



The Grace Vine

April 2020

Rector's Writ

Most of us probably felt like something was missing the past two Sundays. To say life has been different the past few weeks is an understatement. Every day holds more news, anxieties and uncertainties. Bishop Hollingsworth made it clear last week that we'd need to be considering non-routine ways of observing Holy Week and celebrating Easter. It looks like this suspension of worship, non-essential gatherings, and meetings "until further notice" could be some time. It's odd working on the Grace Vine because nearly everything's been suspended, canceled, or otherwise pushed aside.

One thing we don't want to push aside is our worship of God; the Lord in whom we 'live and move and have our being.' It's good to know that several of you have found the Eucharist (or other services) streamed online. And as one member e-mailed, there's some comfort in what's familiar to us. I encourage you to continue to access by technology those worship services you find meaningful, and I'll include again some of those sites at the end of this article. I plan to get a sermon out for each of the Sunday mornings we can't gather safely, just as a small way to serve our Grace family and help us keep connected.

Thanks to all of you for your concern and your prayers for our Grace Church family during this time. It's already been suggested: we can always PRAY FOR EACH OTHER. Please know I miss seeing all of you and being with you, and I do ask God to keep all of us safe, healthy, and in his loving care. I ask also that God will help us to help one another. People are already doing that, not because I asked it in prayer, but because GOD IS GOOD. We who love God—and know God's love for us—make every effort to practice kindness, compassion, and care for one another. The power of God's love at work among us is stronger than any fear, any disease, any troubles.

May we walk through these troubling times calmed and kept by the peace that only God gives. May we draw near with faith to our Lord and Father, trusting He will draw near to us...to protect, guide, and watch over us all.

Carol+





Did You Know?...



Well March had been keeping everyone here at Grace Church very busy. Our Lenten Bible Study and soup supper was well attended with **Carolyn Englert and Rev. Carol** leading the group. Our study was from “The Great Courses” on religion. It’s centered on Jesus’ life and identity. The DVD lectures are about the gospels; who wrote them, when they were written and how they differ. The professor —Bart Ehrman, Chair of Religious Studies at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill—is **Radd Ehrman’s** brother. Radd is a professor at Kent State, and when he and his family were at Grace some years ago he taught some great studies! Thanks to **Nancy Lundgren & Michelle McLaughlin** for providing soup for our second meeting. Those attending were: **Kingsland Pretorius, Kay Wise, Cathy Potisuk, Nancy & Fred Lundgren, Marsha & Bill Snyder, Michelle McLaughlin, Midge Myers, Carolyn and Rev. Carol...**

The March church/community dinner was held the same day as the Lenten Bible study began, so some folks did double duty. Several members assisted with the March dinner where all enjoyed stuffed cabbage, smashed (yes, smashed) potatoes, corn or glazed carrots, salad, and dessert. Thanks to the many people who volunteered and helped present another successful dinner event including: **Cherry & John Monegan, Rick Lashley, Caitlin Barney-Fritsch, Laurie Barney, Nancy Ervin, Barb Popiel, Midge Myers, Sue Ahrens, Shirley & Mike Johnson, Doug Holzschuh, Joan Seman, Kay Wise, Marsha Snyder, and Rev. Carol.** We had a wonderful turn out, even members of the Ravenna fire department who attended and said they really enjoyed the meal. Due to coronavirus, our April 7th meal has been cancelled...

Those of us who have moved tables in the parish hall for meals, gatherings, funeral receptions, etc. have complained for years that these tables are too heavy. Since none of us are getting any younger it was decided to purchase new tables, which were delivered on Sunday March 10th. Many thanks to **Cherry Monegan and Bill Snyder** who picked them up at Sam’s Club. Thanks also to **John McDonald, Bill & Marsha Snyder, and Cherry and her son-in-law Mark** for helping to unload the tables and carry them into the parish hall. The new tables are heavy duty but much lighter to move. The old tables are available to members for a \$10 donation to help offset the cost of new tables...

On March 7th our third “Stepping Up to Leadership Conference” took place here at Grace Church. Three middle schools were represented: Stanton, Brown, St. Joseph’s. The 7th grade students gave part of their Saturday to learn about internet safety, some new technology, and bullying. **Brian Kelly and Amanda Brace** spoke about internet safety and technology, and **Kelly Szydlowski** spoke to the group about bullying. Before the program began **Caitlin Barney-Fritsch** opened with a lively ice breaker for the entire gathering, and then **Mayor Frank Seman** spoke to the group about leadership. All the youth enjoyed the activities and seemed very interested in the presentations. **Rick Taylor** told **Bishop Hollingsworth** about the leadership conference, when the bishop visited last May. As a result, the diocese provided a generous \$1,000 grant which Rick used to scout out a new projector system and screen for use with the program and in the parish. (Please see a note under this month’s “THANK YOU.”) Many thanks to our members who assisted: **Kay Wise, Caitlin Barney-Fritsch, Gerry Rich, Shirley Johnson** (who took photos and put them on our website—check it out), **Marsha Snyder, and Rev. Carol.** Kay made goodie bags for everyone and purchased books for all the students. Rick Taylor gave a gift card, along with a goody bag, to all the presenters whom he recruited. Thanks especially to Rick and Kay who put heart and soul into this project...

And speaking of heart and soul, we appreciate the many hours **Kay Canan and Sally Dier** have put into candy making. Kay and Sally have been making Easter candy for a month now, and they’ve spent hours in our kitchen turning out some delicious and beautiful Easter candy. With church services suspended, no new orders are being taken at this time. Sally has phoned those who placed orders re pickup and payment. Anyone who’d like to buy any of the remaining Easter candy is asked to give Kay Canan a call. These ladies are like the energizer bunny...going and going. They not only spent several hours making Easter candy, they also made time to cook for our Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner. Many thanks to Sally and Kay for all you do for Grace Church...

If you don’t already know, at our Annual Parish meeting, Amir **Amiruzzaman, Cathy Potisuk, and Phillip Rich** are the newly elected vestry members. At the Feb. 25th meeting, vestry officers were elected and

they are: **Midge Myers**, Senior Warden; **Fred Lundgren**, Junior Warden; and **Cathy Potisuk**, Clerk of Vestry. The new vestry is in the process of identifying goals for 2020 and how we can work with members, existing committees, and groups to achieve some common goals focused on growth, as well as needs and interests of current members and potential members...

Fred Lundgren celebrated his 20th birthday on Feb. 29 – well he’s looking pretty good for 20, but as we all know the 29 happens every four years and he really doesn’t look too bad for 80 either...

Michelle McLaughlin recently went to Florida for her best friend’s celebration of life and to bring her mother back to Ohio for a visit. We hope Michelle enjoyed the sun and being at the ocean in March, where it’s still chilly in Ohio...

Carol Marotta and husband Eric had a great trip out west. They spent time in Las Vegas, California, Utah, and lots of neat places along the way. They loved being outdoors, climbed a 5,000 foot mountain, and visited family and friends...

Barb Popiel will be headed for North Carolina to be with daughter **Michelle**, her husband **Dave** and their daughter **Hannah**. Hannah just turned two in December, so she’ll be ready for Grandma Barb to spoil her just a bit!...

Kevin Splinter has landed an internship at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton for the summer. What a place for an internship after your second year of college! Good for you, Kevin!

Some church websites where you can find live streaming (and later access to streamed services) include:

The Washington National Cathedral
www.cathedral.org

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

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

Birthdays

- 1st Rick Lashley
Michelle McLaughlin
- 2nd Laurie Barney
- 3rd Sonja Sherwood
Don Sherwood
- 4th Larry Thomas
- 12th Billy T. Johnson
Phil Rich
- 13th Kathy Summy
- 20th Sue Ahrens
- 21st Ralph Wise
- 29th Marcia Splinter



Congratulations!

and many happy returns...



Anniversaries

20th Jim & Nancy Ervin

Baptisms

- 2nd Dennis Dier
Phillip George
- 4th Tracy Shriver
- 5th Bill Snyder
- 7th Dale Espey
- 9th Jim Ervin
- 10th Jamie Popiel
- 11th Bruce Ahrens
- 29th Cathy Potisuk



The Bulletin Board

Prayer for People Critically Ill or Facing Great Uncertainty

God of the present moment,
God who in Jesus stills the storm
and soothes the frantic heart;
bring hope and courage to all
who wait or work in uncertainty.

Bring hope that you will make them the
equal of whatever lies ahead.

Bring them courage to endure what cannot be
avoided, for your will is health and
wholeness; you are God, and we need you.

(Adapted from New Zealand Prayer Book & sent
with material from Episcopal Relief &
Development)

Note

Due to
stay-at-home
orders and
suspension of
worship services &
non-essential
meetings, at this
point we're not
scheduling anything
for the normally very
busy April calendar.

"It's me, oh, Lord, standing in the need of prayer."

Do you ever feel like that? Or know someone else who may? You can pick up one of our Prayer Squares. These will be in a basket in the narthex, next to the guest books, and are free to anyone who wants one. Take one for yourself, your friend, your neighbor, or even the cashier at the supermarket who looks frazzled and in need of prayer! We hope this will answer that "need of prayer." The little squares are handmade by Shirley Johnson, Carolyn Englert, and Mary Cabot and have a little saying on the front. Thanks to you ladies for making them available for all of us. What a wonderful idea!



THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

If you know of someone we need to include in the 'Thank You' column, please let us know so we can add it next month (would that be May already?!?) Just want to offer our thanks to people who've helped out in the following ways:

- John McDonald and Rick Taylor for installing the new projector and screen; and to John McDonald and Mike Spellman for installing the electric lines, outlets, and technical hook ups/options for using the new projector in the parish hall.
- For their willingness to serve as officers and leaders on vestry: Midge Myers, Senior Warden; Fred Lundgren, Junior Warden; Cathy Potisuk, Clerk of Vestry; Barb Popiel; Phillip Crouse; Amir Amiruzzaman; and Phillip Rich.
- Laurie Barney for volunteering to serve on Altar Guild
- Sue Ahrens for getting donuts and Nancy & Jim Ervin for hosting as fill in coffee hosts
- For all the people worshipping straight from the BCP, those streaming Sunday services online, and those mailing in their pledges while worship services (& non-essential meetings) are suspended.
- For all who contributed to help purchase the new tables, and especially to the couple who's covering costs
- Marsha & Bill Snyder, Cherry Monegan and son-in-law Mark, and John McDonald for picking up & unloading new tables; and to Jim, Nancy, & Mike Ervin and Cindy Hoskins for their help setting up/arranging new tables.
- Kay Canan & Sally Dier for making a bunch of Easter candy and for all the folks who bought it
- For those who've volunteered to help other members given all the coronavirus concerns **(A few members are available to pick up needed items and bring them to a person's home if you're unable to get out. Please call the church office at 330.296.3443 Mon—Thurs. if you have a need, and we'll work on arranging help through those available.)**



Outreach Projects

Please check out the donation bin and the wagon in the church to see the updated items that are badly needed at THE CENTER OF HOPE, COUNTY CLOTHING CENTER, RAVENNA HIGH SCHOOL, and APL.

RAVEN PACKS

From now through March 29th we will be collecting nutria grain bars

Thank you for your continued support for these Outreach Projects.

Barb Popiel

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.*

April 2020

At this time of uncertainty about the future, concern for ourselves and our families and friends, and sometimes actually real fear of the unknown, looking to the past seemed a bit “out of step” with our current reality. My daughter Beverly sent the following prayer to our family on-line chat. I have found it most meaningful, helping me put my worries into perspective. God bless all of us.

Prayer for a Pandemic Cameron Bellm

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.
May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.
May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.
May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close
Remember those who have no options.
May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those that have no safe place to go.
May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.
May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.
As fear grips our country,
Let us choose love.
During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,
Let us find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.
Amen.





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

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
Midge Meyers(2020)
Fred Lundgren(2020)
Barb Popiel(2020)
Phillip Crouse(2021)
Phillip Rich(2022)
Amir Amruzzaman(2022)
Cathy Pottisuk(2022)