

The Grace Vine

July 2005

Rector's Writ

*"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!
...A king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.
...Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love.
... Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and shield. Yea, our heart is glad in him, because
we trust in his holy name.*

Let thy steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in thee." (Ps. 33:12, 16-18, 20-22)

This seems a very appropriate psalm as we prepare to celebrate the fourth of July. We believe that our country won its independence and forged its guiding principles with the help and grace and goodness of God. We see the phrase "in God we trust" in our courtrooms and on our money and in places where that noisy vocal minority of non believers think it should not be. And yet our trust in God is one of the main reasons our nation has grown, prospered and become a nation known for justice, freedom, and hope over these past two centuries.

There's an interesting bit of history for anyone who thinks the Episcopal Church takes its English roots too lightly. The Lessons and Prayers appointed for the national observance of July 4th were part of the first Proposed Prayer Book in America in 1786. However, the first General Convention (in 1789) deleted this observance, deeming it inappropriate since the majority of the Church's clergy were ordained in England and were loyal to the British crown. (You'll recall our nation's first bishop, Samuel Seabury, had to be consecrated by Scottish bishops in 1784 since, as an American citizen, he was unwilling to swear allegiance to the British crown.)

As the American Episcopal Church crafted its own Constitution and began electing our own bishops, the mother Church in England realized negotiation was in order. In 1787 William White and Samuel Provost (bishops-elect of Pennsylvania and New York, respectively) were consecrated as bishops at Lambeth Chapel. The mutual bonds of affection had been established, even though another Church in another nation was founded. At the American Episcopal Church's first General Convention in 1789, the observance of July 4th was removed from America's Book of Common Prayer. In fact, there was no liturgical observance of July 4th until the 1928 Prayer Book revision.

Celebrating Independence Day, we pray that God will continue to bless our nation; keep our people and churches striving for the unity, justice, and peace which the one God in whom we trust can establish; and strengthen us to follow the ways of Christ, whose service is perfect freedom.

Sun. July 24—8:00am & 10:00am Holy Eucharist—10 Pentecost

Officiant: The Rev. Carol Evans
Deacon: The Rev. William Snyder
Lay Reader: Bette Brooks
Greeters: Sandee West & Betty Russell
Acolytes: Emily Summy & Cory Postlethwaite
Shepherd:
Altar Guild: Linda Gaboury & TBA
Coffee Hosts: 8:00 TBD
 10:00 Judy & Kay Canan
Counters: Sue Ahrens & Blake Quay
Loyalton: Jim Wichman

1st Reading 1 Kings 3:5-12
 Laura Price

Psalm 119:129-136

2nd Reading Romans 8:26-34
 Tim Splinter

Gospel Matt. 13:31-33,44-49a

Sun. July 31—8:00am & 10:00am Holy Eucharist—11 Pentecost

Officiant: The Rev. Carol Evans
Deacon: The Rev. James Wichman
Lay Reader: Maynard Evans
Greeters: Fred & Nanacy Lundgren
Acolytes: Paige Thomas
Shepherd:
Altar Guild: Linda Gaboury & TBA
Coffee Hosts: 8:00 TBD
 10:00 Ron & Kelly Postlethwaite
Counters: Sue Ahrens & Blake Quay
Loyalton: Carolyn Englert

1st Reading Nehemiah 9:16-20
 Blake Quay

Psalm 78:14-20,23-25

2nd Reading Romans 8:35-39
 Dennis Dier

Gospel Matthew 14:13-21

Sun. August 7—8:00am & 10:00am Holy Eucharist—12 Pentecost

Officiant: The Rev. Carol Evans
Deacon: The Rev. Bill Snyder
Lay Reader: Carolyn Englert
Greeters: John & Irene Machisko
Acolytes: Julie Canan & Jannell Moore
Shepherd:
Altar Guild: Stephanie Higgins & Marsha Barna
Coffee Hosts: 8:00 TBD
 10:00 Ron & Kelly Postlethwaite
Counters: Addrienne Conway & Pat Williams
Loyalton: Maynard Evans

8:00 Roberta O'Keefe
1st Reading Jonah 2:1-9
 Steve Barna

Psalm 29

2nd Reading Romans 9:1-5
 Kathy Summy

Gospel Matthew 14:22-33

IT TIME FOR JAM AT BARNA'S AGAIN!

J.A.M.
JESUS AND ME

SATURDAY, JULY 30TH

10AM—1PM FOR 4-7 YEAR OLDS
5PM—5AM (OVERNIGHT) FOR 8 AND UP

COME JOIN THE FUN!!!

Did You Know?...

On May 21st our adults-only Mexican Fiesta and Game Night was a great success and in large part due to **Kelly and Ron Postlethwaite**, who cooked all the food, and did a wonderful job decorating the parish hall. Other members of the Fun-raising committee that were hard at work to make this a success were **Sue Ahrens, Roberta O'Keefe and Addrienne Conway**. About 35 people came to enjoy the great food and the games after the dinner...

Many thanks to **Leslie Thomas**, who worked on the church audit and to **Barb Popiel and Mary Jean McDonald** who helped finalize this procedure so it was into the hands of the diocese at the appointed time. We are truly blessed to have these talented people in our midst...

Our Bible study is over for the summer, but it was well attended by 15-25 members every Wednesday night for six weeks. Dinner was served and then study followed. But having **Goldie Shriver** for child care really made it work!! It is hoped we will continue in the fall with another study group. Please think about joining us, it was great fun and we learned a lot about each other and ourselves and what God has planned for us...

On May 25th **John McDonald's mother, Winnie**, celebrated her 100th birthday with lots of family and friends attending the party John and his brother planned for her...

Addrienne Conway was really surprised to see that 3 year old **Jillian** liked her sister's new haircut so well that she decided to cut her own hair. Actually it wasn't as bad as it could have been, the hairdresser was able to make it look alright – considering...

Jim Ervin was given a watch by the Davey Tree Company for 35 year of service. Congratulations Jim!...

Nancy Ervin took a fall at work and is now at home recovering from doing the splits on the men's bathroom floor. But, being the real trooper she is, it didn't keep her down...

Our prayers are with **Mary Ann Switz** who has had rotator cuff surgery (that makes four in this parish this year) and with **Carrie Minnich** who has recently come home from a nursing home after another surgery...

Also, **Bill Shorts, Sr.** is having a difficult summer, with an infection in a muscle. He is looking at surgery in Florida. Bill and Phyllis's summer visit was cut short because of the pain Bill was suffering...

Beverly Brooks won't be home for the summer, she'll be working in the Dean of Students office at Wooster, her twin sister **Amanda** is working with mom at Kent State in the Office of Education. Amanda's probably enjoying one on one with mom for the first time in her life. Enjoy!!...

Judy Canan traveled all the way to Philadelphia to see granddaughter **Elizabeth** graduate from high school. However the weather stopped the outdoor proceedings and it was postponed until a later date and Judy had to be on a plane so she missed the graduation. But she did enjoy the time with her son **David** and his family...

On June 12th at the 10:00 service, **Skylar Conway, Eric Splinter, and Jenna Summy** were recognized for attending Communion Education classes. For **Jenna**, it was truly her First Communion, with her whole family in attendance...

Dennis Dier has been a great junior warden. He and **John McDonald** fixed the boiler. He is finding where all the electrical wires and plumbing in this building are going.

George Furrer has once again played a major role in the yard work and keeping Grace Church looking good all summer. George even removed the ivy in the stairwell. A new church sign is in thanks to the hard work of **Nancy Lundgren** and Dennis. Dennis organized a cleaning day on June 11th. **The Rev. Carol, Maynard Evans, Dennis Dier, Nancy Lundgren, Fred Lundgren, George Furrer, Cindy Hoskins, John McDonald, Marsha Snyder, Janice Lallathin, and granddaughter Georgia Golic**, who was celebrating her 7th birthday, all were there to give a helping hand. **Pat Williams and Cindy Hoskins** have already stripped and waxed the floor in the Sanctuary and it looks great. The library got a good cleaning along with the foyers and the bathroom off the parish hall. Ceiling fans were cleaned along with the exhaust fan, that we didn't even know we had, in the closet of the parish hall. The blinds were all cleaned. Extra tables and chairs were moved from the parish hall to the closet. The table and chairs that were in the library were moved to the multipurpose room. The library will have more room for moving about and vesting. However, now we need furniture for the library, SO...

If anyone has tables and lamps or a love seat they are no longer using, please let us know. We also need a good working refrigerator for the parish hall kitchen...

Baptisms

2nd Sally Dier
Paige Thomas
Colin Thomas
Sherri Lynn Bell
Chelcey Marie Bell

6th JD Novak
Eleanor Blank

13th Martha Baker

14th Emily Ervin
Kelly Ervin

17th Dani Dier

19th June Marks

21st Frank Seman

Congratulations!

and many happy returns...

Birthdays

1st Amy Neely
2nd Jennifer Golec
Melissa Strainer
3rd Julie Canan
8th Mechele Novak
10th Sandee West
13th Ron Postlethwaite
14th Jim Wichman
18th Judy Watkins
24th Eddie Stewart
25th Cory Conway

Anniversaries

3rd John & Mary Jean McDonald
23rd Steve & Marsha Barna
Dick & Louise Thacker
25th Dutch & Goldie Shriver
27th Jim & Sandee West

Kenyon Summer Conference

God's Story is Worldwide

July 17 to July 22, 2005

Located on the campus of Kenyon College, in Gambier, Ohio. Something for everyone, whether married or single, newborn or octogenarian. Worship, storytelling, music, speakers, workshops, theological reflections, outdoor games, leisurely chats, country expeditions, blissful hours in the bookstore, ice cream, and great people are all a part of the experience.

This year the Kenyon Summer Conference is pleased to have BISHOP KEN CLARKE, Bishop of Kilmore Elphin and Ardagh, Ireland, as its Keynote Speaker. Bishop Ken's Keynote Address each morning: "*The Pebble that became a Rock: The Life and Ministry of Peter.*" Bishop Ken and his wife, Helen, will both be leading workshops.

Registration is available through their web site

<http://www.kenyonconference.org>

or for a registration package by mail, write to:

Registrar, Kenyon Summer Conference
Attention Rev. Carol Callahan,
1846 Blue Sky Park Rd.
Williamsburg, Ohio 45176

*Sponsored by the Bishops
of the Diocese of Ohio
and the Diocese of
Southern Ohio. Open to
people of all faiths.*

Serengeti Trek

Vacation Bible School

August 8-12

6pm to 8pm

Ages 3 and up

Addrianne Conway
Leader

Kelly Postlethwaite
Music

Cory & Ron
Postlethwaite
Games

Things You Always Wanted to Know About Your Church But Were Afraid to Ask

Or...
"BEATTY FUND?"

By
Tim Splinter

Well...finally, here it is. The article on the Beatty Fund, what it is and how it works. I had no idea just what I was letting myself in for. First of all, I need to thank Jim Wichman for pouring through his notes to get me most of this information. I also thank Leslie Thomas, current Beatty Committee chair, for filling in the finer points of the Fund's operation. Second, I'll say that the Fund is far younger than I was aware, at least in its life here at the church. In fact, most of you will have been here during its creation just 12 years ago. But, since some of us weren't and some of us may not have followed the details even if we were, and since I said for months that I would...here is the explanation and history.

(This is a only a summary of the Fund and its operation. I may have simplified some points and I have rounded off most of the dollar figures for easy reading.)

The short answer is easy. The Beatty Fund is an endowment from Mary Helen Beatty to the church. It was begun with an approximately \$500,000 gift from her trust 25 years after her death in 1968, as spelled out in her will. The basic operation of the Fund is that a percentage (5% typically) of the Fund's average value from the previous 3 years is withdrawn for use. Those uses can vary from year to year based on decisions of the Beatty committee and the Vestry, but are to be focused on outreach to the community and improvement of the parish buildings and grounds. Normal operation of the church is not the desired use. Parish members can propose worthy causes in the community to support. The Beatty Committee then chooses from the proposals and decides on the amount to be given. For example, this year we gave to the Boys & Girls Club, the Center of Hope, Family Development Center, Salvation Army, Head Start, and many others. Money to be used for the parish goes into the control of the Vestry. So that's the short answer.

The long answer is quite a bit longer...

Mary Helen Beatty was a member of Grace Church. Details about her are unfortunately scant around the parish now, 37 years later, though I believe I saw an old hymnal or prayer book in the lounge with her name written in it. She died in January of 1968. Her will dictated the creation of a trust fund with 6 beneficiaries, including Grace Church. The trust was to be held for 25 years before being divided evenly among the beneficiaries. I didn't find out what the source of her money was or how much was originally placed into her trust. These might be good topics for further research, but not now.

For reasons now unclear, the trust was not initiated by the executors of the will until 6½ years after her death. This would lead to some disagreement on when the 25 years was to be declared finished.

In March of 1993, Grace Church received a letter from Ms. Beatty's niece, Sara Allison, also a beneficiary of the trust. She requested the support of the other beneficiaries in asking the court to declare the 25 years finished, even though the trust had been started late. The Vestry decided to support this. Then-rector Rev. Bryan Wilburt and Rev. Jim Wichman along with the other beneficiaries and representatives of the bank holding the trust appeared in Portage Co. probate court. Judge Tom Carnes decided in favor of the beneficiaries' request and ordered the distribution of the Trust.

Grace Church formed an Advisory Planning committee to decide what to do with the money. Rev. Wilburt, David Brooks, Eileen Litterell, Alice Kleinhampl, Roberta O'Keefe and Rev. Wichman (Chairman) set out to determine a course of action. There were the inevitable suggestions from some in the parish on how to spend the money and all the things that could be done around the church. But from the outset, the establishment of some sort of ongoing fund was the prudent target.

In Dec. of '93 the committee began a series of meetings with representatives of several possible financial institutions and with P. Thomas Austin, assistant to the Bishop and retired Vice President of the accounting firm Ernst & Ernst. With his valuable input, the committee narrowed in on final answers. Notable among his advice was that the Diocese and the church canons look unfavorably on parishes using such funds for daily operation and that such use tends to lead to problems in future years.

The Vestry and the committee together took several interim actions. Huntington was selected to manage the fund and provide the checking account for operation as the first \$200,000 was received. The \$13,000 mortgage on the church was paid and \$11,000 was directed for remodeling of the kitchen.

In January '94 the remainder of the Trust money was received, bringing the total to a little over \$500,000.

Over the next months, with Mr. Austin's continued help, the committee pursued a complete plan for operating the Fund. The goals were safe and prudent operation along with stewardship and financial security for the parish in the years ahead. Eileen Litterell was the only committee member who knew Ms. Beatty and was instrumental in giving some picture of Ms. Beatty's personality and what her wishes and reactions might have been.

By August of '94 the committee was on its second draft of a plan of operation for the Fund. It was modeled on the policy and guidelines of the Episcopal Church Center for Planned Giving.

In October of '94, the Vestry, the committee and Mr. Austin met to review the 7th draft. Its basic outline was:

- 1) To establish a permanent committee to: operate the Fund and allocate the money to be used each year,
- 2) seek advice as needed on investment and legal matters for the Fund, and
- 3) appoint the Investment Manager (then Huntington Bank).
- 4) To specify the withdrawal and use of 5% of the Rolling Average Balance (*see note at end*) over the previous 3 years for distribution each year.
- 5) To distribute that amount as follows:
 - 5% returned to principal
 - 25% (or more) for Portage Co. outreach
 - 60% (or less) for major capital improvements of the parish
 - 10% (or more) for parish life, evangelism, Christian education, theological education, etc.
- 6) To restrict that the Fund's assets may not be used as collateral on loans.

The 'principal' money of the Fund, which is increased each year as stated in #5 above, can not be withdrawn and used.

Amendment of the plan requires 2/3 approval of the Vestry and 2/3 approval of the entire parish. (*I may be off on this one slightly. The wording in the notes I was given is awkward and I didn't notice in time to get a clarification...*)

Thus, at the Jan. '95 annual meeting, the plan was approved and the Mary Helen Beatty Endowment Fund was finally established. Investment guidelines and policy were finalized the following March.

The Fund Balance as of March 1995 was just over \$506,000.

In December of 1994, the first annual distribution was decided and distributed during 1995. Its beneficiaries included: the Center of Hope, Christian Cupboard, Habitat for Humanity, Mobile Health Clinic, Rav. Ministerial Assoc. Emergency Housing, Safer Futures, Andrew McGihley(sp?) (seminarian), Mission & Ministry, and parish education, along with paying down our loan with the diocese (later waved during the Jubilee year).

Since then, the fund has ridden the roller coaster known as "the market" along with the rest of the country, but overall has grown. The money has moved around to several fund managers before being placed at its current home in the Diocese's Joint Investment Fund. As of the end of the 1st quarter of '05 the balance was about \$635,000 with almost \$516,000 now marked as principal. This year's withdrawal for use was about \$17,000.

Over the years, the portion allocated for Capital Improvements has done some large work around the parish. It is frequently accumulated by the Vestry rather than being completely spent each year. This has allowed for the larger projects, such as our sanctuary renovation of several years ago.

Income from the Fund has not been used to pay the normal operating expenses of the church such as salaries or utilities. One exception did occur just this year. After deliberating and planning last year, it was decided that there needed to be some reserve of money for the treasurer to use to pay the bills should the normal checking account run out. This can happen because donations are not a steady stream, but rather come in monthly and seasonal waves. Many of the bills also come in quarterly or seasonal surges as well. This has become a more threatening issue with the tight budget over the last couple of years. To prepare for this possibility and avoid any problems from unpaid bills, \$6000 was withdrawn from the Beatty fund and set aside as emergency operating money. The objective is to put money back into this reserve if any is used, but in hard times that would of course prove hard to do. The Vestry will need to decide at the end of each year how to proceed if the reserve can't be repaid back to \$6000 from normal donations.

So there you have it. The Beatty Fund in a rather larger-than-I-intended nutshell. It has certainly proved a wonderful gift from Ms. Beatty and one we are very privileged and honored to have. It has already had a telling effect on our parish in its first 10 years and hopefully on the community of Portage County that much of it goes to help.

-Tim Splinter

So what is 'rolling average balance'?

Simply stated, it is the average of the last 12 quarter balances. That's three years worth of quarterly statements. Add up the balances from each and divide by 12. Bingo, the 3 year Rolling Average Balance. So, it's an average balance over a suitably long period time to keep from being affected by quick rises or falls just before the year's calculations are to be done.

From this average balance figure, 5% (or one 20th) is withdrawn for use. Then 5% of THAT amount is put back into the Fund and is now part of the principal. Withdrawals can not touch the principal. That means that if the fund isn't gaining at least 5% a year on average, or indeed might be losing money in bad times, the withdrawal would be less than 5% of the Rolling Average Balance. It could even be zero if the Fund were really losing money quickly.

With just this possibility in mind, during the recent years of low return on the investment the committee has recommended to withdraw only 3% of the Rolling Average Balance to insure that the fund balance is not pushed down near the reserved 'principal' balance.

July

The Grace Vine

2005

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
31 11 Pentecost •8am HE •9am Coffee •10am HE •11:15 Coffee					1	2
3 7 Pentecost •8am HE •9am Coffee •10am HE •11:15 Coffee & July 4th Celebration	4 Independence Day •Office Closed	5	6 •10-2 Gracie's Back Door	7 •7pm Youth Group Meeting	8	9
10 8 Pentecost •8am HE •9am Coffee •10am HE+Special Youth event •11:15 Coffee	11	12	13 •10-2 Gracie's Back Door	14	15 •10-2 County Clothing Center •Grace Vine deadline	16
17 9 Pentecost •8am HE •9am Coffee •10am HE •11:15 Coffee	18	19 •7pm Vestry Meeting	20 •10-2 Gracie's Back Door	21 •8am Retired Men's Breakfast	22	23
24 10 Pentecost •8am HE •9am Coffee •10am HE •11:15 Coffee	25 •Marsha Snyder on vacation	26 •Marsha Snyder on vacation	27 •10-2 Gracie's Back Door •Marsha Snyder on vacation	28	29	30 •J.A.M. 10am-1pm for 4-7 yrs old, 3pm-5am for 8 yrs & up