



The Grace Vine

September 2020

Rector's Writ

It seems all of us are growing weary of Covid-19 and the tension it continues to bring to our everyday lives. One bit of good news comes from Bishop Mark Hollingsworth. Beginning Sept. 6th, we have permission to distribute the sacrament in one kind, bread only (no wine). We'll follow the bishop's guidelines and requirements which cover offering and receiving the sacrament in the safest way possible. He made it clear no one is "required or expected to participate in the celebration or reception of Eucharist unless they so choose." Members may or may not opt to receive the bread; it's your choice. Required practices and precautions will be followed to be sure those who choose to do so will receive communion safely. We will continue to offer online services for members who want to avoid the risk of public gatherings. We want to find ways to best serve the needs of our members; keep connected; and to worship and remain close to God in spite of the Covid-19 anxieties.

We invite you to read the Diocesan Council Commitment to Racial Justice, included in this issue. This commitment has some suggestions for how we—as people of faith—might confront and work to dismantle 'the legacy and reality of racism.' The vestry has reviewed this document. We will discuss at the September meeting what options we might offer in exploring this complex issue and how we can practice justice not racism. Please let vestry members or the rector know which study options you'd prefer.

Finally, I'd like to share a few thoughts about Lloyd O'Keefe. In a way, it's appropriate to be thinking of Holy Communion and practicing justice in these difficult times we're in. Both of those were important to Fr. Lloyd and Roberta. It wasn't hard to see that Communion was something meaningful for both of them. Those who knew them, knew they were people of God; people of faith. They believed in and practiced what Jesus taught about justice, peace, and compassion for all God's people. They loved the Lord, and they loved each other. We give thanks to God for Lloyd's life and ministries; for the love, laughter, and service he and Roberta shared together.

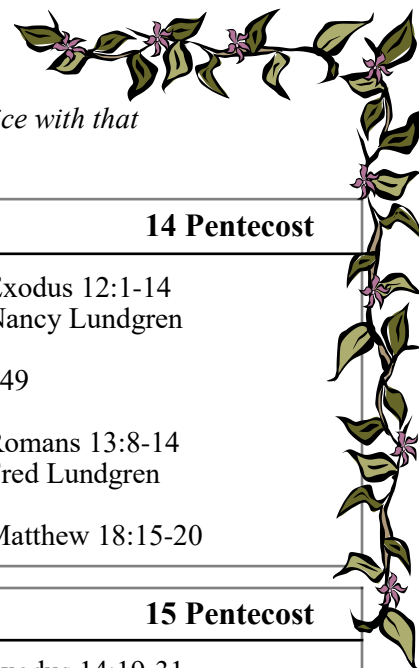


Carol+



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, Sept 6 8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 14 Pentecost

<p>Celebrant The Rev. Carol Evans Deacon The Rev. William Snyder Wrshp Ldr 10:00 Carolyn Englert Greeters Nancy & Fred Lundgren Altar Guild Nancy Lundgren & Marsha Snyder Counters Phillip Crouse & Phillip Rich After worship volunteer cleaners 8:00—TBA 10:00—Marsha Snyder</p>	<p>1st Reading Exodus 12:1-14 Nancy Lundgren</p> <p>Psalm 149</p> <p>2nd Reading Romans 13:8-14 Fred Lundgren</p> <p>Gospel Matthew 18:15-20</p>
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Sunday, Sept 13 8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 15 Pentecost

<p>Celebrant The Rev. Carol Evans Deacon The Rev. William Snyder Greeters John & Mary Jean McDonald Altar Guild Nancy Lundgren & Marsha Snyder Counters Phillip Crouse & Phillip Rich After worship volunteers cleaners 8:00—Mike & Shirley Johnson & Kathy Summy 10:00—Carol Marotta & Barb Popiel</p>	<p>1st Reading Exodus 14:19-31 Jeff Croll</p> <p>Psalm 114</p> <p>2nd Reading Romans 14:1-12 Karen Krofta</p> <p>Gospel Matthew 18:21-35</p>
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Sunday, Sept 20 8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 16 Pentecost

<p>Celebrant The Rev. Carol Evans Deacon The Rev. William Snyder Wrshp Ldr 10:00 Nancy Lundgren Greeters Nancy & Jim Ervin Altar Guild Nancy Lundgren & Marsha Snyder Counters Phillip Crouse & Phillip Rich After worship volunteer cleaners 8:00—TBA 10:00 TBA</p>	<p>1st Reading Exodus 16:2-15 Martha Croll</p> <p>Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45</p> <p>2nd Reading Philippians 1:21-30 Carolyn Englert</p> <p>Gospel Matthew 20:1-16</p>
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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. My phone is 330.527.4888 and I will walk you through it.

Fundraising Policy Established

Our vestry at the August 11th meeting unanimously approved a Fundraising Policy for the parish. It was sent out to the chair persons of any groups impacted by this. The reasons for needing a fundraising policy include but aren't limited to: having the process and procedures typed out so existing and new volunteers are aware and informed; establishing clarity and uniformity re the process; and putting fund use oversight in the hands of the vestry, since they hold responsibility for business matters of the parish.

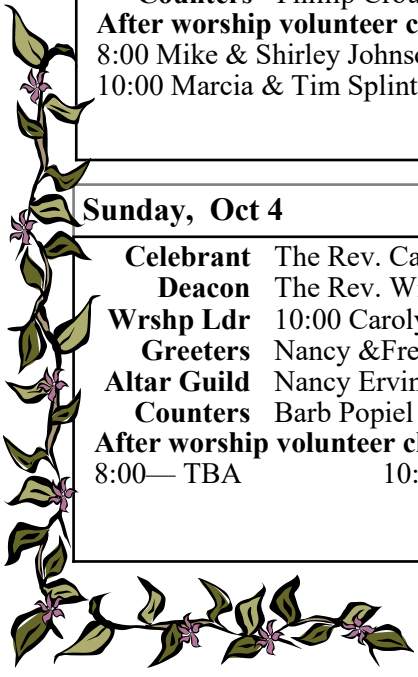
The vestry plans to work on providing other policies as well. Copies of the Fundraising Policy are available in the office for those who wish to review it.

Although Covid-19 concerns brought about an abrupt halt to fundraising activities, we offer our thanks to the volunteers who have been and continue to be major participants in fundraising efforts at Grace Church.



Sunday, Sept 27		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	17 Pentecost
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading Exodus 17:1-7 Jeff Croll	Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Deacon	The Rev. William Snyder		
Greeters	Marsha Snyder	2nd Reading Philippians 2:1-13 Tim Splinter	Gospel Matthew 21:23-32
Altar Guild	Nancy Lundgren & Marsha Snyder		
Counters	Phillip Crouse & Phillip Rich	After worship volunteer cleaners	
8:00 Mike & Shirley Johnson & Kathy Summy			
10:00 Marcia & Tim Splinter			

Sunday, Oct 4		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	18 Pentecost
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Nancy Lundgren	Psalm 19
Deacon	The Rev. William Snyder		
Wrshp Ldr	10:00 Carolyn Englert	2nd Reading Philippians 3:4b-14 Fred Lundgren	Gospel Matthew 21:33-46
Greeters	Nancy & Fred Lundgren		
Altar Guild	Nancy Ervin & Cindy Ward	After worship volunteer cleaners	
Counters	Barb Popiel & Fred Lundgren	8:00— TBA 10:00 TBA	



Congratulations!

and many happy returns...

Birthdays

- 3rd Daniel Francois
- 4th Tracy Shriver
- 9th Athena Whipple
- 10th Mary Jean McDonald
- 11th Doris Whipple
- 13th Leslie Thomas
Rick Taylor
- 15th Barb Popiel
- 17th Caroline Brooks-Shaver
- 25th Martha Croll
- 26th Cindy Ward



Anniversaries

- 3rd Fred & Chris Ahrens
- 24th Michael & Kay Canan
- 26th Doug Holzschuh & Miriam Pretorius

Baptisms

- 7th Jenna Summy
- 22nd Lisa Paxton
Gerry Rich
- 25th Sue Ahrens
- 30th Samuel Rich





Did You Know?...



September 2020 – Covid 19 – What does that mean...

It means all the experts don't have a clue about the cure or when this might be over. It means everyone looks like a potential bank robber walking down the street with masks on--but keep wearing them. The 19 represents the amount of weight you've gained or lost while staying home and doing your own cooking. It means many people are getting some of those home improvement projects and gardens planted this summer. It means you care enough about your neighbor, friends, and family to wear a mask. And true to form many fashion companies are coming out with masks that are designed for just you: sports fans, fashionistas, designer fabrics, pet lovers; I even saw one that will be made to look like you. You can buy them on line, major department stores, and even QVC. You can't see anyone smiling and can't hear them when they say hello. Can you imagine sending your grade school student to school in a mask and they return home with a different one? They liked their friend's mask better and traded! It could happen. You don't get to see your children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren as often as you'd like or at all. It means a "staycation" because you can't go to those favorite vacation sites you'd planned since last year to visit. Our church isn't as full as we'd like it to be. It means some members have learned how to watch our church service on social media. It has meant no Holy Communion for a while, but the option will soon be available. Many of us continue to miss singing, and we're grateful for the skills and music our organist **Tim Lewicki** provides each Sunday. This coronavirus also brings up many concerns for our children going back to school (or not...). We're not sure what that's going to look like; each district has different rules and regulations. Some children will be in school and some will be at home working on line. This has to be a nightmare for the teachers. And what about our college kids – in school or on line, who knows?!?! But it's our "new normal" folks. We don't like it, and it can't be over soon enough. And...enough of all that!!...

Many thanks to **Mike Ervin, Nancy & Jim's son**, who was kind enough to come to the church after his work day and repair the roof of the parish hall entry. He did that at no charge and at his Mom's request. Thank you, Mike...and Nancy and Jim! ...

Another thanks to **Nancy & Jim** for taking food parishioners placed in the red wagon to the Center of Hope. Thanks to all our members who were so kind as to bring food for the needy – please keep it up!!...

It is nice to see people, who feel comfortable doing so, coming back to Sunday services...

It was really nice to see **Joan & Jack Sarver** in church, now that Jack has completed several rounds of

chemo. They celebrated their birthdays in early August with a nice grilled steak dinner Joan made for them on an open evening between two doctor appointments...

Bette Brooks let us know the latest about daughter **Amanda**. Amanda has moved into a new role at ESPN! She will be the day-to-day public relations lead for all of ESPN's college football shows except College Game Day. This means she'll work regular season games, the College Football Playoffs, ABC's Saturday Night Football, bowl games, and ESPN studio shows! In addition, she will continue to oversee the PR for the SEC network and will lead publicity for college gymnastics as well as track and field. Bette just hopes Amanda can make it back home to Kent sometime!...

Please keep **Maggie Rich** in your prayers; she's having back surgery on August 31st. We'll pray for good results and a quick recovery for her...

Sue and Bruce Ahrens' daughter Sonja, son-in-law Donnie, and granddaughter Morgan were on their way to Florida to take Morgan to college. They stopped in South Carolina to visit **Duane Jolly** (he and his family were very active at Grace in the early 1990's and remain good friends with the Ahrens family). Duane's wife is still in the military and stationed in Hawaii, so his family will be leaving soon to join her. And if you really want to feel old—Duane is taking his son to college in the next few weeks...

Kay and Ralph Wise and their very large extended family are excited about three weddings they'll be attending this year. Their son, **Victor** is getting married in Columbus in late September and their son, **Cary** will be married in late December at his fiance's church in Parma. Their nephew's wedding is between the two. Congratulations, and we hope all of you have a wonderful time!...

Sally Dier hasn't been out and about much, but that doesn't mean she's not busy. Just last week she and daughter **Dani** drove to upstate New York to deliver a baptism gown Sally made for her niece's new baby...

We were saddened at the passing of **Fr. Lloyd O'Keefe** on August 22nd. Fr. Lloyd served at Ohio churches including Warren, Kent, and on then Bishop J. Clark Grew's staff as Assistant to the Bishop for Peace and Justice Ministries. Lloyd and his beloved wife, **Roberta** were active and generous in their support of Grace Church; Episcopal Community Services (which Lloyd started); and Hunger Network among many other ministries they supported. The two have been married for over 50 years, and of course Roberta was with Lloyd when he died and went to God's nearer presence. Please keep Roberta and all their loved ones and friends in your prayers.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL COMMITMENT TO RACIAL JUSTICE

Received from the Diocese, August 7, 2020

The Diocesan Council recognizes that the church, as the body of Christ, has a responsibility to act on behalf of others, especially the marginalized and oppressed. We vow in our Baptismal Covenant to “seek and serve Christ in all persons” and to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.” We believe that, in our current day, this includes directly confronting the legacy and reality of racism, both individual and that which is systemic and institutionalized in our society. We must work to end economic, educational, employment, healthcare, housing, and other injustices in our own lives, institutions, communities, and world. To that end, we must be aware and well informed, and thereby better able to determine the actions our faith requires of us - actions that help us to practice justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

All members of the Diocesan Council are required to complete the Anti-Racism Training provided by the Commission for Racial Understanding and, as elected clergy and lay leaders, we continue to seek experiences and understanding to allow us to be effective leaders and positive agents of change. In that effort, the Diocesan Council commits to:

1. Watch and discuss the film 13th, a documentary which explores the intersection of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the United States. We will discuss this at the August meeting.
2. Read White Fragility: Why It's So Hard For White People To Talk About Racism, in order to face our implicit and complicit biases and hold ourselves accountable, recognizing that this activity applies predominately to white members. We will discuss this book on an ongoing basis throughout the autumn.
3. Invite all canonical committees and commissions, mission areas, congregations, and communicants of the Diocese of Ohio to join us or engage in a similar discipline for discovering and exploring ways to dismantle racism.

We are cognizant that a book study or film discussion will not alone end racism or eradicate racist violence in the church and the world. Living into our Baptismal Covenant and becoming the Beloved Community is a pilgrimage, and we are each in different places on this journey. For those who are currently involved in organized action or are interested in exploring such involvement, we commend to you the “Learn, Pray, Act” resources provided by The Episcopal Church, and encourage you to contact your local Black Lives Matter and Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) movements.

Join us in our commitment to be the hands and feet of Jesus in this world and end the injustice of racism.

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.*

John Henry Hobart (9/14/1775 – 9/12/1830)

September 12

After the American Revolution and the Independence of the United States, the Episcopal Church was under public suspicion in many quarters because of its previous association with the British government. As a result, it did very little for about twenty years. John Hobart was one of the men who changed this.

John Henry Hobart was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 14 September 1775, the son of a ship's captain. He was educated at the University of Pennsylvania and Princeton University, ordained deacon in 1798 and priest in 1801. Called as assistant minister to Trinity Church, New York, in 1803, at age 36 he was elected assistant bishop of the diocese in 1811, becoming diocesan bishop in 1816.

To look at John Henry Hobart, you wouldn't have predicted greatness. Height always distinguishes, and he was notably short. Blessed with attractive blue eyes, he was nearsighted and forced to wear thick glasses. In an age of minimal gestures in the pulpit, he was melodramatic. At a time of dignified eloquence, he spoke rapidly, with emotion. When most men were reserved, even with their families, he was warm, whether with ambassadors or farmers, to the point of being thought odd.

Most bishops were content if they bestirred themselves for episcopal acts a hundred miles from home. Hobart had the energy of ten men: horses dropped under him and he thought nothing of winter visitations of 2,000 miles in western New York or 4,000 at a more seasonal time. He visited each parish in the diocese at least once each year.

Early in his career he tackled publicly issues still dubious in the American mind: episcopacy and apostolic succession. He founded two institutions: a college in Geneva (later Hobart College) and General Theological Seminary in New York City, breaking his health to get both off the ground. He not only looked after the Diocese of New York (46,000 square miles and virtual wilderness west and north of Albany), he served as rector of Trinity Parish, the wealthiest and most influential church in the country. Agreeing to oversee the diocese of Connecticut, since its high- and low-church party fights had prevented the election of a bishop, he covered its parishes more thoroughly than any bishop ever had. New Jersey, also bishopless, appealed to him, and he looked after it as well.

He knew all the clergy in the Church generally and in his own diocese intimately. He was aware of their background, remembered their families, forgave their frailties, and appreciated their strengths. He watched over his candidates for Holy Orders with a paternal interest, meeting with them weekly.

His instinct for politics never overrode his principles. Once convinced of the rightness of his position, no wave of unpopularity would budge him. His friends adored him and even his enemies credited him with frankness and fearlessness. In a turbulent New York election for governor, a common saying was that only Hobart would have been easily elected.

He took 26 clergy at the beginning of his episcopate in 1811 and quintupled them to 133 by his death, watched the number of parishes increase from about 50 to almost 170, and confirmed roughly 15,000.

This lovable, indefatigable, type-A bishop went virtually nonstop from his ordination until his death. The only surprise was that he didn't die sooner. At midnight, September 7, 1830, a young clergyman rode through Auburn on his way to Binghamton. Passing the rectory of St. Peter's Church, he was puzzled to see a light so late. He stopped and soon learned from the rector, John Rudd, that Bishop Hobart was ill. Francis Cuming remained to assist in any way he could.

Hobart's illness wasn't that surprising. Troubled for years with what was most likely a bleeding ulcer, with rest and medication he would generally rebound. In Auburn he had preached and confirmed and other than a slight cold, seemed fine. But soon the serious nature of his attack became clear and he cancelled the remainder of his visitation.

Cuming wrote, "On Friday, September 10th, just before the going down of the sun, and as its last rays had forced themselves through the blinds, and were playing upon the wall not far from the bed, he said, 'Open the shutters, that I may see more of the light; O how pleasant it is; how cheering is the sun--but there is a Sun of Righteousness, in whose light we shall see light.'"

On Saturday, at a bedside service of the holy communion, when Rudd "came, in the confession, to the words, 'by thought, word, and deed,'" the bishop stopped him and said, 'You know the Church expects us to pause over those words: pause now, repeating one of the words at a time till I request you to go on.' This was done, and the pauses in each case were so long that a fear passed over our minds that he had lost his recollection or fallen asleep. This, however, proved not to be so; he repeated each word, and after the third pause added: 'Proceed, I will interrupt you no more.'"

Early Sunday morning, September 12, 1830, John Henry Hobart died, aged 55. The funeral took place in New York City on September 16. The mourners included the governor of the state and the mayor of New York City, and the procession was estimated at nearly 3,000. The third bishop of New York is buried under the chancel of Trinity Church, New York.

PRAYER (contemporary language)

Revive your Church, Lord God of hosts, whenever it falls into Complacency and sloth, by raising up devoted leaders, like your servant John Henry Hobart whom we remember this day; and grant that their faith and vigor of mind may awaken your people to your message and their mission; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.





The Grace Vine

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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

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The Rev. William Snyder
Marsha Snyder—Secretary
Tim Lewicki—Organist
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The Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church
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Fred Lundgren(2020)
Barb Popiel(2020)
Phillip Crouse(2021)
Phillip Rich(2022)
Amir Amruzaman(2022)
Cathy Pottisuk(2022)