



The Grace Vine

March 2021

Rector's Writ

Who would have thought the changes brought about by the Coronavirus would last this long. In March 2020 the bishop suspended all in person worship until further notice. Last spring our options for Holy Week and Easter services were referred to Trinity Cathedral, the National Cathedral, or other choices that offered (or got prepared to offer) worship services online. Doug Holzschuh gave a lot of time and resources to getting our worship services online and continues providing livestream and recorded services each week. We continue e-mailing bulletins and sermon texts to members at home. Once the first suspension was lifted, we gathered--with masks, distancing, and disinfecting--from June 7th until December 6th. The next suspension of in person worship and gatherings began December 13th 'until further notice,' which may go beyond Easter. So, we're in the planning phase of Holy Week and Easter 2021, given the current restrictions, and we'll rely on the faith and creativity of our volunteers willing to help. Also the Ravenna Ministerial Alliance is planning an ecumenical recorded Good Friday service to provide an opportunity for community fellowship.

It's a given that COVID-19 concerns and struggles to get vaccinated continue. Yet that doesn't have to prevent us from keeping a faithful Lent, observing Holy Week, and celebrating Christ's resurrection on Easter, the high holy day of the year. Easter is the celebration of God's grace gifted to us in Jesus' life and resurrection. At Easter we remember the vast power of holy love: God's love for us; Christ's love for the Father; Christ's love for us...all of us. No disease, disaster or division is greater than the love, grace, and redemption God provides in Christ Jesus. And in spite of any restrictions, we will find ways to celebrate Easter: together by Spirit; together by love and joy.

A blessed Lent, Holy Week, and Easter to you and yours.

Carol+

"We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. (BCP p. 281, Good Friday liturgy)

*"How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord."
(BCP p. 287, The Great Vigil of Easter, Exsultet)*

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." (John 3:16-17)





Did You Know?...



We are now in the middle of the winter of our discontent. (Sorry, Shakespeare) We've had to deal with two major storms coming through our area with a lot of ice and snow; schools closed or only on line; power outages; ongoing mask wearing and worry about getting Covid; trying to keep ourselves and family safe; speaking to friends and family only on the phone, by texting, facetime, or on line; being without personal contact; and not being able to attend church. This is certainly one for the history books. They will be writing about this for years to come. What was done right and what was done wrong and of course the big one – who's to blame! On a happier note: the Covid vaccinations are now being given to first responders, medical personnel, school teachers, and us old folks. And the death rate is beginning to decline. Hopefully the rest of the nation will receive the vaccinations soon and we will be able to get back to our "normal" lives. Whatever that means. But, Covid or no Covid, life still goes on...

Kathy & Bill Summy announced their daughter **Emily** is now engaged, as is **Bill and Marsha Snyder's granddaughter Ellie** (with no wedding any time soon for Ellie)...

And speaking of weddings **Shirley & Mike Johnson** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on January 28th. Their daughter **Susan**, who lives in California, didn't have the opportunity to be with them as she would have normally, but she certainly made every effort to make this occasion very special for her parents. With the help of some friends (one of them included **Kathy Summy**) Susan had sixty balloons and flowers delivered, sent them to a steak dinner and had a cake delivered to them. The last time Shirley mentioned the balloons she said 40 were still inflated. Yikes! What do you do with 40 balloons? Well, you give some of them away and enjoy the rest! ...

Sue and Bruce Ahrens' grandson, John Sherwood, has been learning to fly, and he was very excited to have his first solo flight. His sister **Morgan** is liking college in Florida, where she can enjoy the weather and study with friends on the beach...

Courtney and Phil Rich report that daughter **Maggie** is now gainfully employed. This teenager is

enjoying her first job, and after her back surgery last fall she is doing well. And their eldest son **Gerry** is graduating from high school this year and just began his first job at Drug-Mart. Looks like their mom and dad will be doing some serious carpooling duties these days...

Marcia and Tim Splinter are once more empty nesters. Sons **Eric and Kevin** are now back in their college dorms and doing well. The Splinters were saddened to have to put down their Irish wolfhound and their cat Furby. It has not been a good month for the Splinters. But it didn't take them long to get a new puppy. When Marcia sent the pictures to the office all she said was "Isn't she cute!" and yes she is! And she's going to another big one! She's 30 lbs already at just over 3 months...

The church office received a call from a member of **Goldie Shriver's** family, and they said Goldie is in need of a lift chair. If anyone has one they no longer use or need, please let the church office know...

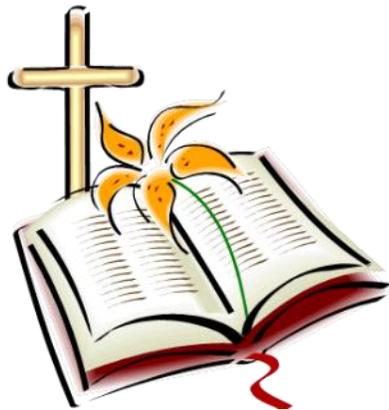
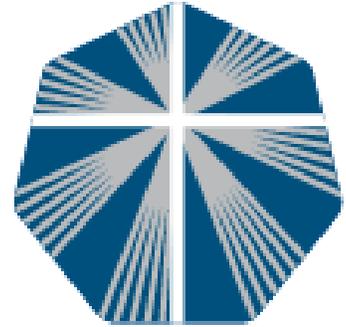
Fred Lundgren recently had surgery and he reports he's doing fine. Thanks be to God!...

We were saddened by the death of **Billy T. Johnson** on Feb. 15th. Billy and his brother **Mike** are lifelong members of Grace Church, both born and raised here in Ravenna. Billy had a very interesting life. He had four children, 10 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren. He served his country in both the Army and Air Force. He was an architectural draftsman and taught drafting at Maplewood. He was a mail carrier, and a police officer in Streetsboro. He studied martial arts and taught them as well. You wouldn't think you could get that all in one life time but Billy certainly did. He will be missed. We also offer condolences to **Amy & Jim Neely** and their family. Amy's sister, **Carol Fesemyer Rudlosky** died on Feb. 16 after a brave battle with Multiple Myeloma. Please keep the Neely family and Amy's sister Carol's family in your prayers.

Lenten Study

We're holding a Lenten study that we hope will encourage time for reflection as well as a bit of electronic or phone fellowship. We're using the Forward Day by Day meditations and listed readings (available in the church office and online). Each person will be assigned a "partner," whom they'll contact once a week to discuss the readings, and/or practices suggested after each meditation. The contact may be by Zoom, face time, e-mail or telephone...whatever program you choose to use.

Insights from your readings and partner 'conversations' may be sent to either Carolyn Englert or Rev. Carol by e-mail so they can then be shared with the group. Our first week begins Feb. 24th, but this is all flexible enough that people can still join. Any questions, please e-mail or call Carolyn Englert (pindollady@gmail.com or 330.527.4888) or the rector (revcarol@graceravenna.org or 330.296.3443).



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.

Birthdays

- 1st Bette Brooks
- 4th Lisa Marsh
- 6th Cherry Monegan
- 10th Eli Stover
- 11th Madison Ahrens
Doug Holzschuh
- 14th Amanda Brooks
Beverly Brooks
Carol Marotta
Shala Kearsey
Noah Crouse
- 22nd George Furrer
- 29th Aleo Amiruzzam:



Congratulations!

and many happy returns...



Anniversaries

- 24th Bud & Janet Hughes
- 29th Dennis & Sally Dier



Baptisms

- 11th Beth Dier
- 18th Joan Seman
- 25th Mary Jean McDonald
- 31st Kay Canan
Aleo Amiruzzaman

The Bulletin Board

Thank You From Mike & Shirley Johnson

Mike & Shirley Johnson want to thank everyone for the love and prayers following their brother Billy's passing. Thank you for all the cards, notes, and food; thanks to those Grace Church members who attended the funeral, and to Rev. Carol for her kind and lovely words. They appreciate the prayers and support of their Grace Church family (and we appreciate the prayers and thoughtful things Shirley & Mike are constantly doing for our church family).

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 live streaming and recording services while in person worship is suspended
- Bill Snyder for his help with worship each Sunday
- Altar Guild for their continued service
- Each chairperson who sent in their Annual Meeting reports
- Jim Ervin for keeping the walks and parking lots clear of snow
- Marsha Snyder for e-mailing the bulletins each week (and for extra time and patience during Parochial Report stress)
- Tim and Marcia Splinter for once again "fixing" the secretary's computer problems
- Marcia Splinter for being a great treasurer, especially at Parochial Report time
- Our faithful members who continue to support the church with your pledges
- All those who pray for our Grace Church family and for Grace Church

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 Ken (1637—March 19, 1711)

March 20

Thomas Ken was born in 1637 and was raised by his half-sister Anne and her husband the well-known angler Izaak Walton. He became a clergyman and served for a year at The Hague as chaplain to Princess Mary, niece of King Charles II of England and the wife of the ruling Dutch prince, William of Orange. During this year, he publicly rebuked William for his treatment of his wife—which may explain his short tenure. Upon his return to England, he became Royal Chaplain to King Charles. The King had a mistress, Nell Gwyn, and for his convenience, the king wanted to lodge her in his chaplain's residence. Thomas sent the king a sharp refusal on the grounds that it was not suitable that the Royal Chaplain double as the Royal Pimp. Fortunately, Charles admired his honesty and bluntness and when the Bishopric of Bath and Wells became available, he declared, "None shall have it but that little man who refused lodging to poor Nellie!" Ken was made a bishop and when Charles was on his deathbed, it was Ken whom he asked to be with him and prepare him for death.

Under the new king James II (Charles' brother), things were very different. James converted to Roman Catholicism, the religion of his mother, and political turmoil followed. James issued a decree known as the Declaration of Indulgence which proclaimed that various public offices, formerly open only to Anglicans, should thereafter be open to all persons. Parliament remembered the days of the last Catholic monarch, "Bloody" Mary I, and feared that the King would appoint large numbers of Roman Catholics to positions of power and eventually transfer to them the control of the government. When the King commanded the bishops to proclaim the Declaration of Indulgence, seven of them refused to do so and were by the King's command imprisoned in the Tower of London. The people of London rioted and the bishops were freed and carried in triumph through the streets of the city. James fled and Parliament offered the crown to the King's daughter Mary and her husband William of Orange (see above).

William and Mary naturally began their reign by demanding oaths of allegiance from all persons holding public positions, including bishops. Ken and others refused on the grounds that they had sworn allegiance to James as King and could not swear allegiance to another monarch during his lifetime without making such oaths a mockery. They were accordingly put out of office.

As a side note, the bishops of Scotland also refused the oath and William and Mary retaliated by disestablishing the Church in Scotland and making the Presbyterians the official state church there instead. Therefore, we have in Scotland today the Kirk of Scotland (established Presbyterian Church), the Episcopal Kirk of Scotland (the "free" Anglican Church of Scotland), and various "wee free" churches meaning they are small and have no ties to the government.

Ken became a private tutor and spent the rest of his life in retirement. He died March 19, 1711. During his lifetime he was known for his books of sermons. Today, however, he is best known for several hymns, including our Doxology.

Prayer: Almighty God, who gave to your servant Thomas Ken grace and courage to bear witness to the truth before rulers and kings: Give us strength also that, following his example, we may constantly defend what is right, boldly reprove what is evil, and patiently suffer for the truth's sake, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever. Amen.



The Grace Vine

Grace Episcopal Church
250 W. Cedar St.
Ravenna OH 44266

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. 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
Martha Croll—Choirmaster

Phone: 330-296-3443
Web Site: www.graceravenna.org
Email: revcarol@graceravenna.org

The Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church
Midge Meyers(2020)
Fred Lundgren(2020)
Barb Popiel(2020)
Phillip Crouse(2021)
Phillip Rich(2022)
Amir Amruzaman(2022)
Cathy Pottusk(2022)