982 and Mrs. Ann Roberts passed away last week and we buried her today. Same Priest that Baptized me into the Episcopal Church and married me to my former wife, Kim, 31 years ago. Time flies.

We moved to Cordova in 1987 and soon found Annunciation Episcopal Church and were welcomed in with great kindness and Christian Fellowship. Soon we were having dinner with our Priest at that time, John Sterling and his wife Shirley. As this time of year rolled around, the subject of stewardship came up and as we were not "churched" people, I had a lot of questions. Father Sterling did his best to answer them and to explain that tithing, like many things in life, is not something we can just immediately immerse ourselves in without preparation. We had just moved and bought a new home, cars and had school debts from my post-grad education. We were paying our bills, but living paycheck to paycheck and had many new expenses we had not seen coming. Father Sterling gave me some sound advice that I would like to pass on to those of you who are new to Faith Anglican Church and why we have a Stewardship Campaign.

Like all "business entities" in America and worldwide, we have to have a budget to know where we are going and how we are going to get there, just like your family or your company. By asking you now to think of what you can pledge to the church for this coming year, the Parrish Council can better plan for our needs and grow the church without going into debt. So now is the time to begin thinking about what you can do for your Church. But that leaves many questions and we hope to answer most over the next few months. In general, God asks us to give back to him 10% of what he has given to us in terms of income. Many folks see this as a tax. That, it is not. To those who believe, all we have is, by the grace God the ability to earn an income. By giving back a portion to the Lord, we are saying, "Thank you, God, for your Grace and Mercy towards me." But often as with Kim and I, it would have been impossible to come up with a full 10% in just a few months. That's when Father Sterling showed me the way.

Begin today, he said, to make a budget of what you have been giving up till now. What percentage of your total family income is that? In our case it was less than 1%. Thus we began a 10 year plan to increase our giving to the church by 1% per year until we got to 10%. Along the way there were setbacks and times of unemployment, but we did our best to continue with our plan, based on our income. Somehow by the end of ten years we were able to reach our goal of a 10% tithe of our total family income before taxes. How did we do it? Honestly, I don't know, it's a mystery, but I know it was with the Lord's Grace, His Mercy and His desire to bless those who trust in Him. That trust has multiplied many times and I am forever Grateful. Time flies, but if you will trust in the Lord, He will provide. Blessings on you and on this Holy Ministry we call Faith Anglican Church. Alleluia !

Dave Hightower, Stewardship Chairman, Parish Council 2017

### Youth Update!

At the end of August we had an all nighter & it was "off the hook" as the kids are saying. We went bowling, we played four square til the sun came up, we ate all the snacks we could, & so much more! This is the first of many to come! Here's a Shout Out to our winter all nighter that will happen in December. Stay tuned for more details as they come & other events before then!

Chris Mark

### A Generous Seminarian Support Offering!

Special thanks to all who gave generously to support our Anglican seminarians on August 27<sup>th</sup>. By the grace of God we raised \$2,170, our largest seminarian support offering ever!



# OCTOBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 8:10 Holy Eucharist 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Eucharist 4:00 AWANA/Youth 4:00 Adult Grow Group 4:00 Discovering Faith 2	<b>2</b> 7:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>3</b> 8:00 Men's Bible Study	<b>4</b> 10:00 Women's Prayer Time 10:30 Women's Bible Study	<b>5</b> 7:00 Worship Team	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8 New Member Sunday</b> 8:10 Holy Eucharist 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Eucharist 4:00 AWANA/Youth 4:00 Adult Grow Group	<b>9</b> 10:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 8th Street Mission 7:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>10</b> 8:00 Men's Bible Study 11:30 Exec. Committee 7:00 Prayer Meeting	<b>11</b> 10:00 Women's Prayer Time 10:30 Women's Bible Study	<b>12</b> 7:00 Worship Team	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10:30 Daughters of the Holy Cross
<b>15</b> 8:10 Holy Eucharist 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Eucharist 4:00 AWANA/Youth 4:00 Adult Grow Group	<b>16</b> 7:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>17</b> 8:00 Men's Bible Study 6:45 Parish Council Mtg	<b>18</b> 10:00 Women's Prayer Time 10:30 Women's Bible Study	<b>19</b> 7:00 Worship Team	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22 Local Missions Sun.</b> 8:10 Holy Eucharist 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Eucharist 4:00 AWANA/Youth 4:00 Adult Grow Group	<b>23</b> 10:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>24</b> 8:00 Men's Bible Study	<b>25</b> 10:00 Women's Prayer Time 10:30 Women's Bible Study	<b>26</b> 7:00 Worship Team	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Jesus Loves Memphis</b>
<b>29</b> 8:10 Holy Eucharist 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Holy Eucharist 4:00 Saints @ AWANA 4:00 Youth 4:00 Adult Grow Group	<b>30</b> 7:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>31</b> 8:00 Men's Bible Study	Join Faith in a project in our community to serve others.			



All articles for The Vine are due in the office the *second Monday* of the month, send to: [laqueta@faithanglicanchurch.org](mailto:laqueta@faithanglicanchurch.org)

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Service Times:  
**Sunday:**  
 Holy Eucharist .....8:10/10:30am  
 Sunday School .....9:30am

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## Jesus Loves Memphis

On **October 28<sup>th</sup>** Christians from many denominations from all over the Memphis metro area will be working together to show the tangible love of Jesus to “the least of these” and the lost. Please plan on joining this special serving opportunity. Our project will be announced shortly.



## Awana Carnival Night October 29th

Games and Prizes, bible verses, and stories about Saints of God make a fun night at Awana. All kids ages 2 to 12 are welcome to join us. Grandparents bring your grands; Kids bring your friends with treats for everyone. Dress up as your favorite saint or come as you are (No scaries, please). Fun starts at 4 with dinner at 5:30.

## Work Day Thank You

Thank you to everyone who came out for the church work day on Saturday, 9 September. A great number of nagging items were done and everyone's help was greatly appreciated.  
 Ron Kirby

## September Birthdays

Jill Amos	10/01	David Hightower	10/16
Kirk Tarver	10/02	James Zachary	10/16
Lance Forsdick	10/05	Sudy Fisher	10/26
Tanya Ellrich	10/13	Obi Ifedili	10/30
Genaro Mejia	10/14		

## September Anniversaries

James and Christina Zachary	10/09
Ike and IJ Ifedili	10/11
Jill and Edward Amos	10/24
Bob and Rita Barnett	10/30

## Prayer Corner

George Conner  
 Noland Pipes  
 Mansell Lancaster  
 Emily Dalke  
 Nancy Ebbing  
 Donna Hightower

Gail Hightower  
 Fred Ellrich  
 Maryjo Gresko

