



The Grace Vine

May 2021

Rector's Writ

There's something about Easter that gives us the inspiration and hope for new life. Easter is the high holy day of the Church year where we celebrate Christ's resurrection with joy and hope. It's known as the 'queen of feasts.' The Easter season lasts for fifty days, known as The Great Fifty Days. It opens with the resurrection of Jesus and ends with the arrival of the promised Holy Spirit on Pentecost. It's a season of rejoicing and offering praise and glory to the Risen Lord. The 'alleluias' are abundant. The Easter music and hymns are glorious, no matter where they're sung! We have reasons to be happy and hopeful.

The Easter season is also a time for renewal, growth, and change. We hear in the lectionary readings how the disciples have become changed people. We look at our world today and wonder *if and how we, too might become changed people.* We look to Jesus as the example God provided in how we're to live. Our Lord gave himself to teaching, healing, and serving others...not being served. Time and time again he told stories and taught how we're to be about loving God and loving one another; treating people the way we want to be treated. Jesus had a heart for justice and gentleness.

After last Sunday's service, Bette Brooks shared a quote from the philosopher, Ram Dass: "We're all just walking each other home." If we think about it, those words put the power of Christ's love and teachings to love one another in a simple, vivid image regarding *where we end up and what we're to do along the way.* Easter season and changed lives....may we ever be about choosing love over hatred; good over evil; peace over violence; so that walking with each other, we all arrive at home.

Easter season blessings to you, those you love,
and those with whom we're walking home.

Carol+



Service and Lay Ministry Schedule

If you cannot serve when scheduled, please find a substitute and call the parish office with that person's name. Thank you for sharing in the liturgical ministry of Grace Church.

Sunday, May 2		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist		5 Easter
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Acts 8:26-40	
Worship	8:00 Sally Dier		Fred Lundgren	
Leader	10:00 Carolyn Englert	Psalm	22:24-30	
Videogrphr	Doug Holzschuh	2nd Reading	1 John 4:7-21	
Greeters	Nancy & Fred Lundgren		Nancy Lundgren	
Altar Guild	Nancy Ervin & Cindy Hoskins	Gospel	John 15:1-8	
Counters	Cathy Potisuk & Carol Marotta			
Cleaning	8:00 Mike & Shirley Johnson			
	10:00			

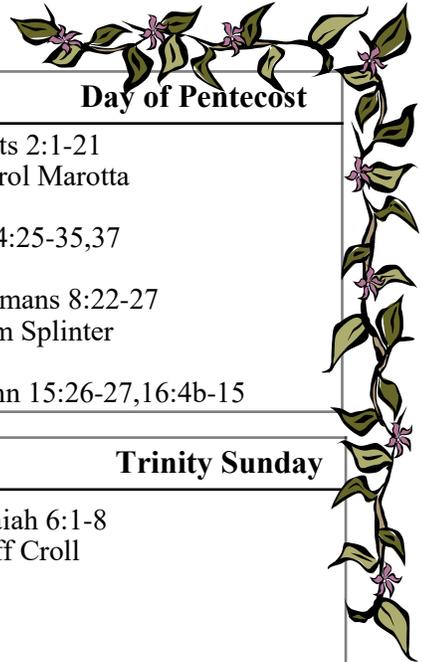
Sunday, May 9		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist		6 Easter
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Acts 10:44-48	
Deacon	The Rev. William Snyder		Jeff Croll	
Worship	8:00 Bette Brooks	Psalm	98	
Leader	10:00 Nancy Lundgren	2nd Reading	1 John 5:1-6	
Videogrphr	Doug Holzschuh		Karen Krofta	
Greeter	Marsha Snyder	Gospel	John 15:9-17	
Altar Guild	Nancy Ervin & Cindy Hoskins			
Counters	Cathy Potisuk & Carol Marotta			
Cleaning	8:00 Debbie Shorts			
	10:00 Marsha Snyder			

Sunday, May 16		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist		7 Easter
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Acts 1:15-17,21-26	
Deacon	10:00 The Rev. William Snyder		Martha Croll	
Wrshp Ldr	8:00 Sally Dier	Psalm	1	
Videogrphr	Doug Holzschuh	2nd Reading	1 John 5:9-13	
Greeters	Nancy & Jim Ervin		Tim Splinter	
Altar Guild	Nancy Ervin & Cindy Hoskins	Gospel	John 17:6-19	
Counters	Cathy Potisuk & Carol Marotta			
Cleaning	8:00 Mike & Shirley Johnson			
	10:00			

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.





Sunday, May 23	8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	Day of Pentecost
Celebrant The Rev. Carol Evans		1st Reading Acts 2:1-21 Carol Marotta
Worship 8:00 Bette Brooks		Psalm 104:25-35,37
Leader 10:00 Nancy Lundgren		2nd Reading Romans 8:22-27 Tim Splinter
Videogrphr Doug Holzschuh		Gospel John 15:26-27,16:4b-15
Greeter John & Mary Jean McDonald		
Altar Guild Nancy Ervin & Cindy Hoskins		
Counters Cathy Potisuk & Carol Marotta		
Cleaning 8:00 Doug Holzschuh 10:00		

Sunday, May 30	8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	Trinity Sunday
Celebrant The Rev. Carol Evans		1st Reading Isaiah 6:1-8 Jeff Croll
Deacon The Rev. William Snyder		Psalm 13
Videogrphr Doug Holzschuh		2nd Reading Romans 8:12-17 Martha Croll
Greeters Marsha Snyder		Gospel John 3:1-17
Altar Guild Nancy Ervin & Cindy Hoskins		
Counters Cathy Potisuk & Carol Marotta		
Cleaning 8:00 10:00		

Sunday, June 6	8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	2 Pentecost
Celebrant The Rev. Carol Evans		1st Reading 1 Samuel 8:4-20,11:14-15 Nancy Lundgren
Worship 8:00 Sally Dier		Psalm 138
Leader 10:00 Carolyn Englert		2nd Reading 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 Fred Lundgren
Videogrphr Doug Holzschuh		Gospel Mark 3:20-35
Greeters Nancy & Fred Lundgren		
Altar Guild		
Counters		
Cleaning 8:00 10:00 Marsha Snyder		



Congratulations!

and many happy returns...

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



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





Did You Know?...



We were blessed with one of the most beautiful Easter Sundays in many years. The sky was sunny and bright, the flowers were in bloom and we didn't have to wear our winter coats. Not the usual cold rainy spring day. It felt so good to be in church and hear our beloved Easter music played by our organist **Tim Lewicki** and our choir director **Martha Croll** on guitar and keyboard for two of the hymns. And let's not forget the recording of **Marcia and Tim Splinter** singing *Christ is Arisen*. I know we're not supposed to sing, but I'll bet there was a lot of singing going on behind all those masks. Or at the very least humming. The church wasn't as full as usual but many people are still staying at home and viewing the service on YouTube. The Holy Week services were beautiful and very meaningful. On Good Friday, **Carol Marotta** volunteered to acolyte and when neither of the readers were at the service she also read one of the readings, and did such a good job of it – guess what? We now have a new lay reader. The altar guild stepped up, as usual, and had all the flowers placed around the altar and got out the Easter banner and Paschal candle for a glorious Easter Day service. It was a good day to be an Episcopalian. It was wonderful to see members we haven't seen in a while. Tim Lewicki and all of us enjoyed having his family with us. His parents, sisters, and of course his wife, **Yuka** were all there to hear Tim play some lovely music and be together for Easter. We all especially enjoyed his children, son **Joji** and their beautiful baby girl **Mitsuki**...

Nancy Ervin's granddaughters **Emily and Kenzie** helped grandma with the cleaning of the church on the Saturday before Easter and the girls also helped **Marsha Snyder** get all the Easter flowers from her car into the church. They were a life saver and such nice girls...

Tim and Marcia Splinter spent their Easter with Tim's mother **Barbara**, in Wisconsin. On their way to Wisconsin they stopped by their son **Kevin's** dorm in Illinois to take him out to dinner. It was only four hours out of their way --- but that's what you do for your children and your mother...

Cindy Hoskins spent Easter day with her sister, **Maggie**; sisters are the best...

Sally & Dennis Dier had their daughters **Beth** and **Dani** over for dinner; **Nancy & Fred Lundgren** went to their daughter **Lisa's** home for a family meal; Cathy **Potisuk** enjoyed spending time with her son **Matt**; and **Marsha and Bill Snyder** had their son **Luke** and his family over for dinner. **Dennis and Sally** have been "dog sitting" for daughter **Beth's** two Italian gray hounds, who just love coming to "grandma and grandpa's" home. I'm sure the gray hounds aren't the least bit spoiled while at the Dier home...

Bette Brooks' daughter Beverly is moving back to Memphis, Tennessee this summer. She will be the new Director of College Counseling at St. Mary's Episcopal School, a private school for girls ages 2 through 12th grade. Beverly loves Memphis (it was the site of her first job after college) and can't wait to move back...

And speaking of moving, **Gail Richards** moved to her new home on Easter Day...

The Sit & Stitch group enjoyed meeting for the first time in many months. The gathering included **Carolyn Englert, Shirley Johnson, Bette Brooks, Mary Jean McDonald, Sue Ahrens, and Marsha Snyder**, and they were happily surprised to have **Judy Watkins** join them. Judy read in the Grace Vine that they were meeting and decided to join them, and of course the group had a wonderful time being together. As usual, Shirley Johnson brought her always delicious home-made cookies and coffee/tea was offered. Sue Ahrens brought a quilt that she made for her grandson John for his graduation that had all his sports t-shirts in it. Carolyn, Mary Jean, and Shirley were knitting; Bette was working on her needle work; and Marsha & Judy enjoyed the conversation...

Many thanks to **John McDonald, Mike Johnson and Fred Lundgren** for doing some major trimming the day after Easter. John and Mike cut down the fire bushes (which had become quite tall) while Fred trimmed the weeping mulberry tree and the bushes in front of the three large windows. John was relieved to see the city had picked up all the trimmings, so that was good timing, guys!...

Mike and Shirley Johnson drove to West Columbia, SC, to visit with their daughter **Debbie**, her husband **Phil** and grandson **Alan** before going on to Greenwoods, SC, for the outdoor wedding of granddaughter **Kelly Lynn Farmer to Dalton Hagen**. The bride's seven attendants wore gowns of purple and groomsmen wore navy pants, vests and white shirts with purple bow ties. The weather was perfect, with no clouds. Behind the arch, decorated with flowers, prize winning Brahman cattle grazed in the field. This was just what Kelly wanted since she is a veterinarian. A traditional southern reception included barbecue pork and chicken, green beans and baked beans, coleslaw and banana pudding and peach cobbler. Their three tier wedding cake was in shades of purple, each layer a different flavor. The happy couple will honeymoon in a mountain cabin near Asheville, NC...

Grace Church had their 156th Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, April 18. Not many attended, but we did have a quorum so that was helpful. Not much in the way of

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The Bulletin Board

Sit & Stitch

May 11 & 25 1:00-3:00 p.m.

The Sit and Stitch group will meet in the multi-purpose room (next to the church office) on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. We hope to see you there. Please bring your sewing project (or just come and enjoy the fellowship, like some of us do) and wear a mask and keep social distancing.



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 Good Friday, Easter, and weekly Sunday services for our members at home to access.
- **Tim Lewicki** and **Jeff Croll** for live streaming the Maundy Thursday service.
- Everyone who ordered Easter flowers to have in front of the Altar.
- All our members who attended Holy Week and Easter services and all who helped with those services including **Deacon Bill Snyder; Tim Lewicki; Director Nancy Lundgren and Altar Guild members Laurie Barney, Nancy Ervin, Cindy Hoskins, Shirley Johnson, Barb Popiel, and Marsha Snyder; Jeff & Martha Croll; Carolyn Englert; and Carol Marotta.**
- **Bill Snyder** for doing Morning Prayer the Sunday after Easter.
- **Emily and Kenzie Ervin** for helping their grandma clean the church and helping Marsha Snyder get the Easter flowers from her car into the church.
- **Midge Myers and Fred Lundgren** for their service on vestry the past 3 years and to **Barb Popiel** for being willing to serve another term.
- **John McDonald, Mike Johnson, and Fred Lundgren** for trimming the fire bushes on the side of the church and the shrubs in front of the church.
- Members of the Altar Guild for all their work during holy week.
- **Shirley Johnson** for bringing goodies to the church office and to Sit & Stitch. They are appreciated – and very good.
- **Marcia Splinter** for her work and skills at being a great treasurer and for assisting the secretary with all her questions.
- 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.*

Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria

May 2

It is believed that, outside the pages of the New Testament itself, Athanasius is probably the man to whom we chiefly owe the preservation of the Christian faith. He was born around AD 298, and lived in Alexandria, Egypt, the chief center of learning of the Roman Empire.

In 313 the Emperor Constantine issued the Edict of Milan, which changed Christianity from a persecuted to an officially favored religion. About six years later, a presbyter (elder, priest) Arius of Alexandria began to teach concerning the Word of God (John 1:1) that "God begat him, and before he was begotten, he did not exist." Athanasius was at that time a newly ordained deacon, secretary to Bishop Alexander of Alexandria, and a member of the bishop's household. His reply to Arius was that the begetting, or uttering, of the Word by the Father is an eternal relation between Them, and not a temporal event. Arius was condemned by the bishops of Egypt (with only 2 exceptions), and fled to Nicomedia, from which he wrote letters to bishops throughout the world, stating his position.

The Emperor Constantine undertook to resolve the dispute by calling a council of bishops from all over the Christian world. This council met in Nicea, just across the straits from what is now Istanbul, in the year 325. The council consisted of 317 bishops. Athanasius accompanied his bishop to the council and became recognized as a chief spokesman for the view that the Son was fully God, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father.

The party of Athanasius was overwhelmingly in the majority. (The western, or Latin, half of the Empire was very sparsely represented, but it was solidly Athanasian, so that if its bishops had attended in force, the vote would have been even more lopsided.) After the vote, all that remained for the council to do was to formulate a statement of creed to express the consensus. The initial effort was to find a formula from Holy Scripture that would express the full divinity of the Son, equally with the Father. However, the Arians cheerfully agreed to all such formulations, having interpreted them already to fit their own views (which are similar to the Watchtower Society who consider themselves the spiritual heirs of Arius). Finally, the Greek word "homo-ousios" (meaning "of the same substance, or nature, or essence") was introduced, chiefly because it was one word that could not be understood to mean what the Arians meant. Some of the bishops present, although in complete disagreement with Arius, were reluctant to use a term not found in the Scriptures, but eventually saw that the alternative was a creed that both sides would sign, each understanding it in its own way. The Church could not afford to leave the question of whether the Son is truly God (the Arians said "a god") undecided. So, the result was that the Council adopted a creed which is a shorter version of what we now call the Nicene Creed, declaring the Son to be "of one substance with the Father." At the end, there were only two holdouts (guess which ones they were).

No sooner was the council over than its consensus began to fall apart. Constantine had expected that the result would be unity, but found that the Arians would not accept the decision, and that many of the orthodox bishops were prepared to look for a wording a little softer than that of Nicea, something that sounded orthodox, but that the Arians would accept. All sorts of compromise formulas were worked out, with all shades of variation from the formula of Nicea.

In 328, Bishop Alexander died, and Athanasius succeeded him as bishop of Alexandria. He refused to participate in these negotiations, suspecting (correctly as it turned out) that once the orthodox party showed a willingness to make reaching an agreement their highest priority, they would end up giving away the store. He defended the full divinity of Christ against emperors, magistrates, bishops, and theologians. For this, he was regarded as a trouble-maker by Constantine and his successors, and was banished from Alexandria a total of five times by various emperors. (Hence the expression "Athanasius contra mundum," or, "Athanasius against the world.") Eventually, Christians who believed in the divinity of Christ came to see that once they were prepared to abandon the Nicene formulation, they were on a slippery slope that led to regarding the Christ as simply a high-ranking angel. The more they experimented with other

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Did You Know...

business since so many events and activities were cancelled or suspended due to COVID-19. We did elect three vestry members including: **Laurie Barney, Michelle McLaughlin, and Barb Popiel**. We're glad to have each of them bring their gifts and skills to the service and work our vestry will be doing in 2021. We also appreciate the outgoing members who served until we could elect new vestry members!...

I guess Old Man Winter isn't finished with us yet on April 21st we got up to at least 3 inches of snow on the ground – but next week we'll be in the 70's. As the old saying goes, "If you don't like Ohio weather, just wait it will change."

*Happy Mother's Day
& God's Blessings
To All Our
Moms & Grandmas!!*

We thank you, Almighty Father, for that particular expression of Your love that is given to us so selflessly by mothers and grandmothers everywhere. May Your blessings fill their lives with gladness. Amen.



Fathers (and Mothers) and Friends...

formulations, the clearer it became that only the Nicene formulation would preserve the Christian faith in any meaningful sense, and so they re-affirmed the Nicene Creed at the Council of Constantinople in 381, a final triumph that Athanasius did not live to see. He died on May 2, 373 in Alexandria.

The reaffirmation of the Nicene Creed was a final triumph as far as councils of bishops were concerned, but the situation was complicated by the fact that after Constantine there were several Arian emperors (not counting the Emperor Julian, who was a pagan, but correctly saw that the most effective way to fight Christianity was to throw all his weight on the side of the Arians). Under one of them, Arian missionaries were sent to convert the Goths, who became the backbone of the Roman Army (then composed chiefly of foreign mercenaries) with the result that for many years Arianism was considered the mark of a good Army man. The conversion of Clovis, King of the Franks (a fearsome Goth tribe), in 496, to orthodox Christianity either gave the Athanasian party the military power to crush Arianism or denied the Arian Goths the military supremacy that would have enabled them to crush Athanasian Christianity, depending on your perspective.

We would do well to remember this entire controversy as we recite the Nicene Creed during our services of Holy Eucharist. What we profess as the creed of our faith was a hard-won victory for the acknowledgement of the Divinity of Christ.

Note: Since Alexandria had the best astronomers, it was the duty of the Bishop of Alexandria to write to the other bishops every year and tell them the correct date for Easter. Naturally, this annual letter contained other material as well. One Easter Letter of Athanasius is well known for giving a list of the books that ought to be considered part of the canonical Scriptures, with a supplementary list of books suitable for devotional reading. For the New Testament, he listed the 27 books that are recognized today. For the Old Testament, his list is like that used by most Protestants, except that he omitted Esther, and included Baruch, with the letter of Jeremiah. His supplementary list was Wisdom, Sirach, Tobias, Judith, and Esther. He did not mention Maccabees.

PRAYER (contemporary language)

Uphold your Church, O God of truth, as you upheld your servant Athanasius, to maintain and proclaim boldly the catholic faith against all opposition, trusting solely in the grace of your eternal Word, who took upon himself our humanity that we might share his divinity; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen



The Grace Vine

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Grace Episcopal Church of Ravenna

The Rev. Carol Evans—Rector
The Rev. William Snyder
Marsha Snyder—Secretary
Tim Lewicki—Organist
Martha Croll—Choirmaster

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The Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church
Barb Popiel(2020)
Phillip Crouse(2021)
Phillip Rich(2022)
Amir Amruzzaman(2022)
Cathy Pottsuk(2022)
Barb Popiel(2023)
Michelle McLaughlin(2023)
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