

GRACE NOTES

May 2020



GRACE CHURCH PENTECOST PROJECT



On PENTECOST (May 31 this year) we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church. In some churches, Pentecost celebrations include flying a dove-shaped kite, (or a red kite) inside the church during a procession. Others have the gospel read in many different languages. Many parishes ask people to wear red clothing, and the church paraments and vestments are red as well. This year, to add festivity to our online Pentecost

celebrations, we'd like to have parish members submit their artwork, photos, or other visual images on the theme of Pentecost. Send us a good, sharp digital or hard copy photo of your work, or an electronic file of your *very* short video clip, to be incorporated into a special presentation for Pentecost. In order to create the presentation, we need to receive your submissions by May 24th.

MOTHER CATHY'S CORNER

It's been a month and a half – it seems like forever.

It's been a month and a half – it seems like yesterday.



The two statements above only *sound* contradictory. They are both true at the same time. We have not been gathering in person for 44 days as I write this. Yet we can see and hear each other, worship, share virtual coffee hour and meetings and conversations several times per week, just as we always have done. Despite having to do it differently, in ways that are unfamiliar, that may be awkward and not like our traditional ways, we are worshipping, meeting, keeping in touch, praying, grieving, celebrating, helping others and being the community that is Church. Not perhaps in the ways we would have chosen, but in the ways that are possible.

In some curious and new ways, we are following in the steps of Jesus' disciples. They also were living with incredible disruption to the way things were. Their friend and rabbi had been arrested and crucified and raised from the dead. He had appeared to them, with the marks of crucifixion still showing, but very much alive, talking and eating and appearing to others. And the disciples rejoiced. But now what? How would this movement have to change? How many things would be different and perhaps unfamiliar and uncomfortable? As St. Luke tells in the gospel and the Book of Acts, they continued to pray together, to meet together, and to do those things Jesus had taught them. And, I'm sure they pondered and discussed what the future would look like. After fifty days, as they were all together, and just as Jesus had promised, they were given the Holy Spirit at Pentecost*.

And then things got *really* different. And the disciples were really different people too. They had a *mission*, given to them by Jesus. They were equipped with habits of prayer, with proof that God's promises can be trusted, and the assurance that, no matter what, Jesus would be with them. This confidence showed in their preaching and teaching and healing. For example, Peter, who was, after all, a fisherman, and not a great public speaker, preached so eloquently that 3000 were baptized the same day. How could he be so changed in just 50 days? How could they all become so focused on mission that nothing could stand in the way? In just 50 days?

Although we will probably not gather together for some time yet, what new things might we take from this time? What have you discovered that you can do – that you *never* thought you would? And how have you been aware of Jesus' presence with you in this sojourn?

*The word 'Pentecost' means "fiftieth," and was a Jewish festival held fifty days after Passover.

ONLINE WORSHIP AND FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

There are numerous opportunities for worship and formation on the internet provided by churches throughout the diocese and beyond. A few parishioners have confidentially mentioned to me that when it comes to celebrating Sunday morning church services online it's, "just not my cup of tea." In our household my wife and I are split on the matter. She diligently gets up early each Sunday morning and dutifully watches mass live-streamed on Facebook. Sitting in her makeshift office in the basement, she even "sits" and "stands" when directed. I've joined her a few times, but quite honestly, sometimes I find it depressing... it just makes me miss being in church. Still, it works for her.



If you are like my wife, and are enjoying the "worship from home" experience then you are in luck, There are so many opportunities to worship, both in real time, and pre-recorded, at Grace church and across the diocese and beyond.

But, if you find yourself struggling with the "worship part," of the online church experience as I do, then the "formation part," might be just what the digital doctor ordered.

Here at Grace, Mother Cathy's forums are informal and perfectly suited to the informal nature of the internet. We all can stand to learn more about the Bible, and Mother Cathy knows her stuff! One of the rewarding aspects of my job in the office at Grace are the theological and biblical conversations I get to have with Mother Cathy. There have been numerous occasions when Mother Cathy has shared with me some element of the coming Sunday's Gospel reading. Carrying the knowledge from those conversations to church with me has helped make that weeks readings so much more meaningful. And, I get to sound like a know-it-all when I tell my wife things like, "did you know the reason Peter's syntax sounds odd in this Gospel is because some scholars speculate the words might be direct quotes of his?"

While we are all stuck in our homes and lamenting the fact that there won't be a New York State Fair this year, we might as well do something productive and take the opportunity to grow in faith through the various online worship and formation opportunities that Grace Church and others have to offer.

For a listing of what's available:


<http://graceepiscopalbaldwinsville.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Online-worship-and-formation-opportunities.pdf>

Or, go to <http://graceepiscopalbaldinsville.org> and navigate to our Worship page to find the link.

If you have any questions about how to get connected please send me an email or leave me a voice mail and I will try and help walk you through it.

~Jonathan

MAY VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Pledges continue to be received allowing us to keep our operating bills paid. Thanks to all parishioners for their continued support. 
- Due to the current social distancing recommendations and that practice continuing in the near future, the Vestry felt it best to postpone the Chicken BBQ to a later date for the safety of our parishioners and the Baldwinsville community.
- It was decided to apply for assistance through the CARES Act and its' Payroll Protection Program which is part of the federal economic stimulus bill. It offers forgivable loans to small businesses, including non-profits, for maintaining payroll and paying qualified expenses.
- The Church Pension Fund has also offered to wave the obligation for clergy pension plan assessments for up to two months. The parish does not have to pay this money back at a later time and the clergy will receive full credit for the length of the waiver. Brad Pettit is overseeing this application process.
- With regard to our church insurance coverage, we have received notice from Church Insurance that they will be extending payments for 90 days beyond the effective/due date before cancellation.

EASTER THANKS



Special thanks to: Carol Lewis for receiving the Easter Flowers into the church. Jonathan Howell & Jeff Wise for their music making. Mother Cathy for her technical savvy and ability to adapt to an every changing worship environment. And most importantly, thank you to the parishioners of Grace church for continuing to worship and from afar and support the Church.

A THANK YOU FROM BETTY JOHNSON

Dear Grace Church family,

I would like to thank you so very much for all you have done to help Bob and me through our journey over the past four years. I am humbled and grateful for the ever-present support you have given us, indeed, your thoughtfulness and caring will be remembered forever.

“Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you so much, whatever part”

Affectionately,
Betty Johnson

PARISH BBQ

Well, normally this is the time that you start hearing from me, all about the Annual Grace Episcopal Church BBQ. Unfortunately, we are postponing it this year. I honestly don't know what that means right now. It could mean we have a smaller BBQ later in the year or it could mean we postpone it till next year. It will look different, but I'm confident it will be back. However, there are many things that need to happen, things that we don't even know about at this time, in order to make sure that we can hold the BBQ in a safe manner that will be a positive event for both the church and community. The way that I look at it is that our parish is so awesome, that we have held the best BBQ in Baldwinsville for over 50 years, and the only thing that could come close to beating us is a pandemic! I am sure that we will come out of this stronger and before you know it, we will be BBQing again!

Take care,

Allen



SAMARITAN CENTER - NON-EVENT GIVING CELEBRATION



Each year the Samaritan Center hosts its annual family-style spring dinner, "Raise the Plate – Good Samaritan Award." This year's honorees are the people of Haylor, Feyer and Coon who are have been long time volunteers and supporters of the Center. Due to the pandemic they have decided to cancel the regularly held event and instead host a "Non-Event," on May 8, 2020.

A ticket to the non-event encourages invitees to savor a night in the comfort of their own home and enjoy the menu and dress code of their choice, all while still supporting the important work of the Samaritan Center.

At a future date they will publically honor Haylor, Freyer and Coon.. To participate in the event you can purchase a ticket by going to www.samcenter.org. All donations will support the critical work of the Samaritan Center and are fully tax deductible.

With so many unemployed in our community and as public assistance gets stuck in the log jam, more and more families are finding themselves in need of the Samaritan Center's help.

EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS



Stuart and Susan Allen in thanksgiving for our health, families and blessings.

Cathy Carpenter & Jon Holmer in memory of Paul and Phyllis Holmer and Helen Carpenter.

Peter and Rosemary Coyne in memory of Martin and Cora Coyne, Nancy Mayo, Vince Chimera, Peter and Anna Talomie, Joe and Daniel Talomie and in thanksgiving for our many blessings, especially our family and friends.

Ann & Don Davis in thanksgiving for our granddaughters MacKenzie, Alyssa & Madelyn.

Nancy and Tom Fredette in memory of our parents, Ethel and Wilfred and Donaland and Ione, and in thanksgiving for Isabel and Emily.

Frank and Leslie Harper in thanksgiving for God's many blessings.

Jeannie & Tom Lamere in memory of Viola LaMere and in memory of Keith and Beulah Hogle.

Michael Moran in memory of Jean Bamford.

Bob and Joan O'Brien in memory of Andrew O'Brien and in memory of Brandon Corrigan.

Bradford Pettit in memory of Kathy Pettit.

Barb Simpson in memory of Don Simpson and Richard, Jean and Sharon Simpson, and in memory of Bruce and Jane Murray.

Kathy Tamblin in memory of Raymond C. Tamblin Sr.

Marv Virkler in memory of Marsha Virkler.

Carla & Dan Wiemers in memory of Linda Wiemers, Alan Sward and Matthew Clifton, and in thanksgiving for our families.

Rolf Ziemer



DO YOU HAVE AMAZON ALEXA OR GOOGLE ASSISTANT?



Both Alexa and Google Assistant have learned some Episcopal prayers. Thanks to TryTank's new partnership with Forward Movement, you can now say, "Alexa, open Episcopal Prayer" or "Google Talk to Episcopal Prayer" and your device will begin playing their morning or evening prayer podcasts.

"Whether people are at home or on the go, Alexa's ability to lead us through the daily office will be both useful and inspiring," said the Rev. Canon

Scott Gunn, executive director of Forward Movement in the release announcing our collaboration. "As a bit of a geek, I'm excited about this marriage of technology and Anglican tradition to equip disciples for daily prayer."

Depending on the time of day, either Alexa or Google Assistant will either play the morning prayer or evening prayer podcasts, which include the full liturgy of the daily office along with the assigned psalms and readings for the day. Try it. And tell your friends.



TryTank: An Experimental Laboratory for Church Growth and Innovation is a joint project between Virginia Theological Seminary and the General Theological Seminary. TryTank offers a much-needed inventive approach to the challenges facing the Episcopal Church. Working in partnership across the Episcopal Church, TryTank works to understand the forces threatening the church in order to identify creative ways to equip future leaders to reinvigorate the church.

FORWARD DAY BY DAY

There are still a few copies of Forward Day by Day here in the office. If you would like a copy please contact the office.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR OFFERING

Thank you to those who continue to support the church by mailing in your offering. For those who would like to make a gift without having to write a check and use the postal system, please consider giving online by clicking the green button on the home page of our website that says, "Give." It is an easy and safe way to give to Grace.

Website: GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org

315 635 3214

Office Hours: Mon & Thurs. 12:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m., Tue & Wed 12:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.

110 Oswego Street, Baldwinsville, NY 13027

WORSHIP

Sundays - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Tuesdays - 12:00 Noon



Grace Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 6, 110 Oswego Street
Baldwinsville, NY 13027 - 0006