



# EPISTLE

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Greenville, Ohio**

*Helping all people find a connection to God's community.*

**July, 2020**

Dear Friends,

## A Statement of Mission



As Episcopalians in the  
Diocese of Southern Ohio,  
we commit to:

† Know the common story

Deut. 11:18-21

† Proclaim our common  
faith

Matt. 28:19-20

† Pray our common prayer

1 Thess. 5:16-19

† Drink the common cup

Mark 10:38

† Serve the common good

Matt. 25:37-40

In the name of our Lord  
and Savior Jesus Christ.

This is our common  
ministry.

Back in the time BC (before coronavirus) we were all making plans based on how we lived our lives and our own histories. Thoughts of travel and vacations, and, in my case, a chance to attend a long-delayed seminar or two eagerly searched for spots on our calendars.

Now, in the time DC (during coronavirus) things are very different than we imagined them just three or four months ago. Airports report numbers somewhere below twenty percent of travelers than they had in February. We see pictures of some venues with hundreds of people, then a few weeks later read about hospital capacity reaching upwards of eighty percent in those areas.

Numbers tell us a lot, but they don't tell us everything.

Occasionally we will read or hear a story of how a person made a dramatic turn around and survived the COVID-19 illness. We take away a sense of hope that puts a bit of light on the shadow of a dreaded disease. Then we venture out, and find that numbers are mixed between those wearing masks and those not wearing them. I wonder if those not wearing them feel invincible, or don't want to be uncomfortable, or make some political statement, or just don't care. At the same time, I wonder how many masks are worn just for self-protection, and not really caring about others.

God knows. And, in case there's any question at all, I'm not God. My wondering comes from a long family history of judging others, something I learned at home and in church as a child. It's also a recurrent cause for my own need of repentance, and then knowing the redeeming aspects of turning around how I see others to see another child of God who is probably as confused about this virus as I am.

When I do that, I consider again what might be the most treacherous aspect of the virus. While it can rob us of life, so can so many other things. But what seems to be more threatening to me is that it can rob us of our sense of humanity.

We have been isolated from each other for several months. Our ideas of community have been challenged, even presented as a threat to our well-being.

The sound of a sneeze is now more apt to bring the sound of a disinfectant spray than a friendly "bless you."

As we heard on Trinity Sunday, on the sixth day of creation, God made humankind—male and female—in God’s image, and then pronounced it good. And looking at the bigger picture, God said it was very good. We are at our best as human beings when we attempt to see each other as that “good” creation of God, and even dare to see the presence of God, however miniscule, in each other.

And the surprising thing is that when we are at our most humanly best, we are also most likely to find God smiling and again saying, “yeah, it is good.” Then, we can look around at the beauty of all God has created and reply, “you were right. It is very good.”

Because even though we might not be able to sing together for awhile, the birds are most happy to substitute for us. God has been appreciating their praises for a long time. A whole day longer than us, according to Genesis.

--Wayne+

## GOING FORWARD TO NORMAL

We usually ask when things are going to get *back* to normal. As we have been hearing, back is most likely the wrong direction. That’s nothing new. Even Jesus said something about not looking over our shoulders to find the kingdom of God.

For the time being, we will continue to use Morning Prayer on Sundays. While investigations are ongoing to find ways to make the celebration of Holy Eucharist a safe place again, so far nothing seems to fit the requirements. New cases of COVID-19 hold steady in Darke County at between one to three a day, with active cases ranging from 50-55. We’ve read announcements about local events being canceled, and it remains to be seen whether the fall football season will occur.

Our Bishop has announced that this year’s Diocesan Convention will be held online instead of in-person at the cathedral. That was planned for mid-November. However, he has also said that we could possibly return to celebrating Holy Eucharist in mid-October. How that will look remains unknown.

So, we need to consider that the way things are now is how they are going to remain for some time, at least until a vaccine is available and is found to be working. We’re continuing to search for ways to improve the live stream, but a lot of answers to our questions involve spending a lot of money. The best production seems to be a delayed broadcast, with the service being posted later in the day.

That old-fashioned device, the telephone, seems to provide some of the most satisfying answers. We get to hear one another’s voices and react almost as if we were looking at one another. So keep in touch with each other, call one another, and when you’re not doing that, pray for one another. God has been working through our limitations, technological and otherwise, for quite some time now.

**Sunday services will continue to be streamed on Facebook Live, beginning around 9:25 AM**

*Facebook.com/episcopalgreenvilleohio*

For other services in the Diocese, check the website **www.episcopaliansinconnection.org** and follow the links regarding COVID-19.

Other services, such as from Washington Cathedral, can be found on Youtube or by searching their websites.

## Introduction

Amy Addis graduated from Franklin Monroe High School and then she attended Wright State University with a degree in Marketing. She is married to Larry Addis for 15 years. They have 3 children: Blake, 15; Alivia, 13; Evan, 11. They live outside of Greenville on 571. Her children are active in 4-H, Boy Scouts, Youth Group, soccer, basketball, baseball, volleyball, Butterfly garden club, dance with Barbara Rethlake, and numerous school activities. She is a Lady Bug Garden Club member, 4-H advisor, a member of Franklin Monroe Athletic Booster Club and FFA Booster club. Her family loves the Darke County Fair! They exhibit poultry, flowers, baked goods and produce at the fair. They have around 75 fancy chickens, turkeys, ducks, pigeons, cats and a dog. Her hobbies are scrapbooking, gardening, decorating, traveling and camping. She is looking forward in being a part of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and meeting everyone.



**WELCOME, AMY!**

## How can we sing the Lord's song in foreign times?

One of the things the coronavirus has taken from us is our ability to sing during worship. We do say canticles during Morning Prayer, and could substitute the words of hymns for some of those canticles. But singing engages body, mind, and spirit in ways that saying words together doesn't seem to accomplish.

It's a substitute at best, but we're putting together some sessions where we'll record hymns on the church organ, then present them on our Facebook Live page. We will also provide words and music for them by email. You can then, at your own time, listen and even sing along. You can open your windows and let the neighbors (two and four-legged) join in if you wish, although if you prefer to sing in the shower, you'll have to make your own arrangements for keeping the music dry.

Notices will be sent out as these sessions become available. The first one is tentatively titled "Hymns we didn't get to sing" and will include some favorites from the Lent and Easter seasons.

# July 2020

## Monthly Planner

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