



The Anchor Line

Grace Episcopal Church, Panama City Beach, Florida

www.gracespirit.org

May, 2017

Dear parishioners and friends of Grace Church:

As I said on Easter Day, I want to thank everybody who helped make our church so very lovely for our Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter services. Mentioning names is a minefield—there's always the risk that you leave out somebody—but I will cite the acolytes and the readers, our altar guild and those who decorated the church, the ushers and greeters, the choir, those who provided refreshments, and also those who came out on a Saturday a few weeks beforehand to spruce up our buildings and grounds. OK, I cannot help but mention Fred and John, who once again this year made certain that our 10:30 people would be able to find a place in our parking lots; and I am sure that Fred and John were themselves grateful that the weather was much more conducive for this year than last Easter.

Like the forty-day season of Lent that precedes Easter, the flip side of Easter is fifty days, culminating with the Day of Pentecost. Ascension Thursday marks the fortieth day of Easter, when the Risen Lord ascended into heaven. You know, of course, that Saint Luke is not only the author of the Gospel, but also of the Acts of the Apostles; I like to call the latter the history book of the early Church. And long before television programs reminded us after the commercial break about what had just happened in the previous segment, Saint Luke begins the Acts of the Apostles with the account of the Ascension, just as he used this story to close his Gospel. Because we already have a service and a congregation on Wednesday evenings, it's been our custom to observe Ascension Thursday on its eve, and so we will do this on Wednesday, May 24th, at our 5:45 P.M. Service.

Then, the Day of Pentecost follows this year on Sunday, June 4th. On this day, mindful of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit that were poured out upon the Apostles that day, I am once again putting out a call for those of you who speak a second language to assist in reading the intercessory Prayers of the People at the 10:30 service that morning: we do each prayer in a different language, with an English translation provided in the bulletins for the rest of us. In past years, we've heard prayers in Arabic, German, French, Spanish and Latin. And, of course, in English! Please let me know if you can help: we have the prayers, and if you only have a reading and

speaking knowledge of another language, that is not a problem, because we can provide the written translation for you.

Sharing Faith Dinners is a diocesan-wide evangelistic effort scheduled for June 1; many Episcopal Church dioceses will also be participating. We will be doing ours here at Grace Church, again, following our midweek service on Wednesday, May 31st. These dinners are planned as a simple, and I would say *non-invasive* way for us to do just what it says: share our faith. From my vantage point, this will not be all that different from our usual Wednesday night conversations over dinner here at Grace Church, although there will be some specific guidance or questions to direct our thoughts. Sayre Steere and Susan Walters have graciously consented to be the parish coordinators for that evening. Further information from the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast website can be found by following this link:

<https://www.diocgc.org/sharingfaithdinner>

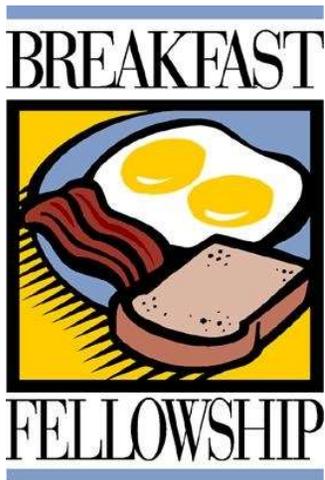
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Steere".



Wednesday Night Fellowship

Join us for our Mid-Week service on Wednesday's beginning at 5:45 pm with the Holy Communion followed by a potluck supper. Bring a dish to share and your favorite beverage of choice.



Join us in Wilhite Hall Sunday, May 7th, between the 8:00 am and 10:30 am worship service for good food and fellowship!! Invite a friend.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON
Tuesday, May 9th, at 12noon
Triple J's Steakhouse on Thomas Drive
All men are invited and bring a friend!!



We need coffee hour hosts for the month of May. Sign-up sheet is in Wilhite Hall. Thank you to everyone who participates in this ministry.

Those serving the month of May

<u>5/7</u>	8:00 am	10:30 am
Chalice	Walters	Walters
Acolyte	Walters	Walters
Lector	Hale	Shepard
Intercessor	Hale	Walters
Counters		Walters
Greeters		Swearingen

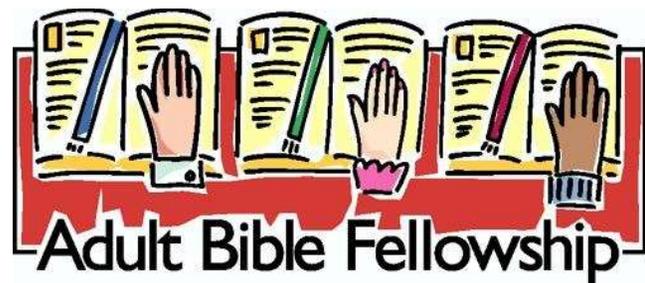
<u>5/14</u>		
Chalice	Knafelc	Richardson
Acolyte	Knafelc	Richardson
Lector	Gray	Barnes
Intercessor	Gray	Richardson
Counters		Richardson
Greeters		Swearingen

<u>5/21</u>		
Chalice	Gray	Steere
Acolyte	Gray	Steere
Lector	Westmoreland	Steere
Intercessor	Westmoreland	Steere
Counters		Swearingen
Greeters		Swearingen

<u>5/28</u>		
Chalice	Knafelc	Richardson
Acolyte	Knafelc	Richardson
Lector	Hale	Richardson
Intercessor	Hale	Richardson
Counters		Richardson
Greeters		Swearingen



May 7	Acts 2:42-47 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10 Psalm 23
May 14	Acts 7:55-60 1 Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
May 21	Acts 17:22-31 1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14:15-21 Psalm 66:7-18
May 28	Acts 1:6-14 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 John 17:1-11 Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36



Join us on Sunday Mornings at 9:15 am in the library for Adult Bible Study. Our own parishioner, Debbie Edmondson is teaching.



Remember Mom on
Sunday, May 14th

A "Night in May"...
to Take You Away!



Grace Episcopal Church
May 20, 2017 6:30-8:30PM

Join us for an evening of dining and entertainment!
Individual tickets only \$25 each.

Entertainment provided by the "Kim J" singers.

Menu:
Bread w/ Butter and Oil
Green Salad
Pork Loin w/ Gravy
Orzo, Baked Apples, Vegetables, and Sauerkraut
Crème Caramel