



The Messenger July 2024

Rector's Corner

It is that time of year when the Pralls take to the open road, or as open as IDOT and INDOT allow it to be. The I-80/90/94 corridor between states has been perpetually under construction for as long as I can remember. Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York are usually not so bad, though.

Anyway, there are three of my allotted five Sundays for which I plan to be absent over the next month. The first will be July 14th, as we will be making a mad weekend dash to Cleveland and back to see our friends' new baby. Then we will be heading back out on our annual New York vacation from July 22nd to August 7th, which means I will be absent for services on July 28th and August 4th.

An issue that arises every year is how to cover these services when there is an extreme shortage of supply clergy, especially out here in the Rockford Deanery. We have been blessed to be able to handle the situation in-house, with our own parishioners graciously leading Morning Prayer or Liturgy of the Word. However, there are folks for whom it is not church without Holy Communion. I have probably already shared the story with you about how we lost a parishioner one Sunday when I was a young lay leader in Sterling tapped to lead Morning Prayer; and by "lost," I mean we had no idea where he went. He showed up to church, saw it was Morning Prayer, and promptly walked out

to go to the nearby Catholic Church for Communion, without telling his wife. She panicked, because he had some health issues, and called the police to search for him. It was a whole thing.

During Bishop Clark's visit, these challenges were the subject of conversation at a couple of tables. I sat at a table with the Chaplain to the Bishop, who explained that the Diocese's preferred worship in the absence of clergy is Morning Prayer. It is part of our heritage, as Anglicans, as well as our theology for what it means to be gathered together in *common prayer*, i.e., there is more to our church life than the bread and the cup.

These conversations left enough of an impression on Bishop Clark that she sent a letter to the Diocese to provide "clarification on Eucharist, Morning Prayer, and Lay Eucharistic Ministers." As is my Canonical duty to share communications from the Bishop with you, I will post the letter outside the kitchen for you to read at your leisure (or I can email you a copy upon request), but allow me to share a few excerpts that convey the overall message:

As you know, we are in a season in our diocese when many congregations are not able to have a priest present to celebrate the Eucharist every Sunday. While the Eucharist is a beloved sacrament, the core of our worship is coming together in community to pray.

In congregations where there is no priest -- either occasionally or regularly -- Morning Prayer should be read. Morning Prayer may be led by anyone in the congregation, and it can be a wonderful opportunity for lay leaders and deacons to take the lead in worship. Around our diocese we have several lay-led congregations that are worshipping in this way...

While many of us have come to think of the Celebration of Eucharist as a part of our Sunday worship or piety, I encourage you to remember the prayer of St. John Chrysostom:

*“...you have promised through your well-beloved Son
that when two or three are gathered together in his
Name
you will be in the midst of them...”*

The worship of the Church is rooted in community and praising God, in whatever shape that takes. This is an exciting time to renew and raise up deacons and lay leaders, and learn how to be Church together in a new way.

Having shared that, I am pleased to say that I did receive a very gracious offer for supply, but I will hang on to that until I can properly make the arrangements. It may not be for all the Sundays I am away, so I might still lean on our wonderful lay leaders to fill in with Morning Prayer. As always, I appreciate their willingness to do so, and I appreciate your willingness to worship in the fullness of our Anglican tradition so that I can take some restorative time off.

Blessings,
Fr. Brian

Reminder for Emergencies when Fr. Brian is away

While I am away, I would like to be kept in the loop for any emergencies, pastoral or otherwise. Should such an emergency arise, please reach out to one of our wardens, Chuck Breo or Mike Shore, for immediate assistance. The surest way to get ahold of me is via email (fr.brianprall@gmail.com). Cell signal is slightly unreliable at the cabin, but emails come through and I can get to a place where I can contact you from there.

Grace Church News & Events

FACC Meal Donation Sunday is July 7th.

ECW News no First Friday lunch on July 5th due to the July 4th holiday.

People of Grace Breakfast - Saturday, July 20th, 8:00am at Nine East Coffee Shop. All are welcome to attend.

Vestry Meeting - Sunday, July 21st after the 9:00am service.

FACC Pantry Donation for July is chunky soup.

- When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God is right there to offer you strength and guidance.

—Anonymous

- Better by far you should forget and smile, than that you should remember and be sad.

—Christine Rosetti

In Gratitude of God's Love

Dear God,

Jesus taught us the depth of your love, a love that he demonstrated:

A love that accepts others, all others, not just some;
A love that respects others, all others, not just some;
A love that helps others, all others, not just some;
A love that forgives others, not just some.

Thank you God,

For letting us see love in action,
Feel the presence of love in the depths of our being,
Experience love in real time,
Hear love spoken in words that resonate sincerity
And provide comfort, love being lived,
Love at its lovingest, the Cross.

Thank you, God, for Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen

Treasurer's Report

Below is an analysis comparing the actual results for the first five months of this year to the annual budget.

	5 months Results	2024 Annual Budget	% of Budget
Total Revenue	108,851	219,227	50%
Expenses:			
Personnel Costs	60,837	144,472	42%
Building & Grounds	19,012	36,650	52%
Property & Liability Ins.	8,043	16,086	50%
All Other	<u>12,343</u>	<u>32,300</u>	<u>38%</u>
Total Expenses	100,235	229,508	44%
Gain (Loss)	8,616	(10,281)	

The first 5 months is 42% of the year, so this chart compares the actual revenue and expenses to 42% of the annual budget. Of course our pledges are not paid evenly throughout the year and some expenses are seasonal so 42% is just a target to help us see how we are proceeding throughout the year.

Please call me if you have any questions

Thank you,
Duane Price, Treasurer
815-233-0006
daprice68@yahoo.com



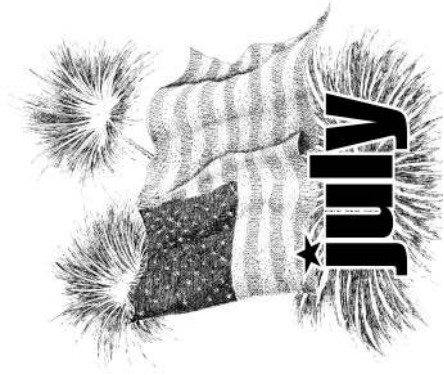
July

4th Ann Elmer
6th Owen Helm
19th Martha Furst

5th Brian & Ellen Prall
11th Skip & Mary Lehnhard
19th John & Elizabeth Woodward

Deadline for the August "Messenger" will be July 18th

Grace Episcopal Church
10 S. Cherry Avenue
Freeport, IL. 61032
815-232-4422



July Newsletter