



The Grace Vine

December 2007

Rector's Writ

I can remember the first time our plans for Christmas Eve were adjusted to make room for something new. Mom was deftly removing home made cookies from a well worn baking tray and lining them up on the dining room table to cool. We scooped up any "rejects" as soon as they were off the tray, not to mention several more that would have been carefully packaged if we hadn't snatched them first. Mom finished emptying the tray, then firmly made her declaration that we were all going to Trinity Church on Christmas Eve. This was shock enough to bring all cookie crunching and idle chatter to a halt. It was Christmas Eve! We had to go to Grandma's...we had people to see, seven kinds of cookies to devour, and all sorts of presents to pass out and collect. And Mom tells us we're going to Church; that it's beautiful on Christmas Eve; and it'll be good for us.

We had our traditions and preferences of things to do on Christmas Eve, and Church was NOT one of them. Dad didn't want to go either, but succumbed so long as he didn't have to wear a tie. We whined to Grandma expecting sympathy because we'd have to leave the lively gathering at her house. She just smiled and said the Church is always beautiful on Christmas Eve...and it would be good for us.

We kids were not happy. We complained and pouted all the way. We might have to go, but we didn't have to LIKE it! As we trudged through the snow and entered the warmly lighted church, it was as though we had stepped into a different realm. Organ music, candles in the windows, greenery draped over old wood worn smooth. The atmosphere was lovely and it seemed to inspire a sense of awe, reverence, and unexplainable affection; ordinary people encompassed by a sense of quiet joy, holy mystery, and hope. And it was good...for all of us.

Please pray and think about whom you might invite and bring with you to Church on Christmas Eve. Be prepared to hear protests from family and friends you ask...protests about preferences, traditions, other plans. But assure them it'll be good for them. And it will; not because of what we do, but what God does and what God gives us in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

May our Lord's blessings of love, peace, and joy be with you and those you love at Advent, Christmas, and always.

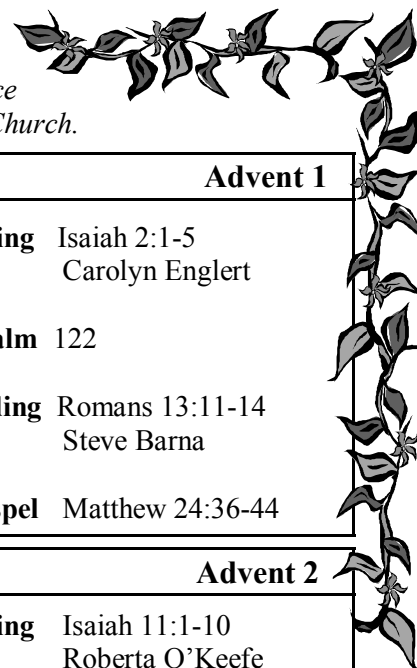


Carol



Service and Lay Ministry Schedule

If you cannot serve when scheduled, please find a substitute and call the parish office with that person's name. Thank you for sharing in the liturgical ministry of Grace Church.



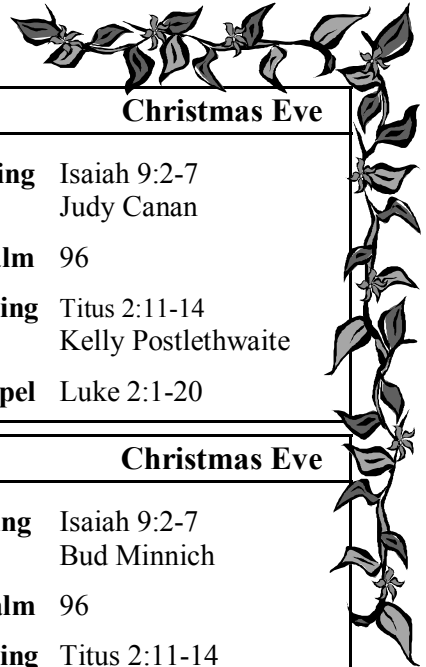
Sunday, December 2		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	Advent 1
Officiating	The Rev. Carol S. Evans		1st Reading Isaiah 2:1-5 Carolyn Englert Psalm 122 2nd Reading Romans 13:11-14 Steve Barna Gospel Matthew 24:36-44
Lay Reader	Bette Brooks		
Greeters	John & Mary Jean McDonald		
Acolytes	Jenna Summy & Taylor Paxton		
Altar Guild	Nancy Lundgren, Nancy Ervin, & Shirley Johnson		
Coffee Hosts	8:00 Janice Lallathin & Jennifer Golec 10:00 Fred & Nancy Lundgren		
Counters	John McDonald & Cathy Mansor		
Loyalton	Maynard Evans		

Sunday, December 9		8:00 & 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist	Advent 2
Officiating	The Rev. Carol S. Evans		1st Reading Isaiah 11:1-10 Roberta O'Keefe Paige Thomas Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 2nd Reading Romans 15:4-13 Gordon Thompson Gospel Matthew 3:1-12
Deacon	The Rev. William D. Snyder		
Lay Reader	Carolyn Englert		
Greeters	Judy & Kay Canan		
Acolytes	Sammy Stickle & Phillip Crouse		
Altar Guild	Nancy Lundgren, Nancy Ervin, & Shirley Johnson		
Coffee Hosts	8:00 Frank & Joan Seman 10:00 Kelly & Ron Postlethwaite		
Counters	John McDonald & Cathy Mansor		

Sunday, December 16		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	Advent 3
Officiating	The Rev. Carol S. Evans		1st Reading Isaiah 35:1-10 Roberta O'Keefe Kathy Summy Psalm 146:4-9 2nd Reading James 5:7-10 John Machisko Gospel Matthew 11:2-11
Lay Reader	Maynard Evans		
Greeters	Nancy & Jim Ervin		
Acolytes	Emily Summ & Taylor Paxton		
Coffee Hosts	8:00 TBA 10:00 Colin & Leslie Thomas		
Altar Guild	Nancy Lundgren, Nancy Ervin, & Shirley Johnson		
Counters	John McDonald & Cathy Mansor		
Loyalton	Bill Snyder		

Sunday, December 23		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	Advent 4
Officiating	The Rev. Carol Evans		1st Reading Isaiah 7:10-16 Tim Splinter Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 2nd Reading Romans 1:1-7 Bud Minnich Gospel Matthew 1:18-25
Deacon	The Rev. William Snyder		
Lay Reader	Judy Canan		
Greeters	Julie & Kay Canan		
Acolytes	Schyler Conway & Eric Splinter		
Altar Guild	Nancy Lundgren, Nancy Ervin, & Shirley Johnson		
Coffee Hosts	8:00 TBA 10:00 John & Mary Jean McDonald		
Counters	Bette Brooks & Kelly Postlethwaite		
HANGING OF THE GREENS WITH COVERED DISH LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW			





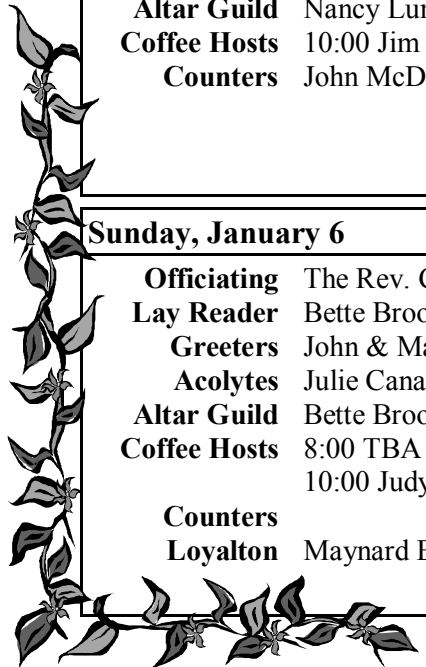
Monday, December 24		7:00pm Family Service & Eucharist		Christmas Eve	
Officiating	The Rev. Carol S. Evans	1st Reading	Isaiah 9:2-7		
Lay Reader	Carolyn Englert		Judy Canan		
Greeters	Fred & Nancy Lundgren	Psalm	96		
Acolytes	C-Schylar Conway, T-Eric Splinter & Sammy Stickle, 2C-Jenna Summy, 2T Taylor Paxton & Brandon Higgins	2nd Reading	Titus 2:11-14		
Altar Guild	Nancy Lundgren, Nancy Ervin, & Shirley Johnson		Kelly Postlethwaite		
Counters	John McDonald & Cathy Mansor	Gospel	Luke 2:1-20		

Monday, December 24		10:30pm Music & 11:00pm Eucharist		Christmas Eve	
Officiating	The Rev. Carol S. Evans	1st Reading	Isaiah 9:2-7		
Deacon	The Rev. William D. Snyder		Bud Minnich		
Lay Reader	Maynard Evans	Psalm	96		
Acolytes	PC-Julie Canan, CC- Emily Summy, Thurfier -Phillip Crouse	2nd Reading	Titus 2:11-14		
Greeters	Irene & John Machisko		Cathy Mansor		
Altar Guild	Nancy Lundgren, Nancy Ervin, & Shirley Johnson	Gospel	Luke 2:1-20		
Counters	John McDonald & Cathy Mansor				

Sunday, December 30		8:00am Morning Prayer		Christmas 1	
Officiating:	The Rev. William D. Snyder	1st Reading	Isaiah 61:10-62:		
Lay Reader:	Judy Canan	Psalm	147		
Altar Guild:	Nancy Lundgren, Nancy Ervin & Shirley Johnson	2nd Reading	Galatians 3:23-25;		
Coffee Hosts:	8:00 TBA		4:4-7		
Counters:	John McDonald & Cathy Mansor	Gospel	John 1:1-18		

Sunday, December 30		10:00am Lessons & Carols		Christmas 1	
Officiating	The Rev. Williams Snyder	Lesson 1 –	Paige Thomas		
Greeters	Bud Minnich & Leslie Thomas	Lesson 2 –	Marsha Snyder		
Acolyte	Jenna Summy	Lesson 3 –	Carolyn Englert		
Altar Guild	Nancy Lundgren, Nancy Ervin, & Shirley Johnson	Lesson 4 –	John Machisko		
Coffee Hosts	10:00 Jim & Nancy Ervin	Lesson 5 –	Kelly Postlethwaite		
Counters	John McDonald & Cathy Mansor	Lesson 6 –	Judy Canan		
		Lesson 7 –	Tim Splinter		
		Lesson 8 –	Cathy Mansor		
		Lesson 9 –	William Snyder		

Sunday, January 6		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist		The Epiphany	
Officiating	The Rev. Carol S. Evans	1st Reading	Isaiah 60:1-6		
Lay Reader	Bette Brooks		8:00 Roberta O’Keefe		
Greeters	John & Mary Jean McDonald		10:00 Steve Barna		
Acolytes	Julie Canan & Phillip Crouse	Psalm	72:1-7,10-14		
Altar Guild	Bette Brooks &	2nd Reading	Ephesians 3:1-12		
Coffee Hosts	8:00 TBA		John Machisko		
	10:00 Judy & Kay Canan	Gospel	Matthew 2:1-12		
Counters					
Loyalton	Maynard Evans				





Did You Know?...



Elizabeth Webb pointed out that four generations were sitting in her pew; Elizabeth and her son **Fred Lundgren**, his daughter **Lisa Paxton**, and **Lisa's** daughter **Paige**. Then Fred mentioned that our acolyte, **Taylor Paxton**, was the third generation acolyte from their family. Now that's a legacy...

Marsha & Steve Barna spent the weekend with the children **Matt and Christel** in Columbus, but we all know the big draw was their grandson...

Nydah Ellet was delighted to have her daughter **Susan** visit from Massachusetts, however Nydah did keep Susan busy. Apparently as bets were being made on the Cleveland Indians and Boston Red Sox playoff games. Susan owed Nydah several work hours and as a result Nydah did get her basement cleaned. Of course we all know the outcome of the games and Susan did leave for Massachusetts a little richer...

All our "hellos" to **Jean & Len, Phyllis & Bill and Judy & Roger!!...**

It's great seeing all the new born babies in church, **Sammy Rich, Emily Scibelli, and Faith Postlethwaite**. Each one sweeter than the next!!!!...

Marcia and Tim Splinter are taking the family on a Disney World vacation. Their boys, **Eric and Kevin**, will love it!! (The untold secret is that Marcia's been wanting to go since before the kids were even born. That's why she had kids, of course! – Tim) Look out Mickey!!...

And speaking of vacations **Mary Ann Switz and Marsha Snyder** are headed for London and Paris, and I don't mean Kentucky. Mary Ann had been to Europe many times, however this is Marsha's first trip and she can't wait. **Bill Snyder** will be headed for Minnesota to help out daughter-in-law **Alex** with a few chores while son Luke is in Kosavo. Alex is expecting their first son the first of January maybe even a New Year's baby...

Addrienne and Cory Conway have purchased his mother's home in Ravenna and they have been busy repairing, painting, carpeting and getting ready for the move, hopefully by Christmas...

Kay Canan's new program of "Feeding the Future", a home cooked meal for college students, went very well for the first Sunday, we had nine students here for our first try and hopefully more will attend after the first of the year. Those who attended brought all the "left over" food back to the dorm with them and their roommates were impressed...

The Youth group had their spaghetti dinner on November 11th, with a lot of guest enjoying the

wonderful dinner prepared by **Kathy Summy and Chrissy Stickle**. The young people were our waiters and you couldn't find a more enthusiastic group of kids. **Jillian and McKenna Conway, Jenna Summy, Sammy Stickle, Eric and Kevin Splinter** were right there if you needed anything. The proceeds from this dinner will enable the Youth Group to help their adopted family at Christmas time...

Our delegates to convention **Nancy and Fred Lundgen and Bette Brooks (Maynard Evans** was our alternate) reported on the Diocesan Convention at the Sunday, Nov. 11th services...

Our Fundraising group took craft items to the United Methodist Church in Streetsboro for their craft show, thanks to **Roberta O'Keefe, Courtney Rich, Blake and Bonnie Quay, Marcia Splinter and Marsha Snyder** for their help in this effort...

Fellowship Night went very well, I understand a "mean" game of Uno was played and **Judy Canan** had disinherited **Kay** several time during the evening. I know you were worried about that Kay!!...

Leslie Thomas just returned from her trip to Italy. She made the trip with several good friends (the only way to travel) and she reports they had a wonderful time.

Any information you would like to see in the "Did You Know" can be given to Tim Splinter or Marsha Snyder.

Bishop's Blend

coffee will be available again this year in time for your Christmas giving. The four different varieties will be priced at \$10.00 per bag. Order forms will be available in the parish hall.



On the Horizon

Saturday December 1st Sarah Coventry Party 2pm

Books and order forms will be available to get people interested in coming to the party or to take pre-orders. We will receive 20% of all sales and orders will be shipped directly to the customers in time for Christmas. All orders must be in before the end of the party.



Saturday December 8th Fellowship & Game Night 6:30pm

Come on in for our monthly fun! Bring your game, your cards, your favorite snack, or just yourself!

Saturday December 15th Advent Quiet Day 8:30am

What is Advent??

Advent is the beginning of the "church year". We are now in year A of the 3 year cycle of scripture readings. It is also the four Sundays before Christmas. It is a time to reflect on the coming of Christ, not the babe wrapped in cloth lying in a manger, but his coming again in glory. It's a time for reflection on our own life. As we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior at Christmas, we also look and prepare for his coming again.

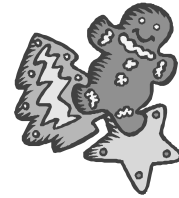


Quiet Day

Take a pause for some quiet reflection in the middle of Advent. Begin with continental breakfast. We'll end with Holy Eucharist at 11:30 AM

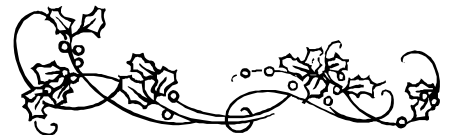
Sunday December 16th ECW Cookie Pickup

Cookie Orders for the ECW sale will be available for pickup.



Sunday December 23rd Hanging of the Greens 11:30am

After the 10am service. Covered Dish Luncheon will follow. Come and enjoy the fun!!



May 10th 2008 Flower Sale

May 17th 2008 Men's Garage Sale

Birthdays

- 2nd Nydah Ellet
- 7th Roberta O'Keefe
- 11th Kay Canan
- 12th Caroline Minnich
- 16th Shirley Johnson
Tim Scibelli
- 20th Stephanie Higgins
- 21st Wilbur Minnich
Beth Dier
Steve Barna



Congratulations!

and many happy returns...



Anniversaries

- 17th Bruce & Sue Ahrens
- 22nd Jim & Amy Neely
- 27th Rev. Lloyd & Roberta O'Keefe
- 28th Blake & Bonnie Quay

Baptisms

- 3rd Rev. Carol Evans
- 13th Mike Johnson
- 22nd Michael Canan
- 23rd Mechele Novak
Ricky Sanek
- 24th Leslie Thomas
Betty Russell



Christmas Carol Challenge

Can you name these familiar Christmas Songs both Sacred and Secular?

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Small City in Judea | 14. Frozen Precipitation Commence |
| 2. Colorless Yuletide | 15. Proceed and Enlighten on the Pinnacle |
| 3. Singular Yearning for Twin Anterior Incisors | 16. The Quadruped with the Vermillion Proboscis |
| 4. Righteous Darkness | 17. Query Regarding Identity of Descendant |
| 5. Loyal Followers Advance | 18. Delight for the Planet |
| 6. Weather: Cloudless; Arrival Time: 2400 Hours | 19. Give Attention to the Melodious Celestial Beings |
| 7. Far Off in a Feeder | 20. Hence Arriveth Kris Kringle |
| 8. Array the Corridors | 21. To Decry the Matriarchal Osculation Yuletide Anthropomorphism |
| 9. Bantam Percussionist | 22. At the Zenith of the Habitat |
| 10. Monarchial Triad | 23. Endocarp Sweltering in a Conflagration |
| 11. Nocturnal Noiselessness | 24. Jehovah Dulcify Blithe Chevaliers |
| 12. Red Man en route to Borough | |
| 13. Initial Christmas | |



Christmas Flowers



Contributions for Red Poinsettias that will adorn the altar during this Christmas season, may be made by using this form! The suggested contribution is \$15.00. Please return this form along with your check made out to Grace Church Altar Guild by December 16th. This list will be place in both Christmas Eve service bulletin.

The flowers on the altar are given by: _____

In memory of: _____

And/or in thanksgiving for: _____

The Bulletin Board

Thanks from Safer Futures

(excerpted from their letter)

Safer Futures is celebrating a 20th anniversary in 2007!...We rely on and value the support that members of our community provide....Many times the people staying with us are surprised by the generosity of this community! They are appreciative and amazed "that you would help someone you don't even know!" Thank you for your generous gift...to Safer Futures in 2007!

Every donation can directly impact the life of an adult or child. Your contribution will make a difference for someone while staying in Safer Futures or receiving related services...Safer Futures is a shelter and resource center for women and children escaping domestic violence...The commitment you have made for our community has been vital to carrying out our mission...

Janet Verthe
Program Manager

Local Habitat Affiliate Calls for Help

(excerpted from their letter)

We have a need. No, this is not a fund-raising letter asking for financial donations, but rather a request asking for your assistance in finding suitable partner families who need simple, decent, and affordable homes. Our Portage County Habitat Affiliate mission is to help build such a home in partnership with needy, qualifying families in the area who are presently living in unacceptable conditions. Could you canvas your congregation and possibly uncover such a family?...We would be grateful; as I am sure would be the qualifying partner family...Support from our Portage County churches has always been and will continue to play a vital role in the success of our Habitat Affiliate. Thank you again for any attempt you can make in leading us to that family in need.

Ronald Miller
Chair, Church Relations Committee