

## 4th of July Message

As we prepare to celebrate the 4th of July, we need to think about **freedom, gratitude**, and personal and collective **responsibility**. We can see parallels between civil liberties and spiritual liberation in Christ. The 4th of July marks a significant moment in American history—the birth of our nation founded on principles of liberty and justice. This day is not just a celebration of political freedom but also an opportunity to reflect on spiritual freedom. As Christians, we understand that true freedom is deeply rooted in our faith in Christ.

In the Bible, freedom includes spiritual freedom from sin and physical freedom from oppression. Theologically, spiritual freedom is most important—it is the freedom that Christ offers through His sacrifice, setting us free from the wages of sin and death. While important, physical freedom is considered secondary to the eternal freedom found in Christ. John 8:36 states, ***“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”***

The phrase “One Nation Under God” holds both historical and biblical significance. It reflects our nation's acknowledgment of divine sovereignty and the desire for divine guidance. It is important that we remain one nation under divine guidance as Psalm 33:12 states, ***“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, and the people whom He hath chosen for His own inheritance.”***

This month we should all remember the prayer from the BCP “The Prayers of the People” paragraph 4: *“We beseech Thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.”* This is a good time to pray for our leaders, our citizens and the communities we live in that we all bear the responsibility of upholding the godly principles that Christ has taught us. As Paul writes in Galatians 5:13 ***“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.”***



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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**HAPPY  
JULY  
FOURTH**

## Junior Warden Report

I am happy to report that we have made the final payment to our contractor for what we have been calling the Pergola Project. Although it took many years and quite a few "changes" to complete it has turned out to be the perfect addition to our facility. It makes our entrance more inviting by providing both a visible and spiritual transition from the world outside into "His" safe refuge. It also will provide us a new space for fellowship and evidence to the community around us that St. Agnes is alive and well.

Some other projects you might have noticed:

1. Trimming of the Confederate Jasmin along the wall to the Parish Hall.
2. Removal of dead shrubs west end of Parish Hall and stone bed added.
3. Also new stone added behind the Office Wing and Parish Hall along with cinder block retaining barrier and sod to redirect water flow away from buildings and walkways.
4. New brace added to sink counter top in the woman's restroom to prevent it from further separation from the wall.

**Thank you** to Dorothy, Marion and Fred who are responsible for most of this work. And Neal who is still adjusting video equipment to incorporate our new entrance/gathering area to include in our on line services. Thank you all.

As always if you see something you think needs attention let me know and a little extra donation to the **"Pay the Bills"** program would be welcomed.

Your Brother in Christ Jesus,  
Paul Brittain



## PAY THE BILLS

<u>BILL</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>NAME / Amount</u>
Electric	\$ 8,000	\$ 667	_____
Gas/Propane	\$1,800	\$ 150	_____
Water/Sewer	\$1,260	\$ 105	_____
Diocesan	\$28,000	\$2,333	_____
Phone/Internet	\$ 600	\$ 50	_____
Landscape	\$ 5,580	\$ 465	_____
Pest Control	\$ 1,500	\$ 125	_____
Copier	\$ 2,700	\$ 225	_____
Altar	\$ 1,991	\$ 160	_____
Fire Tax	\$ 1,876	\$ 157	_____
Property Ins.	\$35,338	\$2,945	_____
Music	\$ 7,800	\$ 650	_____

To contribute to PAY THE BILLS, pick a bill to pay, write the amount to be paid, and your name. The last step is to make out a check, note on your check the bill to be paid, and place in the collection plate.

PAY THE BILLS will continue for the rest of 2025.

## NEWS FROM THE WELCOME COMMITTEE

Many of you may not know that as part of our community involvement we are members of the Greater Sebring Chamber of Commerce. Each week 5 members are selected to be featured in the next week's Newsletter and on Facebook. St. Agnes was recently selected! This was a good opportunity to "INVITE"! Gary Brockett did a suburb job putting together a flyer while he, I and Fr. Scott brainstormed on verbiage to formulate the final product.

We hope you like the flyer and we hope there are folks out there looking for a church who like it too. This is a great example of creating an inviting community presence to attract new members, along with a good Website and Facebook. And yes, this all costs money and we have a fund raiser coming up in August for just this purpose.

In the meantime, please join me in prayers this month that our efforts will bring some Newcomers to our House of Worship.

Blessings

Linda Altman, Welcome Committee



## Treasurer's Report

I am writing this on June 17th, so I now have the financial results through May. I want to thank all of you who have participated in the **"Pay the Bills"** campaign. Some of you have given a on-time larger lump sum, and some of you are giving a smaller gift each month in addition to your regular giving. And I want to let you know **it is working!** Year-to-date it accounted for more than \$10,000 in income. We have also worked hard to keep expenses under control, and they were \$11,875 below budget at the end of May. The two working together have kept us in the black.

Without the **"Pay the Bills"** campaign we would be in the red and headed to the leaner summer months when our income is usually lower. I am going to start including financial data in my Newsletter articles from now on. It will give you a snapshot of where we are each month.

### End of May Statistics:

Year-to Date Income as of May	\$110,449.85
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## From the Stewardship Team

Every Sunday, we see in the Bulletin a blurb about “Pay the Bills” and we walk past the chart in the back of the Church. By now it’s automatic and many of us do not pay attention anymore. It’s just there. Well to date, “Pay the Bills” is making difference! At the end of May, over \$14000 has been raised. St. Agnes is still in the black. But there are a lot of bills to be paid for the rest of the year. Some of the bills are listed on the chart. Here are some other bills that need to be paid:

Office Supplies \$80/mo.          Copier Lease \$225/mo.          Janitorial \$300/mo.

Alter Candles \$70/ mo.          Alter Wine and Bread \$98/mo.

If writing a check, note “Pay the Bills and the bills” to be paid on the check.

Our Pledge Drive will be starting in the Fall. Our theme is *“Jesus thought about money too.”* Most of us think about money and finances quite a bit. Maybe more so in these times of uncertainty. The Church thinks about money too: how to pay bills, can it afford this and that, how to raise necessary money, etc. Jesus talked about money often. Of His 39 parables, 11 addressed the topic of money and possessions. His central theme was that money potentially may distract from spiritual matters. He discussed money when addressing greed, generosity, and the dangers of loving money. He emphasized the importance of trusting in God rather than material wealth. Estimates are that 10% of the verses in the Gospels directly address money. The frequency with which Jesus discussed money indicates its importance in His teachings and underscores the need for Christian’s to consider their relationship with money and possessions. It is reported that over 2000 verses about money are in the Bible. So when the Stewardship Team talks about money frequently, why are some of us uncomfortable with this? The Bible makes it plain enough, money is not the root of all evil, but love of money is! Hebrews 13:15 says *“keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for He has said, I will never leave you or forsake you.”*

A Stewardship Prayer: O God, I resolve to put You first in my life. I recognize that You have blessed me with all that I have and all that I am. As your steward, I resolve to sacrifice when necessary but always do so out of a spirit of sincere love, just as your Son, Jesus, did for me. I humbly accept the challenge to share from my means rather than from my excess. I recognize that being a good steward is nothing more than being truly Christian. Amen

May God Bless,  
Your Stewardship Team

## Food donation for Hands for Homeless

Since my last report in late February, Fred Carino, Rita Sewell and I have transported approximately 400 pounds of food donated by the St. Agnes parish to the **Hands for Homeless** food bank in Avon Park. They are always very appreciative of your donations so please keep those coming. They ask for ready to eat (i.e. pop top or easy to open) foods. If you wish to donate, please leave the food in the bins that are inside and just to the left of the main entrance to the Parish Hall.

Thank you,  
Bill Gregory

## Wednesday Night Bible Study

Please join us on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM for Bible Study. You are welcome to bring a friend as we continue our study of the Book of Isaiah.









# The Agnes Dei

## July 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b> 10:00 AM Morning Prayer with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament	<b>2</b>  6:00 PM Bible Study—Isaiah	<b>3</b> 10:00 AM Morning Prayer with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament	<b>4</b> <b>Independence Day</b>	<b>5</b> 10:00 AM Pray the Rosary
<b>6</b> 10:00 Single Worship Service. With Communion <b>Potluck after Service</b>	<b>7</b>  6 PM Evening Prayer	<b>8</b> 10:00 AM Morning Prayer with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament	<b>9</b> 10:00 AM Morning Prayer with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament.  6:00 PM Bible Study Isiah	<b>10</b>  10 AM Morning Prayer with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament	<b>11</b> 8:30 AM Morning Prayer with Communion 10:00 Vestry Meeting	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 7:30 Holy Eucharist (said) 10:45 Holy Eucharist (Sung and online)	<b>14</b>  6 PM Evening Prayer	<b>15</b> 10:00 AM Morning Prayer with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament	<b>16</b> 10:00 AM Morning Prayer with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament 6:00 PM Bible Study	<b>17</b>  10 AM Morning Prayer with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament	<b>18</b> 8:30 AM Morning Prayer with Communion	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 7:30 Holy Eucharist (said) 10:45 Holy Eucharist (Sung and online)	<b>21</b>  6PM Evening Prayer	<b>22</b> 10:00 AM Morning Prayer with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament	<b>23</b> 10:00 AM Morning Prayer with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament 6:00 PM Bible Study	<b>24</b> 10:00 AM Morning Prayer with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament	<b>25</b> 8:30 AM Morning Prayer with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 7:30 Holy Eucharist (said) 10:45 Holy Eucharist (Sung and online)	<b>28</b>  6PM Evening Prayer	<b>29</b> 10:00 AM Morning Prayer with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament	<b>30</b> Morning Prayer with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament 6:00 PM Bible Study	<b>31</b> 10:00 AM Morning Prayer with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament		

### JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/8 Taylor Readey  
7/8 William Hutchinson  
7/15 Helen Dayton  
7/22 Richard LaMantia

7/27 Trish Trolan  
7/31 Randy Blank

### JULY ANNIVERSARIES

7/7 Patty and Timm Scott



# Congratulations!