

A Grace Note from the Rector
July 11, 2024

Dear Ones,

What a wonderful thing to have such a good turnout on Sunday to see the video on the development of the Klan in Indiana. And thanks to all of you who are planning to visit the **RESIST!** exhibit in Indianapolis. I can't wait for the conversations that will develop.

The book that I mentioned that Vestry members are reading is ***Life on the Color Line*** by Gregory Howard Williams. I encourage you to read it. Here's a teaser...

As a child in 1950s segregated Virginia, Gregory Howard Williams grew up believing he was white. But when the family business failed and his parents' marriage fell apart, Williams discovered that his dark-skinned father, who had been passing as Italian-American, was half black. The family split up, and Greg, his younger brother, and their father moved to Muncie, Indiana, where the young boys learned the truth about their heritage. Overnight, Greg Williams became black.

REUNIFICATION NOTES

The Reunification Discernment Committee continues their work on the shape and direction of the Episcopal Church at the Crossroads of America. You can keep up with their work at <https://www.episcopalindiana.org/> The members of the Committee request our ongoing prayers. Here's a sample for your use.

Loving, Liberating, Lifegiving God, who establishes our steps; be with your faithful flock as we seek your will for the Dioceses of Northern Indiana and Indianapolis, work toward strengthening our relationships, and continue to build your church through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

GATHERING GRACE

Last Sunday, Gathering Grace served **115 meals** of Biscuits and Sausage Gravy + Tater Tot Casserole. It was delicious, and there were no leftovers. There's always room for more hands...if you don't mind laughing a lot!

A BETTER WAY ~ JULY NEEDS

At the present time, more than 17 children are in the care of A Better Way, so summer activity items are still needed – balls, sidewalk chalk, bubble wands, jump ropes, frisbees, nerf footballs, ankle skippers and flip flops. Thank You!

CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES ~ ONGOING NEEDS

Personal Care Items: Bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, dish soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper, lg/med diapers, towels, washcloths, blankets. **Food Pantry:** Canned fruit, meats, and soup, crackers, cereal, pasta & sauce, mac & cheese.

NEW PHONE NUMBER

Grace has a **NEW office telephone number (765) 744-5283**. Please change your contact list! As always, if you want to reach me, call me directly on my cell phone (765) 326-0353.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Reed Akolgo (July 11)

Harry Woldmoe (July 11)

Rosemarie Jeffery (July 16)

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BENEDICT OF NURSIA

Today is the feast of St. Benedict, often called the father of western monasticism. You may recall that I make my annual retreat at a Benedictine monastery in Minnesota.

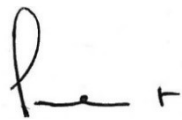
Benedict was born about 480, at Nursia in central Italy, and was educated at Rome. Benedict's disapproval of the manners and morals of Rome led him to a vocation of monastic seclusion. He withdrew to a hillside cave above Lake Subiaco, about forty miles west of Rome, where there was already at least one other monk. Gradually, a community grew up around Benedict. Eventually, he moved south with some of his disciples to form another community at Monte Cassino (*the site of a famous WWII battle*). He died sometime between 540 and 550 and was buried in the same grave as his sister, Scholastica.

Benedict's *Rule* was the foundation for most later rules. Its average day provides for a little over four hours to be spent in liturgical prayer, a little over five hours in spiritual reading, about six hours of work, one hour for eating, and about eight hours of sleep. The entire Psalter is to be recited in the Divine Office once every week. At profession, which typically occurs on this day, a new monk takes vows of "stability, amendment of life, and obedience."

As Anglicans, we have a direct line back to Benedict. In 596 Pope Gregory the Great sent Augustine (of Canterbury) and a group of monks to England to convert the Anglo-Saxon people. And the rest, as they say, is history!

Gracious God, whose service is perfect freedom and in whose commandments there is nothing harsh nor burdensome, grant that we with your servant Benedict, may listen with attentive minds, pray with fervent hearts, and serve you with willing hands so that we live at peace with one another and in obedience to thy Word, Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

God bless you in these days!



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