



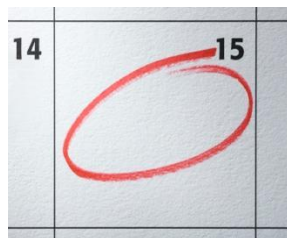
The Newsletter of the  
**Diocese of the East**  
EMC  
*servitium per sacrificium*



# DOE TRACTS

*September, 2023*

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**



September 21-25 – Episcopate visits to parishes in Indiana and Ohio

September 23-24 – Episcopate visit to Christ Church Anglican in Westerville, Ohio.

Saturday there will be a worship service with Fr. Wale Fafiade and Fr. Solomon Akwue(Captain-U.S.Army). On Sunday, Frs Wale and Solomon will be appointed to the Office of Canon plus the admission of lectors in Christ Church Anglican.

## APPOINTMENT OF DEAN

On September 10, 2023 at Christ Anglican Church in Warrenton, VA the Very Reverend Dan Lees



Left to right: Bishop Vince McLaughlin, Postulant Cam Williams, The Very Rev. Dan Lees, Rev. Canon Dr. Brian Turner, Deaconess Mary Marshall

was appointed to be the Dean of Anglican Spiritual Formation. He will be for the Diocese of the East the point of contact for parishes interested in becoming associated/ affiliated with the Anglican Church.

## CONFIRMATION SERVICE

On September 10, Sharron Gimbanco was confirmed into the Anglican Church at Christ Anglican Church in Warrenton, VA



### **FROM THE BISHOP'S CORNER**

*It's time for grace to be awakened and released, not denied . . . to be enjoyed and freely given, not debated.*

So, what exactly is grace? Understanding what grace means requires our going back to an old Hebrew term “*chen*” that meant “to bend, to stoop.” By and by, it came to include the idea of “condescending favor.” In Aramaic, it is “*taybutha*” with a meaning of “devotion, extending kindness, beneficence (charitable behavior) to one without the motivation of merit. In Greek, it is *charis* with similar meaning to the English meaning of the word.

To show grace is to extend favor or kindness to one who doesn't deserve it and can never earn it. Receiving the Almighty God's acceptance by grace always stands in sharp contrast to earning it 'on the basis of works.' Every time the thought of grace appears, there is the idea of

its being undeserved. In no way is the recipient getting what he or she deserves. Favor is being extended simply out of the goodness of the heart of the giver.

For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 1:9)

Grace has nothing to do with wages or merit. In the workplace, where wages are negotiated and agreed upon, there is no such thing as grace. We earn what we receive; we work for it. The wage “is not reckoned as a favor but as what is due.”

The Almighty God’s redemptive economy is altogether different. There is no wage relationship with Him. Spiritually speaking, we have not earned anything but eternal death.

We cannot sugar coat this or tone it down. Truth is Truth whether we like it or not. The fact of the matter is that all of us are completely bankrupt, without eternal hope, without spiritual merit; we have nothing in ourselves that gives us favor or merit in the eyes of our Holy and Righteous Almighty God. None of us deserve eternal life with the Almighty God.

The fact of the matter is that a person whose life is characterized by moral purity has no better chance of earning the Almighty God’s favor than the person whose life is characterized with unrestrained sin and disobedience.

All of us regardless of our life pattern whether good or bad who hopes to be eternally justified must come to the Almighty God the same way: on the basis of grace; it is a gift. And that gift comes to us absolutely and completely free. Any other view of redemptive salvation is heresy, plain and simple according to the Holy Scriptures.

Please read, ponder, and reflect on the Truth found in Ephesians 2:1-9:

*“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”*

Grace comes to us in two dimensions, vertical and horizontal. Vertical grace centers on our relationship with the Almighty God. It is amazing. It frees us from the demands and condemnation of the Mosaic Law. It announces hope to the sinner—the gift of eternal life, along with all its benefits.

Horizontal grace centers on our human relationships. It is charming. It frees us from the tyranny of pleasing people and adjusting our lives to the demands and expectations of human opinion. It gives relief—the enjoyment of freedom along with all its benefits. It silences needless guilt and removes self-imposed shame.

The Almighty God of the universe has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west. (Psalm 103:12)

One characteristic of a grace awakening in our lives deserves special attention, that is, a release from past failures. The Truth of Grace doesn't keep bringing up the past for the purpose of holding it over people. There is an absence of shame. St. Paul addresses this in 1 Timothy 1:12-14:

*"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus."*

You may be surprised to know that the Apostle Paul had every reason to feel ashamed. He was one whose past was dreadful: "formerly a blasphemer, persecutor and violent aggressor." Then how could the same man write, "I am not ashamed" (2 Timothy 1:12)?

He gives us the answer here in 1 Timothy 1:14: *"Grace was more than abundant than my sins and past behavior. Blasphemy had abounded in his past, but grace super abounded. Violence and brutality had abounded, but grace super abounded."*

This reality gives reason for an inexpressible joy and delight – those things in our past should not hold us in bondage. We have been released, forgiven, and we are now allowed to go on to a new life in Yeshua.

Grace releases people, not only from sin but from shame. As believers we proclaim a liberty and freedom provided by redemptive grace in Christ called the Gospel. The Almighty God uses us to release people from sin, guilt, and shame. We are in the grace ministry business!

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