

FROM THE RECTOR

Looking over options for our new website the other day put me back in “business mode” for a bit. When I was VP for Market Development at a securities firm in Tokyo, a small part of my job was considering give-away marketing materials (pens, etc.). Branding includes things like logos: a simple image, sometimes incorporating words, that is easy to include on all kinds of things, and also easy for customers to remember and associate with the brand in their minds.

For many years (long before I arrived) the front façade of our church has been included in St. Agnes logos. Assuming we would continue to do so, I took several pictures, including some with the new gazebo, that might be used to create the new logo.

But the whole concept of logos got me thinking about icons, probably because I had taken a photo of our Jesus icon in my search for descriptive images. Did you know that the use of icons dates back to the earliest centuries of Christianity? The Church Fathers affirmed that since God became visible in Jesus Christ—the Word made flesh—it is appropriate to depict Jesus (God) with images. In fact the Greek word for icon (εἰκών/*eikon*) means “image,” reminding us of how people were created: in the image of God.

Icons are not meant to be realistic portraits. Their unique style—with flattened perspective, stylized features, and symbolic colors—reminds us that this is not ordinary art. Icons are theology written in image form. They teach us who Christ is, what the Church believes, and how holiness looks in the life of a believer.

Just as icons are visible expressions of invisible truths, Christians too are called to be living icons—reflections of God’s presence in the world. An icon does not point to itself but to the holy figure it represents, and in the same way, a faithful Christian life is meant to direct others toward Christ. Through our love, in actions and words, we become “images” of God’s grace, bearing witness to His light in a world that often walks in darkness. Just as icons are shaped through prayer, discipline, and tradition, our lives are gradually formed by the Holy Spirit to mirror the beauty and holiness of the One we serve.

In all that we do—whether website design, sitting and praying with others, or even grilling hamburgers—may God continue to shape us in His image, and grant us grace to live as icons, displaying that image to all.

Yours in Christ,
Scott+



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Junior Warden Report

First thing on my list is informing you of the next building maintenance project. If you haven't already noticed it the beam ends supporting the roof over the walk ways along either side of the Paish Hall are extremely weathered and need attention. The Vestry has authorized me to reach out for estimates on repairing them and then to protect them all by cladding them in protective metal sheeting.

As our facilities are some 60 years old now this kind of issue will continue to be a factor in our life. Having said that they are very hard to budget for as we can only assign the money on hand to future projects we would like to deal with. One way we have come up with to help with this kind of issue is the **"Pay the Bills Board"** at the back of the church. This sign up board has made a positive impact in receiving enough money for us to **"Pay the Bills"**. This new repair project will be added to the board, please consider contributing to it.

Second thing I want you to consider is, why do we have a church building? We are called to make disciples for Christ in the world. How do we do this? One way is to be a witness to Jesus's life and promise. How to do this? The simplest way I know is just go to church. But where? Ah ... We are called to be a witness to Christ Jesus, to attend corporate worship of God and be in fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Lucky for us this has moved from hiding in someone's home, field or in underground catacombs to coming together in beautiful public worship spaces. Key word here is public. Our church buildings are public worship spaces so when you enter ours you are being a witness to the world that you believe in God and that Jesus Christ His son is your Savior. How often are we witnessing? Once a week, month, year? St Agnes offers at least 8 corporate services a week. I like that we have so many opportunities to witness to our community. I attend at least 4 of them every week. Believe me, I'm no Saint but, if my car doesn't move Sunday morning my neighbors do a safety check. They know where I want to be Sunday mornings. That's one way I witness. Making sure cars are in the parking lot so the public sees activity in and around St. Agnes is an important way we can witness to the public of our belief in God and Jesus. We keep talking about wanting to see more people in our church and we keep asking how do we do that? ... I'm thinking if "we" went to church more often we'd see more people in church.

God is Good all the time!
Paul Brittain
Your Jr. Warden

PAY THE BILLS

<u>BILL</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>MONTHLY AMOUNT</u>	<u>NAME / Amount</u>
Repairing			
Beams (New)	\$???	?	_____
Gazebo (New)	\$ 6,000	\$500	_____
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	_____

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 and 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.



Dorothy Girardot works as hard keeping the outside looking good as she does the inside.

WELCOME COMMITTEE REPORT AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

“Go and make disciples of all nations.” Matthew 28:19

Summer in the church slows down. Meetings taper off, pews thin out and the calendar lightens. It is the perfect time to take a look at where we want to be for Fall.

The Fellowship Committee is gearing up for some fun events starting with the “**Hamburger Hullabaloo!**” Who can you invite? A neighbor, a coworker, someone from clubs you attend?

INVITE can be a good first step in your discipleship journey.

Blessings

Linda Altman, Welcome Committee

Hamburger Hullabaloo August 22nd

On August 22nd Randy and Marsha Blank along with Tim and Patty Scott will host a **Hamburger Hullabaloo**. This includes hamburgers with side dishes, chips, drinks and a dessert. This is a gift from us to our Church Family. There is no charge for the evening but *donations are greatly appreciated* and will be given to the work of our Church. **Please sign up for the Hamburger Hullabaloo and bring friends and sign them up as well.** Come at **4:00 PM** for a glass of wine or a beer some pop or tea and at **4:30 PM** Randy and Tim will cook hamburgers to taste. We encourage all our faithful family to come see you there. This is a great opportunity to **INVITE** new friends to our wonderful Church!

It was decided at our Vestry meeting that we will postpone the **Invite Welcome Connect Fund Raiser** event until November 1st so that we may include our winter family in the festivities in lieu of having this special event on August 22nd.

Blessings,

Marsha Blank

Treasurer's Report

I want to thank all of you who have participated in the “**Pay the Bills**” campaign. And I want to let you know **it is working!** Year-to-date it accounted for more than \$15,000 in income. We have also worked hard to keep expenses under control, and they were \$16,079 below budget at the end of June. However, we are now in the Summer months when attendance is lower and many members are away. Hence, our income in June was \$3,035 below our expenses.

Depending on some negotiations, we still need about \$6,000 - \$9,000 to complete payments on the Gazebo additions, so we have added that to the “Pay the Bills” campaign. Hopefully you can help us with this expense.

End of June Statistics:

Year-to Date Income as of June	\$127,899
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$129,793
Net Year-to-Date	- \$ 1,894

Leslie Maschue
Treasurer

From the Stewardship Team

Last month, we talked a little about Jesus' view on money, possessions, and wealth. This month, we are going to provide some more thought provoking aspects of what the Bible and Jesus have to say. No matter what your life circumstances are financially, God's word gives us the proper path to think about finances. Here are some things to ponder as we support St. Agnes with some of our treasure.

Money is a tool, NOT the goal. What we do with our money reflects what our value system is about. "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" —Mathew 6:21.

One cannot serve two masters. "You cannot serve both God and money"—Mathew 6:24. Money makes a terrible god in itself. But when submitted to God, it becomes a powerful tool for good.

Generosity is not optional for one who worships God; it is required.

"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed"—Proverbs 11:25.

"Give and it will be given to you...for with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." — Luke 6:38

Generosity is about trusting that God will provide; He has always shown that He provides. God does not need money but what we do with money should remind us that everything we have already belongs to Him.

Giving is worship. It is trust in action—trust the Lord. "God loves a cheerful giver."—Corinthians 9:7

Stewardship is managing what is not yours because all belongs to God. "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."—Psalm 24:1

Whatever our financial decisions, our concerns, our thoughts about giving and being generous, remember ultimately God is our provider for He owns it all, and He is with us every step of the way. "Honor the Lord with your wealth...then your barns will be filled to overflowing."— Proverbs 3:9-10 God cares about our bills, generosity, and one's peace of mind. Ask Him to lead the way!

While we are thinking about money and being generous, a specific need has arose for St. Agnes. Another **"Pay the Bills"** item is being added. The gazebo requires another \$6000 to finish. This was not expected. We might think about what was discussed above and respond accordingly.

A Stewardship prayer: O Lord, giver of life and source of freedom, I know that all I have received is from your hand. Gracious and loving God, You call us to be stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us to always use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. Send the Holy Spirit to work through us, bringing Your message to those we serve. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ in our lives. We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus' name. Amen

God Bless Us All

Faithfully your Stewardship Team

***Reference credits to the Bridgepoint Church and the Episcopal Diocese of Washington

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.

Note from the Senior Warden

Hello,

I must apologize for this being just the second edition for the monthly news letter. I have been assisting my father to move down with us here in Sebring along with his two cats. It is taking some time getting him set up with doctors and other help. You might see him with me at mass. If you do please come great him his name is Niles, but prefers Jack. Everything is new to him here and can be a bit scary. We want him to feel welcome.

One thing I have learned so far as Senior Warden is even when a project like the Gazebo appears done, it's not. We still need to do some things to complete everything. This has taken some time while father Scott was away.

For those of you who send letters and notes about items and concerns I want to let you know I do present everyone of them to the Vestry for a decision or action. Please continue if this is the means you wish to use to communicate.

I'm most excited about the new St. Agnes web site coming soon. I apologize we will need to have a new web address (URL) <https://www.st-agness-fl.org/>. The good news is the new address is shorter to type and hopefully easier to remember. From a functional side it is easier for us to edit and post things without using a web design service every time. Changes are instantaneous and reasonably easy. The key objective for the new site is recruitment for new members *and* greater information for our members. Please bear with as we transfer content and add new information like this newsletter to the site. We will also soon have a correct calendar of things which we have not been able to edit for some time now. Our annual cost goes down to about \$120 per year to run it. To support the **Pay the Bills** campaign Lisa and I have funded the first year along with helping maintain it. Please watch for it soon.

For now this is my update for July.
God Bless,
Michael Martin, Senior Warden



Can you guess what's on the table in this typical homestyle Japanese meal?



The Agnes Dei

August 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1 8:30 Holy Eucharist	2 10:00 AM Pray the Rosary
3 7:30 Holy Eucharist (Said) 10:45 Holy Eucharist (Sung) Potluck after Service	4 6 PM Evening Prayer	5 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	6 Transfiguration Noon Mass at the Cathedral 6:00 PM Bible Study Isaiah	7 10 AM Holy Eucharist	8	9
10 10 AM Morning Prayer with Communion	11 6 PM Evening Prayer	12 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	13 8:30 Holy Eucharist 6:00 PM Bible Study	14 6 PM Vigil Mass of The Assumption	15 8:30 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Vestry Meeting	16
17 7:30 Holy Eucharist (Said) 10:45 Holy Eucharist (Sung)	18 6PM Evening Prayer	19 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	20 8:30 Holy Eucharist 6:00 PM Bible Study	21 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	22 8:30 Holy Eucharist 4:00 PM Hamburger Hullabaloo	23
24 7:30 Holy Eucharist (Said) 31 10:45 Holy Eucharist (Sung) 7:30 Holy Eucharist (said) 10:45 Holy Eucharist (Sung)	25 6PM Evening Prayer	26 10 AM Holy Eucharist	27 8:30 Holy Eucharist 6:00 PM Bible Study	28 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	29 8:30 Holy Eucharist	30

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/2 David Onsted
 8/4 Nancy Brockway
 8/4 Darren Harbison
 8/6 Morris Burnham
 8/8 Cameron Readey
 8/9 John Shoop
 8/12 Regina Krasover
 8/17 Peggy Walker
 8/20 Donald Jackson
 8/27 Jan Shoop

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

8/12 Carol & Bill Todd
 8/13 Kathy & Ira Smith
 8/19 Carol & Neal Hodges
 8/30 Edna & William Hutchinson



Congratulations!