

A Grace Note from the Rector
September 12, 2024

Dear Ones,

To start today's note, I want to take a moment to remember the **23rd anniversary** of the tragic events of **September 11**. Here is a prayer written by the late Most Reverend Frank T. Griswold III, who served as the 25th Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, from 1998-2006.

God the compassionate one, whose loving care extends to all the world, we remember this day your children of many nations and many faiths whose lives were cut short by the fierce flames of anger and hatred. Console those who continue to suffer and grieve, and give them comfort and hope as they look to the future. Out of what we have endured, give us the grace to examine our relationships with those who perceive us as the enemy, and show our leaders the way to use our power to serve the good of all for the healing of the nations. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord who, in reconciling love, was lifted up from the earth that he might draw all things to himself. Amen.

OLD WASHINGTON STREET FESTIVAL

At press time, volunteers were still needed on Saturday afternoon to greet visitors on the Festival's House Tour, and to guide them around the church. Please reach out to Mary Mordue directly at mlmordue@gmail.com

YARN AND YARNS

All needleworkers are invited to gather on Wednesday, September 25 from 10-noon in the Parish Library.

GATHERING GRACE

This past Sunday, we ran out of food entirely, serving 129 meals of Mac & Cheese, with Pulled Pork, Salad and Dessert...plus a yummy baloney & cheese sandwich.

A BETTER WAY ~ SEPTEMBER NEEDS

Shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, deodorant, coloring books (adult and children), colored pencils, women's underwear (small and medium).

A BETTER WAY ~ DONATION CENTER

In addition to the items we collect on a weekly basis for A Better Way, it is now possible to drop off larger items at their new donation center. It is located at 1000 S. Elm Street (just blocks from the church). The hours of operation are Monday and Wednesday 8:30-12:30, Thursday 12:30-4:30. Hours will change this winter. Please call 765-747-9107 before delivering. Check the bulletin board in the Parish Hall for a poster with all this information that you can take with you. Thank You!

CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES ~ ONGOING NEEDS

Personal Care Items: Bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, dish soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper, lg/med diapers, towels, washcloths, blankets. **Food Pantry:** Canned fruit, meats, and soup, crackers, cereal, pasta & sauce, mac & cheese.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Becky Byrum (September 15)

Laura Kirby (September 17)

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

September 14 (Saturday) is Holy Cross Day. This feast originally commemorated the day when Helena (d. 330 CE), the mother of the Emperor Constantine, was believed to have found the True Cross. She astonished the inhabitants of Jerusalem by scouring through the refuse pile that Golgotha had become. Unearthing this discarded sign of shame, the Church exalted it as the greatest treasure on earth.

Writing to the Galatians, St. Paul said, “May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Gal 6:14). As our friend Malcolm Guite writes in *The Word in the Wilderness*, “In a daring and beautiful creative reversal, God takes the worst we can do to him and turns it into the very best he can do for us.”

One of my favorite spots in Rome is the Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem (*La Basilica di Santa Croce in Gerusalemme*). According to tradition, the basilica was consecrated circa 325 to house the relics of Christ’s Passion brought to Rome from the Holy Land by Empress Helena. The basilica's floor was covered with soil from Jerusalem, thus acquiring the title *in Hierusalem*. It is not dedicated to the Holy Cross “of Jerusalem,” but the basilica was considered in a sense to be “in Jerusalem” (much in the way that an embassy today is considered extraterritorial). It is one of the “Seven Churches” that ancient pilgrims used to visit on foot.

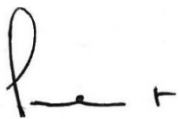
In the late 6th century another poet, Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, wrote a poem about the Holy Cross, one we still sing in the Good Friday liturgy, *Pange lingua gloriosi proelium certaminis* (Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle). You can find it in the *Hymnal 1982* at #165.

My two favorite verses from Fortunatus are these...

*Faithful cross! above all other, one and only noble tree!
None in foliage, none in blossom, none in fruit thy peer may be:
sweetest wood and sweetest iron! Sweetest weight is hung on thee.*

*Bend thy boughs, O tree of glory! Thy relaxing sinews bend;
for awhile the ancient rigor that thy birth bestowed, suspend;
and the King of heav’nly beauty gently on thine arms extend.*

God bless you as the seasons turn,



The Rev. Dr. Paul Jacobson, *Rector*

765-326-0353

rectorgracemuncie2@gmail.com