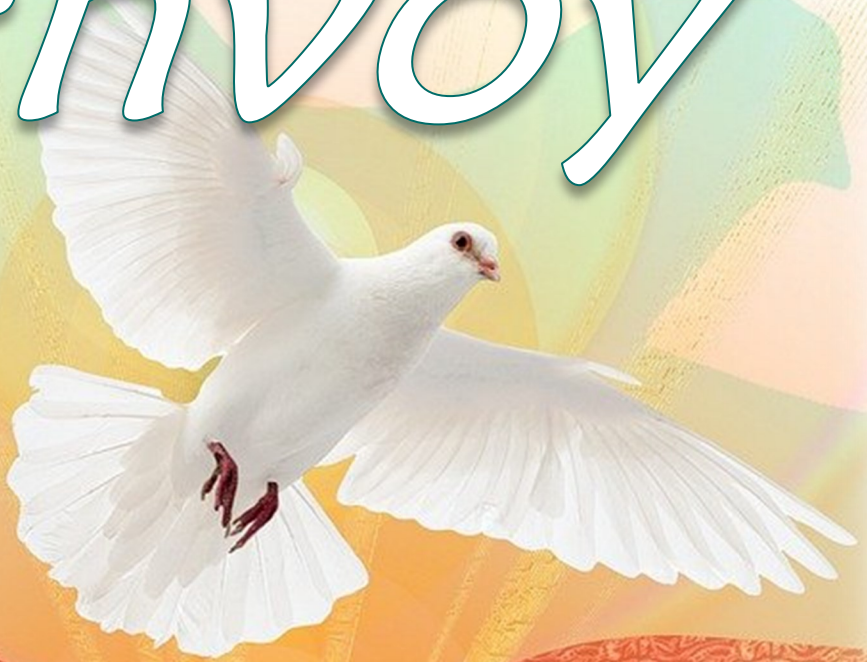


The

Envoy



May 2024

Words from the Senior Warden



First and foremost, my sincere thanks for your prayers during the last three weeks as Susan and I suffered some illnesses. Fortunately, we were never contagious. A special thank you to everyone who stepped up and helped fill the gaps when we needed you.

We have closed our Church Assessment Tool (CAT) survey and are close to setting a date for the interpretation presentation. I have been in touch with the Holy Cow Consultants, and we are basically on schedule. As I have said many times, there is a well-defined process for all of this. All we have to do is work the process.

The next step is to form a Search Committee. Applications to serve on the search committee are available from the church office and in the Narthex. Any Parishioner may apply - there is no such thing as “not qualified”. This will be a lot of work and involve listening, building a community, and providing a space for new ideas, all in a very short period of time. The committee will, of necessity, be small. Please return your completed application to any member of the Vestry by May 30th.

If you yourself do not feel called to participate as a member of the search committee, consider asking fellow parishioners - look for people who have some perspectives you think would be a good addition. Never underestimate the power of the intentional ask.

This month we will also be reviewing the parish needs and processes in areas such as lay eucharistic ministers, greeters, ushers, etc., so stay tuned and, as always, HAVE FAITH.

- *Jim Frishe*, Sr. Warden

Junior Warden Report

We've gotten most of our grounds in pretty good shape lately, but there's always some needed weeding from time to time. If you enjoy a little lite outside yard work, please feel welcome to come by anytime to just spend some relaxing time keeping the weeds at bay. Many hands make light work!

-Russ Lynn,
Jr. Warden



Come join with our Spanish Congregation for **two** special events celebrating Cinco de Mayo on **Sunday, May 5th:**

11am Brunch

in the Parish Hall
and

1pm BBQ

on the Church south side patio
(by the Memorial Garden)

Applications for the search committee are now being accepted!!!

If you would like to be a part of the committee (or you can ask a parishioner you think would be a good fit), please complete an application and give to any vestry member by May 30th.

Applications are available in the Church Office or Narthex.





St. Vincent's Episcopal Church
Annual Auction 2024

The auction was great fun with plenty of laughs. A total of \$2,800.00 in proceeds were generated. ***Many thanks to our congregation for your donations and participation!***

A round of applause to Jim Frishe, Carol Ray, Tony & Kathy De Bellis, Linda Pardon, Sharlene Crowd, Donna Hoffman, Melody Richards, Sandra Stancil, and the kitchen crew; without whom we never would have been able to hold this event.

And a special ***Thank you!*** to the business's who donated to our cause:

- Girl Scout Troop #1701
- The Dwellings in Seminole
- Joyce Curvin, Art-Official Pet Whimsical Art (the cuckoo bird)
- Celebration Station
- Mary Kay
- James Museum of Western and Wildlife Art



ST. VINCENT'S EVENING SOCIAL

Join us for a night of
food, family,
and fellowship.

*Catered by Jacquie of Birdie's
Boards and Boxes, this FREE
event is open to all!*

To register,
scan QR code
or visit
stvinepiscopal.org

6pm on
Wednesday
May 1st &
May 15th



Men's Group Breakfast

Saturday, May 4th, 8am-9:30am

Parish Hall

All Men of the Parish are invited to attend as well as cook.
Sign-up in the Narthex.



Florida Resurrection House

Join us for **New Beginnings 2024**, our annual community celebration and advocacy event, May 16th, 2024

Doors Open 11:30am
Program 12-1pm

The James Museum
150 Central Ave.
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Visit www.floridaresurrectionhouse.org.

Thrift Shop

Open 10am to 2pm
Wed. through Sat.
5124 22nd Ave. S., Gulfport, FL

The Thrift Shop will be closed
for vacation from
May 29th thru June 4th.

Shop will re-open on June 5th.

Donations can be taken to the shop directly or bring them on Sunday and leave in the Parish Hall back room. **THANK YOU** for your continued support of this most worthy outreach.

Most Needed Items:

Clothing
Books
Small Electronics
Magazines

Underclothes
DVD'S, CD'S
Small Appliances
Knick Knacks

Shoes
Kitchen Items
Household goods
Lamps & Artwork

Puzzles
Jewelry
Craft supplies
Linens

Mother's Day Quiche Brunch

May 12th

Following the 10am Service

Sign-up in the Narthex



Image from: healthyseasonalrecipes.com

Image from: compley.com



Pentecost Sunday

May 19th

Following the 10am Service

Bring your favorite
Pot-Luck side dish to share



*As an outward sign of the inward transformation by the Holy Spirit in each of our hearts, let us all wear something **RED**, have group pictures taken in front of church.*

Saint of the Month

Outside the pages of the New Testament itself, **Athanasius** is probably the man to whom we chiefly owe the preservation of the Christian faith. He was born around AD 298, and lived in Alexandria, Egypt, the chief center of learning of the Roman Empire.

In 313 the Emperor Constantine issued the Edict of Milan, which changed Christianity from a persecuted to an officially favored religion. About six years later, a presbyter (elder, priest) Arius of Alexandria began to teach concerning the Word of God (John 1:1) that "God begat him, and before he was begotten, he did not exist." Athanasius was at that time a newly ordained deacon, secretary to Bishop Alexander of Alexandria, and a member of his household. His reply to Arius was that the begetting, or uttering, of the Word by the Father is an eternal relation between Them, and not a temporal event. Arius was condemned by the bishops of Egypt (with the exceptions of Secundus of Ptolemais and Theonas of Marmorica), and went to Nicomedia, from which he wrote letters to bishops throughout the world, stating his position.

The Emperor Constantine undertook to resolve the dispute by calling a council of bishops from all over the Christian world. This council met in Nicea, just across the straits from what is now Istanbul, in the year 325, and consisted of 317 bishops. Athanasius accompanied his bishop to the council, and became recognized as a chief spokesman for the view that the Son was fully God, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father.

The party of Athanasius was overwhelmingly in the majority. (The western, or Latin, half of the Empire was very sparsely represented, but it was solidly Athanasian, so that if its bishops had attended in force, the vote would have been still more lopsided.) It remained to formulate a creedal statement to express the consensus. The initial effort was to find a formula from Holy Scripture that would express the full deity of the Son, equally with the Father. However, the Arians cheerfully agreed to all such formulations, having interpreted them already to fit their own views. (Those of you who have conversed with members of the Watchtower Society, who consider themselves the spiritual heirs of Arius, will know how this works.) Finally, the Greek word "homo-ousios" (meaning "of the same substance, or nature, or essence") was introduced, chiefly because it was one word that could not be understood to mean what the Arians meant. Some of the bishops present, although in complete disagreement with Arius, were reluctant to use a term not found in the Scriptures, but eventually saw that the alternative was a creed that both sides would sign, each understanding it in its own way, and that the Church could not afford to leave the question of whether the Son is truly God (the Arians said "a god") undecided. So the result was that the Council adopted a creed which is a shorter version of what we now call the Nicene Creed, declaring the Son to be "of one substance with the Father." At the end, there were only two holdouts, the aforesaid Secundus and Theonas. (For a dramatic but historically accurate account of the Council of Nicea, see the play, *The Emperor Constantine*, by Dorothy L Sayers, available in book form.)



No sooner was the council over than its consensus began to fall apart. Constantine had expected that the result would be unity, but found that the Arians would not accept the decision, and that many of the orthodox bishops were prepared to look for a wording a little softer than that of Nicea, something that sounded orthodox, but that the Arians would accept. All sorts of compromise formulas were worked out, with all shades of variation from the formula of Nicea.

In 328, Alexander died, and Athanasius succeeded him as bishop of Alexandria. He refused to participate in these negotiations, suspecting (correctly as it turned out) that once the orthodox party showed a willingness to make reaching an agreement their highest priority, they would end up giving away the store. He defended the full deity of Christ against emperors, magistrates, bishops, and theologians. For this, he was regarded as a trouble-maker by Constantine and his successors, and was banished from Alexandria a total of five times by various emperors. (Hence the expression "Athanasius contra mundum," or, "Athanasius against the world.") Eventually, Christians who believed in the Deity of Christ came to see that once they were prepared to abandon the Nicene formulation, they were on a slippery slope that led to regarding the Logos as simply a high-ranking angel. The more they experimented with other formulations, the clearer it became that only the Nicene formulation would preserve the Christian faith in any meaningful sense, and so they re-affirmed the Nicene Creed at the Council of Constantinople in 381, a final triumph that Athanasius did not live to see.

It was a final triumph as far as councils of bishops were concerned, but the situation was complicated by the fact that after Constantine there were several Arian emperors (not counting the Emperor Julian, who was a pagan, but correctly saw that the most effective way to fight Christianity was to throw all his weight on the side of the Arians). Under one of them Arian missionaries were sent to convert the Goths, who became the backbone of the Roman Army (then composed chiefly of foreign mercenaries) with the result that for many years Arianism was considered the mark of a good Army man. The conversion of Clovis, King of the Franks, in 496, to orthodox Christianity either gave the Athanasian party the military power to crush Arianism or denied the Arian Goths the military supremacy that would have enabled them to crush Athanasian Christianity, depending on your point of view.

Since Alexandria had the best astronomers, it was the duty of the Bishop of Alexandria to write to the other bishops every year and tell them the correct date for Easter. Naturally, his annual letter on this topic contained other material as well. One Easter Letter (or Paschal Letter) of Athanasius is well known for giving a list of the books that ought to be considered part of the canonical Scriptures, with a supplementary list of books suitable for devotional reading.

For the New Testament, he lists the 27 books that are recognized today. (If you will look at your list of New Testament books, you may note that Matthew through 2 Thessalonians were never in dispute, that the next four were subject to relatively little dispute, and that the remaining books had more trouble being accepted. There were also a few books that looked as if they might make the list, but eventually did not, the most conspicuous being the Epistle of Barnabas, the Epistle of Clement, and the Shepherd of Hermas.)

For the Old Testament, his list is like that used by most Protestants, except that he omits Esther, and includes Baruch, with the letter of Jeremiah. His supplementary list is Wisdom, Sirach, Tobias, Judith, and Esther. He does not mention Maccabees.

Prayers for Healing

Shut-ins:

Leila Burwell, Dante & Rosanna Balzano,
Sybil Mulhauser, Shirley Johnson

Members in Need of Healing:

Hildegard Wackerbauer, The Matta Family,
Deacon Chester Trow, Shirley Bonney, Lisa Youla,
Nancy Teague-Horner, Ken Von der Heiden,
Emily Matthews, Ray Lamberson

Healing for Friends & Family:

Sharon, Johnny B., Cliff, Bill & Dottie, Jimmy, Laura,
Kit W., Randy W., Melissa D., Darrell Blackston, Bill Falin,
Janet Depanoli, Diana, Marion, Sandra Schlage,
Judy Prins Franke, Sharon Stoll, Stephen Prins,
Meg Nolin, Mary Ellen Racine, Jim McKiernan,
Michael Perry, Leo Perry, Scott, Kelly, Norris Family,
Melissa Cercone, Ellie White, Debbie Reeves,
Sean Shannon, Ron & Mary Ebert, Martha Salas,
Lisa Goodin, Gerry, Carol Murphy, Thomas Press,
Brian Hickcox, Katie Grayson, Heidi Meyers, Nancy Fick,
Eric Ramsey, John, Dawn Cantrill, Donald Higgens, Pat,
Ann Monroe, Jack Tyler, Cory Maddox, Connie Rutter,
Evelyn Hill, Bill S., Beth Russ, Kellianne Meinhart,
Jan Meinhart , Chris M., Linda G., Vivi, Tom, Benny, Jack,
Tom Sr., Gailyn, Doris Bishop, Janet D., Karen Campbell,
Mike B., Robert Shaw, Renee, John, Jonathan D.,
Susan F., Michelle Johnson, Frederick Kirwin, Susan Elias,
Steve Norris, Debra Phillips, Kenneth Norris,
Donna Zuben, Laurie Feldscher, Dede Hacking,
Carol Notarianni, Les Shull, Billy Reeves, Curtis, Heather,
Linda, David, Leonard Hadley, Bennett, Pierce,
Karen Smith, Lisa K., Laura Spano, Rosemary McLean,
Bella, Maria Paysan, Shelly Good, Holly P.

If you would like someone added to the prayer list, please call or
email the office: 727-321-5086 / officestvin@gmail.com

O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully accept our prayers, and grant to
your servants the help of your power, that their sickness may be turned into health, and our sorrow into joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Happy Birthday

5 Bradley Schramek
5 Sandra Gregory
6 Nancy McGarry
6 Michael Shockley
10 Annabelle Arness
11 Sherry Sirmons
16 Clay Wittstruck
20 David Moore
23 Edward Deitz
23 Liz Fehr
24 Dan Sirmons
25 Dave Mooney
26 Efrain Mir
28 Mary Warren



Happy Anniversary

13 Fr. Richard & Shirley Earle
17 Dcn. Chester & Barbara Trow
25 Alan & Carrie Schramek
28 Jay & Edith Racine

Image from: suttons.co.uk

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Masks are welcome but not required while attending Worship Services.

St. Vincent's Episcopal Church
May 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:30am Bible Study 6pm Social Evening	2	3 4pm Choir Practice Office Closed	4 8am Men's Breakfast
5 Holy Eucharist: 10am Rite II 12pm Spanish 11am Brunch 1pm BBQ Picnic	6	7 3:30pm Bell Choir Practice 5:30pm Girl Scouts	8 10:30am Bible Study	9	10 4pm Choir Practice Office Closed	11
12 Holy Eucharist: 10am Rite II 12pm Spanish 11am Mother's Day Brunch 	13	14 3:30pm Bell Choir Practice	15 10:30am Bible Study 6pm Social Evening	16 6:30pm Vestry Meeting	17 4pm Choir Practice Office Closed	18 6pm Noche de Adoracion
19 Holy Eucharist: 10am Rite II Combined Service 11am Pentecost Fish Fry 	20	21 3:30pm Bell Choir Practice 5:30pm Girl Scouts	22 10:30am Bible Study	23	24 4pm Choir Practice Office Closed	25
26 Holy Eucharist: 10am Rite II 12pm Spanish	27 Memorial Day  Office Closed	28 3:30pm Bell Choir Practice	29 10:30am Bible Study Thrift Shop Closed	30	31 4pm Choir Practice Office Closed	



St. Vincent's Episcopal Church

Loving God, Loving our Neighbor, Following Jesus Christ.

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The Rev. Hector Chamorro, *Hispanic Ministry*

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(352) 364-3051

The Rev. Edwin Mata, *Deacon*

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Sexton

David Moore

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Deanna Wittstruck, Director

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Thrift Shop: #727-321-7215

Hours 10am to 2pm; Wed. through Sat.

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