



# The Grace Vine

February 2021

## Rector's Writ

Ash Wednesday is already on the doorstep. We're planning an online recorded service for that day (more info after the following quote). The anonymous words below were found written on the tomb of an Anglican Bishop in the Crypts of Westminster Abbey in England. They hold some relevance, not only regarding common concerns for our nation and families, but regarding the examination of our lives we're called to do as part of the Ash Wednesday liturgy AND keeping a faithful Lent.

"When I was young and free and my imagination had no limits, I dreamed of changing the world. As I grew older and wiser, I discovered the world would not change, so I shortened my sights somewhat and decided to change only my country. But it, too, seemed immovable.

As I grew into my twilight years, in one last desperate attempt, I settled for changing only my family, those closest to me, but alas, they would have none of it.

And now, as I lie on my deathbed, I suddenly realize: *if I had only changed myself first, then by example I would have changed my family.*

From their inspiration and encouragement, I would then have been able to better my country and, who knows, I may have even changed the world."

### **ONLINE ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY, FEB. 17**

*An online Ash Wednesday service will be recorded and made available via Youtube for February 17th. We'll be sending the link to those on our e-mail list. We're planning to add a prayer over the ashes that any member may use. You can then administer ashes to your forehead, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Bishop Hollingsworth reminded us that a prayer (not a blessing) is said over the ashes on this day. People may use ashes from a fireplace, from a piece of dry palm branch, etc. We do have some palm branches from last year, quite dry, and would be glad to provide you with a small clip from those to burn and use for ashes if needed. Please call the office and let us know if you'd like to drop by (masked) and pick the clipping up, if you'd like it mailed to you, or dropped off at your house. No one HAS to do this. It's offered so those who find the imposition of ashes to be a meaningful part of worship on Ash Wednesday may have that available, in spite of our being unable to gather. We hope each of you has a meaningful, faithful Lent, with God's blessings and direction.*



Carol+





# Did You Know?...



Well, Christmas went by the way of Easter, no services. However **Doug Holtzschuh** made a wonderful video of the Christmas Eve service, I hope you didn't miss it. So many people to thank for making such a lovely service available to us and they include: Doug Holtzschuh for producing the video with some real creativity (including pictures provided by **Shirley Johnson**, adding recorded music and anthems, adding lyrics for the carols); **Nancy Lundgren and Cathy Potisuk** for setting up the crèche in front of the altar, putting wreaths on the windows and front doors, hanging the Christmas banner, and setting up the altar for the Eucharist; **Martha & Jeff Croll and Marcia & Tim Splinter**, organist **Tim Lewicki & wife Yuka** recorded two anthems. Tim L. played a lovely prelude and traditional Christmas carols, and he and Martha Croll on the guitar played a beautiful rendition of Silent Night. (We hope everyone was singing from home!) **Kingsland Pretorius** helped with video reviews and proofing right up through the last edits and tweaks. We were blessed with a wonderful sermon by **Rev. Carol** as well as the talents of many members who worked hard to put the service together. Thanks to **Nancy & Fred Lundgren and Marsha Snyder** for taking the wreaths down, hanging the Epiphany banner, and getting everything put away. We hope everyone had a save and happy holiday in spite of the pandemic! ...

**Bette Brooks** reports that daughter **Caroline** and her family are finally back in the States and will be moving back into their home on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Daughter **Amanda**, who works for ESPN, got to attend the Ohio State/Alabama game in the press box. It wasn't much of a game for Ohio State, but number two in the national college football league isn't a bad place to be and...they didn't have to play Michigan...

The Bell sisters, better known as **Nancy Ervin, Cindy Ward, and Janet Hughes** were finally able get out and have lunch together. It was wonderful to

see each other and share like sisters always do. Their family has had several cases of COVID, however everyone has recovered and all are doing well. Thanks be to God...

**Laurie Barney** enjoyed Christmas with her daughter **Caitlin** and her family. It was especially fun watching grandson **George** enjoying his Christmas! After all, grandchildren and young children are what it's all about. They're still believers...

**Sue Ahrens** has been babysitting her 5 month old great grandson once a week. I'm sure once a week is just enough time to enjoy him and see how much he's changed...

And speaking of great grandchildren, **Doris Whipple** describes her 9 month old great grandson **Graham** as wonderful and a big boy; she can hardly pick him up; but I'll bet she does pick him up and give him all the loving he can take...

Keep **Fred Lundgren** in your prayers. He's having surgery as I write this and we pray the surgery has good results and Fred has a speedy recovery...

The office received a letter from **Laurie Thompson**, the mother of **Gordon** (who joined the choir while he was a student at Kent State, and his family were parishioners of **David Canan** in New Jersey). She let us know that Gordon is living in Midland Michigan where he is the senior producer at WNEM TV NEWS in Saginaw. He's now married, and he and his wife **Elizabeth** have fostered and are now parents of 19 year old **Nate**. In 2020 they began fostering a 17 year old boy, and Laurie says they are enjoying their family...

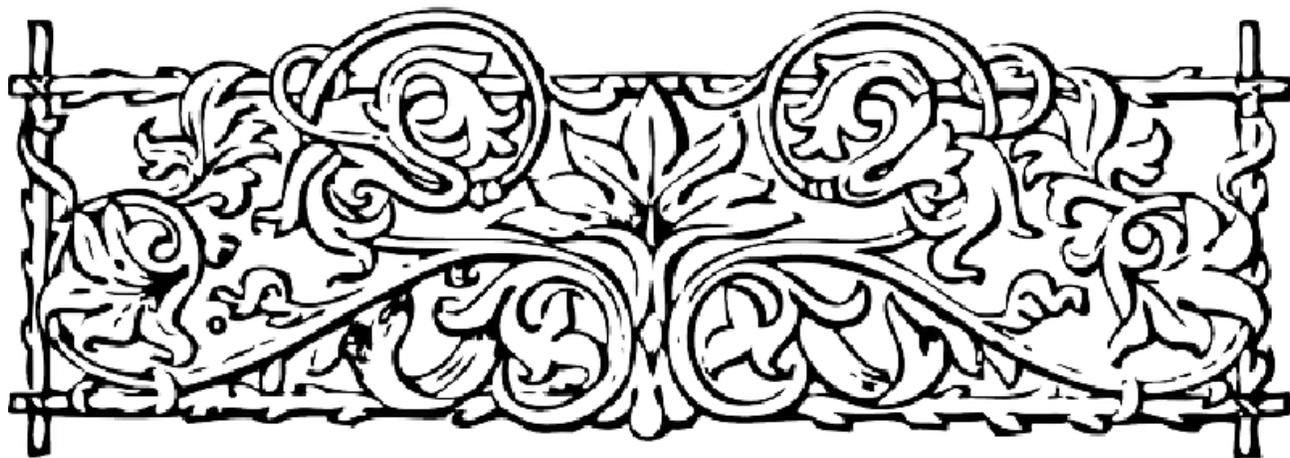
Well, as you can tell not much is new around here with the church closed, so I'm leaving you with a little item called "12 Things to Consider" sent to me by our past organist **Mary Ann Switz**. I think you'll enjoy it – I know I did.

*(continued on next page)*

Here are 12 things to consider as we close the door on 2020.

1. The dumbest thing I ever bought was a 2020 planner.
2. I was so bored I called Jake from State Farm just to talk to someone. He asked me what I was wearing.
3. 2019: Stay away from negative people. 2020: Stay away from positive people.
4. The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house and their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors!
5. This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her dog. It was obvious she thought her dog understood her. I came into my house and told my cat. We laughed a lot.
6. Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
7. Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands?
8. This virus has done what no woman has been able to do. Cancel sports, shut down all bars and keep men at home!
9. I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6-foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!
10. I need to practice social distancing from the refrigerator.
11. I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to the backyard. I'm getting tired of the living room.
12. Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go to a bank teller wearing a mask and asking for money.

I hope you enjoyed this as much as I did. We need a good laugh once in a while. I'm hoping with the vaccine we'll all be able to be back in church to



### Birthdays

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dale Espey
- 14<sup>th</sup> Tim Lewicki
- 15<sup>th</sup> Yuka Lewicki
- 16<sup>th</sup> Nancy Lundgren
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Luke Kearsey
- 27<sup>th</sup> Larry Allison
- 29<sup>th</sup> Fred Lundgren

## Congratulations!



### Baptisms

- 11<sup>th</sup> Nancy Ervin
- 14<sup>th</sup> Emily Summy

# The Bulletin Board



## **CHANGE IN CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

For those who may not know, Grace Church office hours have changed. The office is open **10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.**

With all that's going on, please know that the diocese has a way to continue giving directly to the parishes online (with no fees or other deductions) if you're not coming in person.

[dohio.org/designate-a-gift-to-your-parish](http://dohio.org/designate-a-gift-to-your-parish)

If you have questions, contact Marcia Splinter  
[marcia@splinterfactions.net](mailto:marcia@splinterfactions.net)

## **Bible Study**

Missing Bible Study? Come join us every Sunday at 4:00 p.m. for a study on the lectionary readings for that day. Just let Carolyn Englert know and she can sign you up. We meet using Zoom, a very easy app to learn to use, on your computer or tablet. Her phone is 330.527.4888 and she will walk you through it.

## **Winter Convocation Online Workshops**

Several of our parishioners have attended the diocesan Winter Convocation before, and it is offered this year, although in an online format. Since worship services are always help at the gathering, Bishop Hollingsworth will have a prerecorded sermon available for parish use on Feb. 7th and Feb. 14th. Anyone interested in the nightly workshops (each one held at 7pm, Monday Feb. 8th through Friday, Feb. 12th) can review what's offered and pre-register, which is required. For more information and a registration link, please go to [www.dohio.org/convocation](http://www.dohio.org/convocation). Registration closes Feb. 4th.

## Annual Meeting Postponed to April 18, 2021

Given the Covid concerns and the fact that in person worship and gatherings are not permitted, the vestry has postponed our Annual Parish Meeting until Sunday, April 18th. We're hoping by then to be able to gather, review reports and other business, approve the 2021 budget, and elect vestry members (if we don't opt for a streamlined meeting by electronic means before then). We currently have 3 people willing to serve on vestry for 3 open positions. If you want to ('informally,' given the circumstances) nominate someone to run for vestry, please be sure to have their consent, then contact the rector or Senior Warden Midge Myers with the name as soon as possible and before Feb. 8th, 2021. We appreciate your patience with the changes brought about by suspended worship and gatherings.

## Thank You! Thank You!

Our thanks and appreciation to all those who serve and help out at Grace Church in so many ways, including:

- **Doug Holzschuh** for livestreaming and recording Sunday worship services; and for his time & skills to overseeing our switch to Spectrum internet & phone, and installing an extra router to make the most of the increased internet speed for current and future use.
- **Amir Amiruzzaman** for doing the cost comparisons, getting technical info, then setting up installation with Spectrum once vestry approved the change
- **Bill Snyder** for his liturgical help in services each week
- **Carolyn Englert** for leading a Bible study on the Sunday readings each week, and for **Bette Brooks, Michelle McLaughlin, Marsha Snyder, and Kingsland Pretorius**, who all participate in that. Thanks to Kingsland for providing the Zoom service.
- **Tim Lewicki** for providing organ music for the online services
- **Marsha Snyder** for setting up for Communion and for making and e-mailing the Sunday bulletins to members who worship online
- **John McDonald** for doing some major repairs to get the snow blower running again;
- Thanks to **John and Mike Johnson** for loading and unloading the snow blower to have on hand and for getting the old one unloaded & back in place once repaired
- **Marcia Splinter** for the extra load of work she does as treasurer this time of year
- **Tim Splinter** for consistent & quality work he does on the Grace Vine each month
- **Bette Brooks** for providing informative and interesting write ups on saints from the church calendar (and saints known from life) for the Grace Vine
- **Shirley & Mike Johnson** for the soup & cookie ministry they provide each month...even delivering to people at home.
- **Cathy Potisuk and Marsha Snyder** for creating the lovely greenery arrangements in the Memorial Garden

# *Fathers (and Mothers) and Friends*

By Bette Brooks

*They lived not only in ages past; there are hundreds of thousands still.  
The world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus' will.*

**Thomas Bray (1656/1658—2/15/1730)**

**February 15**

Thomas Bray was born in Marton, Shropshire (England) and educated at Oswestry School before attending Oxford University. He earned a BA in 1678 (from All Souls College of the University) and an MA in 1693. Upon graduation he became a parish priest and personal chaplain to nobility in the Midlands. He also wrote a book on the catechism and planned several more volumes. The book sold well and, at the request of the Bishop of London, he completed the work for the Bachelor of Divinity and Doctor of Divinity degrees December 17, 1696 at Magdalen College of the University; however, he was unable to pay the graduation fees and the degrees were never officially awarded.

Upon completion of his studies, the Bishop of London appointed Thomas to organize the Church of England parishes in the colony of Maryland. Many parishes were already in existence but they were poorly led and disorganized. Thomas spent only ten weeks in the colony in 1699, but he radically re-organized and renewed the Church there, providing for the instruction of children and the systematic examination of candidates for pastoral positions. He founded thirty-nine lending libraries and numerous schools. Both in Maryland and upon his return to England, he wrote and preached in defense of the rights of enslaved Africans, and of Native Americans deprived of their land. Back in England, he worked for the reform of prison conditions, and for the establishment of preaching missions to prisoners. He persuaded General Oglethorpe to found an American colony (Georgia) for the settlement of debtors as an alternative to debtors' prison. He founded a missionary society, the SPG (Society for the Propagation of the Gospel) in 1701 and an educational and publishing society, the SPCK (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge) in 1698, both of which are still active today.

In 1706 he accepted the position of rector of St. Botolph's, Aldgate, a London parish. Thomas spent the last decades of his life teaching the catechism to charity children and working with prisoners at Newgate Prison, focusing on prison reform. He became seriously ill in 1723 and, fearful that his work among enslaved Africans and Native Americans would lapse, he formed a group of "associates" to succeed him. This group, known as Doctor Bray's Associates, continue to publish an annual report of their activities. He died February 15, 1730. The University of Maryland's Special Collections houses many of his papers, and this modest man is credited with the first major coordinated effort to establish libraries in the New World.

## **PRAYER (contemporary language)**

O God of compassion, who opened the eyes of your servant Thomas Bray to see the needs of the Church in the New World, and led him to found societies to meet those needs: Make the Church in this land diligent at all times to propagate the Gospel among those who have not received it, and to promote the spread of Christian knowledge; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



## The Grace Vine

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## Get your Grace Vine By Email!

The Grace Vine is available as an Adobe PDF file. You can request to receive it by email each month and we will stop making a paper copy for you, saving time and paper (and perhaps postage too)! Back issues are all available on the website, GraceRavenna.org.

If you would like to take advantage of this, send me an email at [grwebmaster@graceravenna.org](mailto:grwebmaster@graceravenna.org). Please consider the paper copy and have it read rather than save the paper and postage and have it go unread.

### Grace Episcopal Church of Ravenna

The Rev. Carol Evans—Rector  
The Rev. William Snyder  
Marsha Snyder—Secretary  
Tim Lewicki—Organist  
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The Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church  
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