

St. Agnes Episcopal Church

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June 2025

FROM THE RECTOR

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. – Jer. 29:11

In The Episcopal Church there are varying levels of “holy days,” the top rank—holiest of all, and therefore worthy of every effort to gather together for worship—are called “principal feasts.” Page 15 in the Book of Common Prayer lists those seven annual occasions. In chronological order (of the Church year) they are: Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, Trinity, and All Saints. Some are well understood, while others are treated with a fair amount of explaining, either what is being celebrated or why it is a *principal* feast. However, there is one that, although the event commemorated is easy enough to understand, the reason for the solemnity might be less clear, and that is the Ascension. You see, it is not merely Jesus’ disappearance that is being celebrated. Rather, we commemorate that final bodily action of Jesus, because of the *implication of his next bodily action* (which we hear about in the first lesson on that day, at Acts 1:11): his return. For us (and all Jesus’ disciples) that means we’re going on a trip, a journey with Jesus, and that should be something to **get excited** about, but also something to get ready for.

Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand. – Proverbs 19:21

I’m getting ready for a trip right now, albeit an earthly one. Getting ready for this journey has meant a lot of preparation, first of all, preparing worship and Bible study materials to be used at St. Agnes while I’m away, so that others are hopefully not too inconvenienced by my absence. It also means making various travel plans, so that the limited time we have on vacation is not wasted. Limited time is precious time, isn’t it? Who would want to waste it?

Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name – Hebrews 13:15

Of course, all of our time is limited and precious, every moment a gift from God. Could there be a better use of it than planning for that trip we expect to take with Jesus? Actually, no, according to our Faith. At the core of our Faith is a belief in God, the God of the Bible. To believe in God is to acknowledge his supremacy over everything, and therefore our privilege and duty to “give God worth”—worship. It goes much deeper, but in a nutshell, that is our purpose: to love and worship God, who loved us first and proved it by redeeming us through Jesus. Indeed, our worship is informed by and informs our belief, as described in the Latin phrase: *Lex orandi, Lex credendi* – the law of prayer (how we worship) [shows] the law of belief (what we believe). And this is the case, whether intentional or not.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness. – Psalm 29:2

In some churches newcomers might think “church” is about grabbing a specialty coffee in lobby, finding a comfy seat, rocking out to groovy tunes, and/or listening to a motivational speaker (who might mention Jesus). When people join us for worship at St. Agnes, they are able to tell that we believe in the holy God. Everything we do when we gather together in worship proclaims the glory of God and points us to Jesus the Christ. If you’re not excited about that, you should be! In fact, you ought to be so turned on and tuned in, that not only do you not want to miss the opportunity to worship and fellowship together, but excited enough to invite others. I’m already missing it, and I haven’t even left for vacation yet. [NB: if you need God to fill you with such excitement, just ask—that’s how to receive.]

Blessings, Scott+



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Jr. Warden Report	2
Pay The Bills	2
Treasure’s Report.....	3
Stewardship Message	4
Crosses	5
Flower Guild Report.....	5
Calendar for May.	6

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Treasurer’s Report
See page 3
- Hands for Homeless
See page 4
- Stewardship 4

Junior Warden Report

1. For the most part our Pavillion/car port construction project has been completed. It has made a difference to our perceived presence in the community and increased our options for fellowship and liturgical activities including an honored home for our church bell.

2. We continue to work on our water diversion efforts to reduce facility flooding when we experience heavy rain events. One such event happened a couple of weeks ago when 2.5 inches of rain fell in 24 hours and a flood of mud and water invaded the walkway in front of Fr. Walkers office. Many hours of clean up followed, then a new water diversion wall was installed and some sod laid to prevent this from reoccurring.

3. We have installed new thermostats in the church, parish house and office/class room facility that can be pre-programed and then managed by computer/phone apps. This reduces costs by eliminating those "oh I forgot to turn off the AC" after an event. And let's us slowly cool down for scheduled events instead of pushing the system to make it comfortable as soon as we turn the lights on for the activity.

4. We had an event a week ago where we had to call in the plumber to clean out a sewer blockage behind the men's and women's rest rooms because someone put body wipes down the toilet. Please do not put anything into our toilets but toilet paper. This happened on a Saturday so we had to pay an extra service fee.

5. We are continuing to remove dead and damaged landscape material from around the buildings. This has caused some concern among some of you because it results in a rather stark and empty look to our facility. This is true but in reality empty looks much better than dead, broken and uncared for. As for replacing or adding to our landscaping it can only happen if someone is willing to pay for it

Continued...

and then fund its maintenance in perpetuity. Our foreseeable budget can only support the basics of salaries, utilities, insurance, limited facility maintenance, diocesan and national church assessments.

So with that being said I would encourage all of us to consider what we give to our church. What does St. Agnes mean to us? Where does God intersect with our life? Is it just on Sunday morning? Is it just habit? Are we really interested in making a difference in the world like Jesus asked us to do? No actually He commanded us to do it. We need to do more. How many of your neighbors, friends, and family know you are a believer? How many people know you are a member of St. Agnes parish and attend church regularly? How many of them know we support Meals on Wheels, provide food to the homeless and needy regularly even provide shelter/refuge to local homeless people?

Our Christian calling is to share the Gospel and give charity to our neighbors. That is the purpose of St. Agnes. To worship God In fellowship with each other and to strengthen and inform each other so we can grow spiritually and do what God commanded us to do.

Paul Brittain, Jr. Warden

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

THANKS TO THE CREATIVE TALENTS OF FR. WALKER, WE NOW HAVE A CHURCH BUSINESS CARD AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE FOR PURSE OR POCKET! THIS IS A GREAT TOOL FOR INTRODUCING YOUR CHURCH WHEN OUT AND ABOUT YOUR DAILY TRAVELS.

IT FEATURES A LINE FOR BOTH YOUR NAME AND IF YOU DESIRE TO SHARE, YOUR PHONE NUMBER. BE SURE AND USE A SHARPIE PEN (IF YOU NEED ONE, ASK).

THERE ARE QR CODES ON THE BACK THAT DISCLOSE OUR LOCATION AND FACEBOOK PAGE.

I HAVE LEFT A SUPPLY NEAR THE SIGN UP SHEETS AND WILL HAVE MORE WITH ME ON SUNDAY MORNINGS.

THESE WERE A BIG HIT AT THE “INVITE, WELCOME, CONNECT” FORUM THAT TOM AND I RECENTLY ATTENDED. MORE ON THAT NEXT MONTH.

BLESSINGS,

LINDA ALTMAN, WELCOME TEAM

Fundraiser on August 22nd Invite, Welcome, Connect

The fundraiser theme will be “**Invite, Welcome and Connect**” and will be held on August 22nd which is a Friday. We will have cocktails in the pergola from 4:00 to 5:00 and dinner at 5:00 in the Parish Hall. The fundraiser is to make some money for our advertising of **Invite Welcome and Connect** and for a new web page that has been an ongoing project in churches for approximately 20 years. It has worked well at other Churches and we would like very much for it to work for us and build our Christian Community at St Agnes. The menu for the evening will be shrimp scampi, and chicken alfredo with many sides and lots of different tastes and lovely and delightful desserts. We want everyone to come and invite friends. Sign up on the sign up sheet at church and plan ahead for August 22nd this is important! Marsha Blank

Treasurer's Report

I was praying about what I should share with you this month. I feel like it needs to be light-hearted! So, I searched and found the following funny story on the website of our online giving platform. (Vanco)

The strongman at a circus squeezed the juice from a lemon between his hands. He then said to the audience, “I will offer \$200 to anyone in the audience who can squeeze another from this lemon.” A thin scholarly looking woman came forward, picked up the lemon, strained hard and managed to get a drop. The strongman was amazed! He paid the woman and asked, “What is the secret to your strength?” “Practice,” the woman answered. “I was the treasurer of a Lutheran Church for 32 years!”

I can certainly relate! Father Scott and your Vestry continue to do all they can to limit expenses while fulfilling our mission to spread the Gospel. We depend on you to help pay the bills. Have a great summer and stay healthy.

Leslie Maschue
Treasurer

From the Stewardship Team

Over the past year, the Stewardship Team has been updating the St. Agnes Roster. It now has a definable number participants who actually contribute monetarily to St. Agnes through the Realm accounting software system. As of 3/31/25, the Total Number of parishioners is 134. Of these, 59 are individuals (singles) and 33 families. As such, there are 92 “giving units.” Many thanks go to Pam Apps who did the majority of leg work to get this completed! The intention is to keep the Roster current with updates 2X per year.

The Stewardship Team is analyzing the congregation giving patterns for 2024 and so far in 2025. When this is done, there will hopefully be a better understanding of the patterns at St. Agnes. This will assist in budget preparation, plans for the future, and our Fall pledge drive. There will be a communique coming out soon from the Stewardship Team explaining the St. Agnes financial situation and what we all need to do. As a Stewardship Team, a part of our mission is to encourage all of us to give, make giving regular, and to give a little bit more if one can.

The theme for our Pledge Drive this year is **“Jesus was concerned about money too.”** Jesus said that money reflects greatly upon our spiritual condition. The Stewardship Team will be discussing what this means to us in our lives in future articles and statements. The following prayer from the Episcopal Diocese of Washington will begin our stewardship relationship to money journey:

“Blessed are you, Lord God of the Universe, for you create out of the cosmos this fragile earth and give life to it. You maintain our lives with the spark of our heartbeat and the growth of food from the earth. How can we do anything but respond by giving back a portion of our blessings to the life and ministry of the Church, your body on earth? Help us to be less afraid of vulnerability and thereby to loosen our death-grip on our money. Help us to see clearly the inequality in our world and to respond by giving through your body, the Church. Amen.

Partners in Christ,
Your Stewards

Food donation for Hands for Homeless

As part of our ongoing ministry to feeding the homeless, we collect ready-to-eat items such as pop-top or other easy-to-open food and take it every week. The bins are in the Parish Hall; if you are unable to carry your donated items to the Parish Hall, ask any Vestry member for assistance. Thank you for your continued love and help for those in need.

International Potluck Lunch To Celebrate Pentecost

Our monthly **Potluck for June will be on June 8th** (not the 1st), to celebrate **The Day of Pentecost!** Bring a loved dish from your family heritage or an international favorite to share.



St. Agnes Flower Guild

Members of Saint Agnes: I have volunteered to chair the Flower Guild at Saint Agnes. I am looking for 4 volunteers who have a knack for arranging flowers and designing with flowers for festive church occasions. We will be working with Hobby Hill. If this sounds like something of interest to you please let me know.



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Summer Service Times

Please note that on Sundays from **June 15 – July 6** there will be a **single worship service** of Morning Prayer with Communion, led by Deacon Davenport. The service will begin **at 10 AM**. During this time there will be no hymns, so don't be late, or you might miss it!

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Please join us at 6:00 PM June 4th for Bible Study. This week we will be studying and discussing Isaiah chapters 37-39. You are welcome to bring a friend as we continue of study of the Book of Isaiah.

Get a Piece of St. Agnes History

The crosses at the left are made from wood that was removed from an old structure at St. Agnes. We had them made into crosses. Some have a base and others do not but have a hole in the top so that they can be hung or made into a necklace. These crosses have not been stained, they have been finished with clear varnish and are quite attractive. The crosses with a base can be purchased for \$20. The crosses without a base can be purchased for \$15.





The Agnes Dei

June 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 7:30 Holy Eucharist (said) 10:45 Holy Eucharist (Sung and online)	2 6 PM Evening Prayer	3 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	4 Noon– Holy Eucharist at the Cathedral 6:00 PM Bible Study—Isaiah	5 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	6 8:30 AM Holy Eucharist	7 10:00 AM Pray the Rosary
8 PENTECOST 7:30 Holy Eucharist (said) 10:45 Holy Eucharist (Sung and online) Potluck Lunch	9 6 PM Evening Prayer	10 10:00 AM Morning Prayer	11 6:00 PM Bible Study Isaiah	12 10 AM Morning Prayer	13	14
15 Father's Day 10:00 AM Single Worship Service. Morning Prayer with Communion	16 6 PM Evening Prayer	17 10:00 AM Morning Prayer	18 6:00 PM Bible Study	19 10 AM Morning Prayer	20	21
22 10:00 AM Single Worship Service. Morning Prayer with Communion	23 6PM Evening Prayer	24 10:00 AM Morning Prayer	25 6:00 PM Bible Study	26 10:00 AM Morning Prayer	27	28
29 10:00 AM Single Worship Service. Morning Prayer with Communion	30 6PM Evening Prayer					

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6/1 Susan Thomas

6/3 Florence Witter

6/12 Michelle Brockett

6/13 Harry Ressler

6/23 Carlus Holliday

6/28 Marcia Allen

JUNE

ANNIVERSARIES

6/25 Nancy and Larry Brockway



Congratulations!