



The Grace Vine

May 2020

Rector's Writ

Many thanks to all our members who continue to be faithful in worship and prayer and supportive of Grace Church. It sounds as though the suspension of worship services and non-essential meetings will continue for now, from what Bishop Hollingsworth states in his letter. We've included a copy so everyone can read it and be aware of some of the challenges and ongoing concerns facing the church. We ALL miss gathering for worship, communion, and fellowship. We also want to do everything possible not to expose our members to the hazards of the coronavirus.

We're sending bulletins and sermons by e-mail to those who've provided the office with an e-mail address. Many of our members continue to pray for our Grace Church family, those on our intercession list, and for the world in this rather disturbing time. Our vestry continues to meet, mostly via e-mails. We've taken advantage of a very low interest loan (part of which may be forgiven) to help with payroll and utilities, so that all our employees continue to be paid. One point of making funds available to non-profits and small businesses was to keep people employed. We don't know yet how the Covid-19 concerns will impact worship, giving, and gathering in the ways that have been familiar and comfortable. Yet whatever the new normal will be, we'll figure it out. We'll manage. We know the goodness and power of the Holy One in whom we trust. We'll explore different ways to worship the Lord we love. We'll explore different ways to serve, to gather with and be connected to our church family and the people we love. We'll keep praying for and caring for each other. May we do this with God's help, to God's glory, and the benefit of His people.

Carol+





Did You Know?...



Well these are very interesting times we're living in. It reminds me of one of my favorite songs; Turn, Turn, Turn sung by the 70's rock group The Birds, written by Pete Seiger, and inspired by the book of Ecclesiastes---you remember: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." I guess this is our season for changes and how we manage the changes will determine how successful we'll be. But our lives have certainly changed. Our generation doesn't remember a time when disease ravaged our country and the world; but it has happened before and it will probably happen again. And I'm sure God has a plan for us. Maybe it's to spend more time with your family, spouse, and the dog (who's so happy you're home), or just to be quiet. Maybe it's time to think about your neighbor or friend and keep in touch by social media or just a phone call to find out how everyone's doing. Maybe it's time to clean out that closet you've been wanting to get to; or to read that book you've had on your shelf; to get some spring cleaning done – or not. Maybe it's time to pick up that Prayer Book and/or Bible that's been laying on your desk and do a little reading and studying. Pick up a puzzle, play a game or cards. A lot of things have changed and we at least try to adapt. As Christians we pray for those who are sick due to Covid-19; those who mourn for loved ones and friends who've died; those who've suffered loss of jobs and livelihood; for those who work in hospitals or nursing homes; and for parents who have their children home all day until at least September. Who knows what our future will look like? Who would have thought that washing your hands for twenty seconds and wearing a face mask and gloves would be part of our daily routine? But it is! And for those who have to be at work, it's time to be more aware of our surroundings; aware of what we do and who we see and how dangerous it is to be less than six feet away from coworkers. Social distancing is important to observe wherever we are. Staying away from our family and friends is so difficult. Using social media to keep in touch just isn't the same as a face to face visit...

Our teachers **Amir Amiruzzaman** at KSU; **Martha Croll** at Cleveland Central Catholic; and **Caitlin Barney-Fritsch** at Crestwood have all been working with their students on line. I'm sure that's

been very challenging for both the teachers and the students and probably very time consuming as well. Martha Croll's mother is in a nursing home and although they aren't able to spend time with her, she's doing well. **Roberta O'Keefe** feels blessed to see **Lloyd** twice a day, a visit through the window. It's a real treat when they get an occasional 'face time visit' on an I-Pad, with an employee in the room to help make that work. Life is different...

The good news is that we haven't heard of any member of the church being sick with the Covid-19 and we are staying in contact with one another. We do miss each other because this is a family...maybe a little dysfunctional at times, but what family isn't?!...

We were happy to hear that **Dan and Lynn Francois** are back from Florida. Lynn said the trip was very nice because there weren't many cars on the road, but for those going into Florida there was a long line because every car was being checked. And who would have thought that gasoline would be under two dollars and twenty cents a gallon. Out of everything bad comes something good, I guess!...

Thanks to **Sue Ahrens and Kathy Summy** who made masks for some parishioners and delivered them...

Thanks to **Mike and Shirley Johnson** who have been taking food to parishioners...

Thanks to those who have been sending in their pledges even though there isn't a church service. Many thanks to our treasurer, **Marcia Splinter**, who, with vestry approval, successfully applied for a CARES Act low interest loan (and perhaps partial grant) for churches and non-profits through the SBA. She may be working on another, more complicated one IF congress okays more funding. We're grateful for comments from parishioners who receive the weekly sermon and bulletin so they have those in hand as they view online live streamed or video taped worship services from various churches. A special thank you to **Tim Splinter** who gave us the step by step instructions for converting the bulletin (a Publisher document) to a PDF document so people could read it. As Tim put it, 'most of the known world' can't download Publisher documents on their computer, so we appreciate his help to make that conversion. We do have many things—and many helpful, devoted members—to be thankful for.

Intercessions

Some of our members are faithful and intentional to pray for those on our intercession list, especially when we know people are recovering from major surgery, taking chemo, or facing other kinds of health issues. Many of us know how much your prayers mean to people, and we believe prayer does make a difference. Lord knows we have a wide range of people, concerns, and matters to pray for and about. We're grateful that God hears all our prayers and grateful for all of you who pray for others and for our Grace Church family. We give thanks that Tim Splinter's home after major surgery and pray for a speedy and complete recovery. We pray that Jack Sarver's chemo will go well, with minimum side effects, and that it will have good results.

Intercessions: We pray for those who are ill including: Barb Albert, Debbie Appleyard, Geoff Appleyard, Teresa & Grayling Babcock, Phillip Bailey, Danielle Ballou, Rick Basta, Margaret & Matt Bauman, Martha Benek, Bill Bilyj, Daniel Blondale, Fred & Marilyn Bode, Jim & Candace Bode, Jeanne Bolen, Bette Brooks, Robert Cabot, Sarah Chadima, Brenda Chiassin, Sophia Christian, Jeff Croll, April Davis, Jeff & Pearl Davis, Rhys Davis, LaRee Devine, Sally & Dennis Dier and family, Julie Dyson, Denise Earley, Maynard Evans, Kay Easterday, Shirley Farmer, the Foresti family, Dan Francois, Rose Gee, Glen Godfrey, Bill Gray, Pat Griffith, Elaine Gump, Judy Ham, Barbara Heeter, Christal Heiney, Bud Hughes, Sally Johnson, Jim Kraus, Karen Krofta, Irene & Forrest Lashley, David & Marla Love, Suzie Lundgren, Jennifer Mashburn, Pat Mauk, Marian Maxfield, Aubree McDermitt and family, Mary Jean McDonald, David Miller & Alex Wroblewski, Steve Minnich, John Monegan, Kim Monegan, Stella Mullins, Sally Nitz, Lloyd & Roberta O'Keefe, Olivia Orland, Chester Parsons, Ashley Polak, Dalton Remesnik, Pamela Robbins, David Sapin, Jack Sarver, Joni Schafer, John Paul Seman, Tom Shanley, Zach Shaver, Diane Shenal, Erin Shetler, Goldie Shriver, Jan & Dan Shriver, Jerry & Tracy Shriver, Gary Silvernarl, Tim Splinter, Seth & Cyrus Sumpster, Victoria Thamer, Pamela & Steve Ulosevich, Elizabeth Ward, Marybeth Wilet, Deanna Williamson, Winner & Prosper Yallah, Katherine, Connie, Jackie, Annie and her family, Jennie, Karen & Kirk, Vicky, Bonnie, Steve, Jerry, Cathy, Tom, Rich, Steve, Karen, Naomi, Melanie, Bob, Jack & Carol, David, Lynn, Maggie, Alicia, Rhae, Virgil, India, Rhonda, Darrell, Leslie Ann, and Talon.

Birthdays

- 3rd Carolyn Englert
Tim Splinter
- 4th Laurel Brooks
- 5th Phillip Crouse
- 6th Charles Parsons
- 15th Midge Myers
- 16th Marsha Snyder
- 22nd Gerry Rich
- 23rd Eleanor Blank
- 26th Ken Englert
- 27th Joan Seman

Congratulations!

and many happy returns...



Anniversaries

- 1st Bill & Marsha Snyder
- 17th Tim & Yuka Lewicki



Baptisms

- 11th Kathy Summy
- 13th Nancy Lundgren
- 18th Amanda Brooks
Beverly Brooks
- 20th Paige Paxton
- 28th Marcia Splinter





A Pastoral Letter from the Bishop
Friday, April 24, 2020

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

First and most importantly, please know that each of you and those you love are in my prayers daily. My appreciation and admiration for all you are doing to remain connected pastorally and spiritually with one another, and with the communities you continue to serve so faithfully, is without end. The lay and clergy leadership exhibited during this challenging time is encouraging and inspiring, and every day there are reports of the difference you are making within and beyond your congregations. How you are living through this pandemic and its consequences witnesses powerfully to the resurrection of Jesus.

With Governor DeWine's announcement of a three-phased "reopening" plan scheduled to begin on May 1, we are all imagining how it might inform our own decisions about our common life, work, and worship as the body of Christ. As the descriptions and directives of Phase 1 continue to emerge, it is clear that what we are currently doing is in accordance with both the federal and state guidelines. While religious institutions have been excluded from the ban on gatherings of a certain size in Ohio, our Christian responsibility to the safety and security of others mandates that we err on the side of caution and adhere to what medical and scientific professionals define as best practices.

Those of us who have family members who have contracted COVID-19, and that includes me, are painfully aware of how vulnerable all of us are to this virus, and that, moving forward, our vigilance must not be compromised, especially for the sake of those who are most susceptible. Thirty-five percent of communicants in The Episcopal Church are 65 years old or older. Two thirds are 50 or older. It would reasonably follow, therefore, that half of our communicants should continue to shelter in place at least through Phase 2. As well, schools and organized youth activities are directed to remain closed through Phase 1. With this guidance, and a clear understanding of our moral and gospel responsibility to act first for the benefit of others, all congregations of the Diocese of Ohio will continue the suspension of public worship until further notice.

Most of us had imagined, for some time at least, that on a particular date and time, perhaps of our own choosing, we would be able to gather as we have in the past and celebrate in a grateful and triumphant way our victory over, or at least survival of, the novel coronavirus. We are seeing now that our emergence, if not out of this, at least in to what lies ahead, will be less precise and more humble. As a society used to a high expectation of certainty, we are being challenged and called to live into greater ambiguity and at a yet undetermined cost.

I know how hard this is, particularly for those who yearn for the pastoral services of our faith and tradition. My father-in-law died on Good Friday, and not only were we unable to travel to be with him in his final days, we are unable to gather as family and friends and do those familiar things we have long relied upon to process our grief and affection. Likewise, I am in a number of conversations with couples planning to marry who are coming to terms with the fact that their celebration of matrimony will differ substantially from what they had for some time imagined. And we have candidates for Holy Orders whose ordinations will be unlike any they or we have experienced previously.

If we are to be realistic, these examples represent the tip of the iceberg. We will learn new ways to be the church and to carry out the practice of our faith, but whatever our reopening, it will not open up onto the landscape where we were before. To that end, we are continuing conversations with clergy and lay leaders about how we will move forward into

this new reality, taking into account the complex pastoral, spiritual, liturgical, and financial implications with which it presents us. The power of evil would have us be anxious and disheartened, for that will leave us vulnerable to contention and division. But, we are Easter people, and this is a time to be energized by the prospect of new life. This is a moment in which we may well come to understand the promise of resurrection more as the first followers of Jesus did and replicate in our own lives the courageous faith of our spiritual forbearers.

As we move ahead, questions of when and how will continue to be explored in detail. Members of the Bishop's Staff have been working tirelessly to collect, interpret, and provide resources pertinent to all aspects of parochial life, relying on the contributions of clergy and lay leaders from across the Diocese. The collaborative spirit of so many is a testament to the collegiality and strong fabric of the church. As we imagine gathering for worship, formation, and service in the months ahead, we will need to ask searching questions about whether we do so for those who can take the risks or wait until it is safe for all. Might small congregations begin sooner than large ones? Young ones sooner than older ones? In gathering for worship, how do we handle the Eucharistic elements, if at all? Can some partake and others not? Do we act as one body, or meet individual needs and desires? How do these values inform the parochial context? How do they play out in the diocesan context? How do our practices for gathering for worship, virtually and in person, inform our gathering for youth programming and summer camp, and vice versa? How do we explore the implications of potential changes in financial resources? What will it cost us in our giving and spending practices – as individuals, congregations, diocese, and wider church? How do we imagine the practice of ecclesial governance in each context?

Each of these questions, as do countless others, reflects the extraordinary opportunity given us in this time to reflect, redirect, and recommit ourselves to the life of corporate faith, being the body of Christ in the world. The Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, Mission Area Deans, Trustees, and other groups have been engaging these discussions, and more such conversations are being planned. Most of these questions do not have simple, clear answers, and will take the combined wisdom and sacrifice of many to discern what is the next right thing. I have every confidence in God that we will find a variety of roads forward. There is rarely only one approach; God is not that stingy. The challenge is our willingness to walk together.

As we continue to explore the next steps, there are a number of things that warrant mention now.

Weddings

If it is necessary to celebrate Holy Matrimony at this time, please limit participants to the priest, the intendeds, and the two required witnesses. A subsequent celebration of the marriage may be held at a future date, if and when circumstances for such public worship allow, in the spirit of the celebration of a civil marriage. Please contact me with any questions.

Funerals

Please continue to abide by the direction that, if interment is necessary, only a minimal number of immediate family (ten or fewer, including the priest) may be present for a graveside service outside, observing current norms of distancing. A memorial celebration of life may be held at a future date, if and when circumstances for such public worship allow. Again, contact me with any questions.

Clergy Conference

For the annual Clergy Conference scheduled for May 12-14 at Geneva State Park, we will not gather in person. I ask all required participants (actively serving parochial clergy) please to hold that time open. We will not use all of it, but we are as yet uncertain how much time and when will be needed for virtual gathering. Additional information will be forthcoming. As we have found with other such meetings, more extra-parochial and retired clergy may be able to participate in a shorter, virtual format.

Ordinations

Candidates for Holy Orders who have completed their pre-ordination formation and been approved by the requisite ecclesial bodies will be ordained in the presence of the canonically required participants. We will do all we can to provide access for others to participate online, which may well make it possible for many to be a part of these important services who might previously not have been able.

Summer Camp

As with schools and organized youth activities that are currently closed, camp is not permitted in Phase 1. Whether the restrictions and procedures in Phase 2 will allow us to provide summer camp at Bellwether Farm this year is still unknown, but the summer camp and Bellwether staffs are preparing for all possibilities. As soon as details become more clear, registered campers, their families, and the wider public will be notified.

Bellwether Farm

Farm life continues unabated in terms of birthing lambs and kids, fattening pigs, collecting eggs, seeding and planting vegetables, and installing four new colonies of bees. Seventeen gallons of maple syrup have been processed and bottled for Chef Lonny's culinary creations. The dining hall remains shut down, as do all restaurants, but plans continue for when the facility will again be available for public use. It is possible to visit the farm for a hike in the woods and fields, respecting physical distancing and using masks, homemade or otherwise. Please call or email the Bellwether office in advance to let the staff know of your desire to visit. As soon as reopening is possible, and there is clarity under what conditions, all will be notified.

Trinity Commons

Trinity Commons and the Cathedral itself remain closed to the public. All diocesan staff are working from home with effective procedures for receipt of mail and email, and access to voicemail and necessary databases. Each office has established its own schedule for being in the building for limited and essential tasks, in collaboration with appropriate Cathedral and Commons staff.

Diocesan Convention

At this time, it is not imaginable that we will be able to gather as four hundred lay and clergy delegates and staff in one place (save perhaps First Energy Stadium or Progressive Field) in November. We are currently reviewing the canonical and secular requirements that pertain to Diocesan Convention and the governance of corporate entities in Ohio to explore how to accomplish our work virtually. The dates will remain Friday and Saturday, November 13 and 14. At this time, it is uncertain how much of which day will be needed.

We are not alone in facing the future of a church that is yet to be revealed. It has ever been thus; only now is it for us more starkly evident. Across The Episcopal Church, all of these challenges are being experienced and the corresponding opportunities being explored. In weekly Zoom conversations with the bishops of the fourteen dioceses of the Province of the Midwest (Province V), as a member of the Presiding Bishop's Council of Advice, on wider church task forces and committees, and in the countless conversations with lay and clergy leaders that I and our staff colleagues engage in every week, we are finding generous companionship in sharing insights, resources, and encouragement. Throughout all of God's creation, from the sub-atomic to the intergalactic, loss always leads to newness. We can have confidence that this is a time when our vocation to be Christian comes alive in ways many of us have neither experienced nor ever expected. That indeed is the stuff of new life, what the resurrection of Jesus promises us, and that for which each of us is created in God's imagining.

I was reminded recently of Winston Churchill's Mansion House speech in November of 1942, after British forces had defeated Rommel, driving the German troops out of Egypt. In our battle against the coronavirus and its consequences, his words seem apt:

Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.

Let us hope that this end of the beginning will lead us, in patience, humility, and courage, to the newness God dreams for us and God's church.

It is a singular privilege to be in this together with you.
With gratitude and affection,

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.
Bishop of Ohio

Some church websites where you can
find streaming include:

The Washington
National Cathedral www.cathedral.org

Trinity Cathedral
www.trinitycleveland.org
(and their Facebook page)

St. John's, Youngstown
www.stjohnohio.org

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.*

Dunstan, Monk and Archbishop

May 19, 988

Dunstan was born near Glastonbury in southwest England about the year 909. This is about ten years after the death of King Alfred the Great. During the Viking invasions that had occurred a few years earlier, monasteries had been favorite targets of the invaders, and by Dunstan's time English monasticism had been wiped out. Dunstan played the leading role in its restoration.

He was born to an upper-class family and, as was the custom, was sent to court. He did not fit in. At the urging of his uncle, the Bishop of Westminster, he became a monk and a priest, and returned to Glastonbury, where he built a hut near the ruins of the old monastery, and devoted himself to study, music, metal working (particularly the art of casting church bells for particular notes, an art which he is said to have advanced considerably), and painting. A manuscript illuminated by him is in the British Museum. He returned to court and was again asked to leave; but then King Edmund had a narrow escape from death while hunting, and in gratitude recalled Dunstan. The king in 943 commissioned Dunstan to re-establish monastic life at Glastonbury. (Glastonbury is one of the oldest Christian sites in England and is associated in legend with King Arthur and his Court and with Joseph of Arimathea. It has been said that the Holy Grail is hidden somewhere near Glastonbury.) Under Dunstan's direction, Glastonbury became an important center of both monasticism and learning. After Edmund's death, the next king adopted Dunstan's ideas for various reforms of the clergy and for relations with the Danish settlers. These policies made Dunstan popular in the North of England, but unpopular in the South.

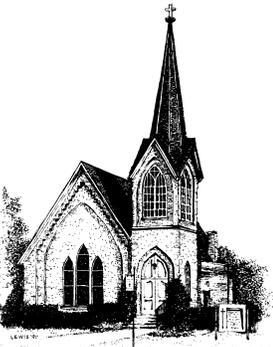
This king was succeeded by his sixteen-year-old nephew, whom Dunstan openly rebuked for unchastity. The furious king drove Dunstan into exile, but the North rose in rebellion on his behalf. When the dust settled, the king was dead, his younger brother was king, and Dunstan was Archbishop of Canterbury. The coronation service which Dunstan compiled for him is the earliest English coronation service of which the full text survives, and it is the basis for all such services since. With the active support of the new king, Dunstan re-established monastic communities at Malmesbury, Westminster, Bath, Exeter, and many other places. Around 970 he presided at a conference of bishops, abbots, and abbesses, which drew up a national code of monastic observance, the Regularis Concordia. It followed Benedictine ideas, but under it the monasteries were actively involved in the life of the surrounding community. For centuries thereafter the Archbishop of Canterbury was always a monk.

Dunstan took an active role in politics under this king and under his successor; however, under the next king, he retired from politics and concentrated on running the Canterbury Cathedral school for boys, where he was apparently successful in raising the academic standards while reducing the incidence of corporal punishment. On Ascension Day in 988, he told the congregation that he was near death, and he died two days later.

Prayers: Two prayers are associated with this saint. Both are below.

O God of truth and beauty, who richly endowed your bishop Dunstan with skill in music and the working of metals, and with gifts of administration and reforming zeal: Teach us, we pray, to see in you the source of all our talents, and move us to offer them for the adornment of worship and the advancement of true religion; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, who raised up Dunstan to be a true shepherd of the flock, a restorer of monastic life and a faithful counsellor to those in authority: give to all pastors the same gifts of your Holy Spirit that they may be true servants of Christ and all his people; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



The Grace Vine

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The Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church
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Barb Popiel(2020)
Phillip Crouse(2021)
Phillip Rich(2022)
Amir Amruzaman(2022)
Cathy Pottisuk(2022)

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