

GRACE NOTES — May 2025

THE REFLECTING POOL

In the reading from Acts for the third Sunday of Easter, we see how Saul (The Apostle Paul) was “blown away” – to use modern terminology- by his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus. He fell to the ground blinded, and eventually his sight was restored and he set about proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah and sharing the Good News with the gentile world. Famous passage! People can make the mistake of seeing Paul as little more than a murderer or a madman, foaming at the mouth and indiscriminately killing members of the young Jesus movement. He may have been crazed but he was not crazy. He was a zealot. Saul was a true believer in the Jewish faith and that faith convinced him that Jesus was not the Messiah. Consequently, he was willing to take extreme measures to wipe out this new, corrupted strain of Judaism before it could spread. One thing you can say about a zealot, or, someone who is so consumed by a belief or an issue that they can't think of anything else, is that they are blind. They can't process any information contrary to their viewpoint and will not tolerate any dissension. They can be boring, too! Saul was struck down by blindness to emphasize that point. No wonder Ananias, the follower of Jesus who was instructed to attend to Saul when he was struck down, was reluctant to do so. The guy was dangerous.

After his conversion, Saul - who- was- now- Paul. was a deeply committed apostle of what would be the new Christian faith. He was not, however, a zealot in the traditional or worst sense of the word. He took his time planting seeds in the gentile world. He worked among the people. He shared meals with them. He did not scorn or humiliate them for their beliefs. He chose instead to show them a better way of living. Humility, service, and steadfastness in the face of resistance, were the hallmarks of this better way. Paul's letters were intended to keep the members of the young churches “on point”. He did not want them to fall back into “imperial” thinking.

Think about it. Today in our political and social divide we see too much inflexible zealotry. It can blind us to truths and solutions because we are unwilling to come down off the soapbox. Paul discovered a better way. So can we. It's true that you can't deal with the devil. It's also true that only God can change hearts. I figure there are not many devils out there. Mostly we just find people who are somewhere on the zealot scale. My rule is this; if there is an indication that greater charity, service, and respect for others can come out of fellowship with the “opposition”, then I'm all for it. That's a good thing to pray for. If not, we must still let our voices be heard. Jesus did. Alleluia!

Peace,
Fr. Joe



APRIL VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Baldwinsville theater guild are our new tenants
- Vestry is working on professional audit.
- Linda Murdock will be a Deacon at Grace

CHURCH CLEAN UP

Our Annual outdoor clean up will be on this Sunday, May 4th following the 9am service. Bring your garden gloves & any tools you feel would be helpful for weeding, pruning & spreading mulch. No tools, no problem, there will be plenty to share!



Thank you!

COMMUNICATION COORDINATOR

OFFICE HOURS

TUES 5:00-7:00 PM WED 6:00 PM—?

EMAIL IS CHECKED DAILY Office@GraceEpsicopalBaldwinsville.org

Editing note: There will be one Grace Notes for June and July.

Articles and any information will be due by June 17th.

GIVE

Thank you to those who continue to support the church by bringing or mailing in your offerings. 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.

The 58th Annual Chicken BBQ

Join Us for a Day of Community and Fun!

Event Details

Date: June 7th

Why Help Out?

The BBQ is an important fundraiser for the parish.

It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with the local community.

Spend quality time with your Grace Church family.

How You Can Help

Sign Up: Locate the sign-up sheet in the welcoming area to volunteer or donate.

Desserts Needed: We need 600 individually wrapped 2x2 inch brownies or cookie bars!

Generously sized treats are appreciated—one 9x12 inch pan makes 12 portions.



**The 57th Annual
Chicken BBQ
will be held on
June 7th**



**Community
Band
Concert**



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



SATURDAY JUNE 7TH

NOON - 4 OR UNTIL SOLD OUT

DRIVE-THRU AND EAT IN!

**SLOW-COOKED CHICKEN OVER THE BBQ PIT,
SALT POTATOES, BAKED BEANS,
ROLL WITH BUTTER, AND DESSERT.
\$13.00 FOR A HALF-CHICKEN MEAL**

110 OSWEGO STREET (RT. 48),

BALDWINVILLE, NY

WWW.GRACEEPISCOPALBALDWINVILLE.ORG





GRACE



SOFTBALL TEAM

Once again this year, the Grace Softball team will be back in action. A group representing Grace Church has been participating in the Greater Baldwinsville Church Softball League for over four decades. We are always looking for players, and also fans to come out and support the team. Games take place at Community Park, on field #2. The softball season runs from the first Saturday in May until the end of July



Looking for more information?
Contact Joe Reese,
(315) 440-0994 jreese001@twcny.rr.com

WORSHIP

Sunday 9:00 A.M. Alternating Holy Eucharist Rite 1 & 2



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