



And Also With You

OCTOBER 2015

Grace Anglican Church 817 Estella Drive Fairhope, Alabama 36532
251-929-1606 www.visitgrace.net

OCTOBER

SUNDAYS

10:00 am
Worship
(nursery provided)

Children's Chapel

MONDAYS

6:30pm Graham
Cook Small Group
Sandy Sinclair 455-5940

WEDNESDAYS

10:30 am
Women's Bible
Study Susan
Jones 990-2973

12:00 noon
Holy Communion

FRIDAYS

8:15 am
Men's Group Tom
Sinclair 422-3169

CLEANING SCHEDULE

Oct 4-Cheri Kriner
Oct 11-Bogue &
Johnson
Oct 18-Alan Pate
Oct 25-Ovie
Moore

CHALICE BEARERS

Oct 4
Jane and Bob
Grafe

Oct 11
Jan Bogue
Becky Johnson

Oct 18
Maggie Rockett
Susan Jones

Oct 25
Kitty Barksdale
Janic Terry

Golden Calf/Golden Ark



The Rev. M. Scott Davis

God is in the salvaging business. What we mean for evil God uses for good. The Mt. Sinai-Golden Calf incident is a good example. Moses spends forty days on the mountain with God, receiving the law as well as detailed instructions for crafting the holy vessels that will be used in worship. This is *the true*. The counterfeit happens in a parallel universe. The Israelites, who have been waiting forty days with no end in sight, assume that Moses is dead. Israel takes matters into its own hands and approaches Moses's brother, Aaron, insisting that he make them a god to lead them forward out of the desert. Aaron collects golden earrings and nose rings with which he then throws into the fire and from it emerges *the golden calf*.

There are several key parallels to the story. The rabble chooses Aaron to lead them which he does by creating an idol that is then worshipped. This is the cheap counterfeit to the destiny that God is planning for Aaron. Aaron's actual destiny is to become High Priest of Israel. Aaron acts out of his carnal nature as God, on the mountain, is giving Moses similar plans where Aaron will act out of his spirit. The idol maker ends up being the one

Israelite who is allowed to stand before the Lord in the Holy of Holies each year. This is a salvage job!

Aaron had no idea, as he collected gold for the idol, that at the same moment, God was instructing Moses to collect gold from the people to make the Holy of Holies. Aaron had no idea that as he led the people in idolatry that God was giving Moses the plan for Aaron to lead worship

throughout the nation as its first High Priest. Aaron had no idea that while he was making the golden calf, God was laying out the details of his high priestly ministry. Aaron's carnal choices were the cheap counterfeit to God's true.

Moses angrily descends from the mountain, throwing down the stone. Moses demolishes the golden calf and grinds it into dust, and then mixing it with the community's drinking water. I am told that gold dust in water has a colonic effect, working as a purgative or laxative. If this is true then the effects are certainly sacramental. Israel's heart is purged from its slave mentality so that it might become pure and clean even as the physical was being purged. It is, however, a terrible and messy job.

God gives specific directions to Moses as to how His people should live and worship. The plan includes detailed instructions as to the making of sacred articles for worship, with the most sacred of



Golden Calf/Golden Ark from page 1

pieces being the Ark of the Covenant. It is made of acacia wood that is covered in gold. Where does Israel get the gold? When Israel departs from Egypt God commands His people to ask their neighbors



for gold and other valuables. After the tenth plague the Egyptians are ready to give them anything in order to be rid of them. This is

God's compensation to His people for the centuries of forced labor to which they were subjected.

Egyptian gold becomes the Mercy Seat of YHWH. The gold used is most likely covered in the symbols and cults of Egypt's pantheon of gods. The gold is occult in design and shape, yet it



is this gold that God uses to become the Holy of Holies, the Ark of the Covenant,

the candelabra in the Holy Place, the golden table of Shew Bread, the golden altar of incense, and so on.

There are many lessons we can learn from this event. The first is that we will be tempted in the area of our destiny. Aaron settles for a cheap counterfeit to his destiny when he makes the golden calf. God's plan for Aaron is to be High Priest of Israel, leader of worship, counselor to Moses.



Next, God often allows our sin to be ground up and consumed in order to purge us from our wrong doings so that we can move forward, cleansed and ready.

Finally, no matter the source of the gold in your life, God's plan is to melt it down and create new things that are both wonderful and

life giving. What once had the eye of Osiris imprinted on it is melted down to become the Mercy Seat of YHWH. This is the nature of God's character. No matter the sin, His potential to use it for good is far greater than we can perceive because God is a salvaging God. It does not matter what has been imprinted onto us. When given to God, He makes the unholy, holy.



Intercessory Prayer Ministry by Maggie Carnes

The Grace/Union Intercessory prayer team began in January. Dutch Sheets writes, "Intercessory prayer is an extension of the ministry of Jesus through His Body, the Church, whereby we meditate between God and humanity for the purpose of reconciling the world to Him, or between Satan and humanity for the purpose of enforcing the victory of Calvary (Intercessory Prayer)." At the first Intercessors' meeting we offered thanksgiving for Father Scott, the music ministry, finances, and asked to know the desires of God's heart for Grace Church. We also prayed for The Union, Pastor Ovie, and for their godly direction.

Each Monday begins with praise, ministering throughout the entire building. We offer thanks for the numerous blessings that both churches experience as well as pray against any negative actions that might have been loosed in the building during the week. We also pray that the week to come might be uplifting for all in our churches.

Next, we pray over the prayer cards left that week in the prayer box. There have been over a hundred prayer requests to date. In addition, we each bring our own concerns to the Lord. The few times that we have had no written prayer requests we have spent praising and giving thanks over our church, community and country. The group consists of five people from Grace and one from The Union. We meet each Monday from 10:45am-12:00pm and invite anyone whose heart is yearning to be an intercessor to join. All prayer requests are kept confidential and the prayer request cards are burned afterwards as an offering to the Lord.





October 11
Bring brunch food to go with ham, biscuits, and cheese grits.

Potluck Brunch

