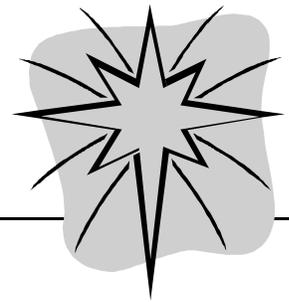




The Grace Vine

December 2008



Rector's Writ

Advent is a season of preparation, watchfulness, and waiting. At one level we know that preparation needs to include some spiritual nurturing and a time for listening and quiet reflection. It's a very different level than shopping, baking, parties, and the preparation that becomes panic for last minute gifts and wrapping. In all the busyness of the season, we often forget that Advent ushers in a new year in the Church calendar. It's a time for renewal and hope to be stirred into our lives; into daily living. It's a time to commit ourselves to building good relationships and practicing spiritual disciplines... trying once again to be and do what we know to be right as God's children; trying to resist and avoid those things which we ought not to do. Our Christian formation and discipleship is an ongoing process. Advent allows us to hear the story of Emmanuel (God with us) unfold yet again. We're reminded of Christ's birth in a manger, the certainty of his glorious second coming, and our call...our choice...to believe and follow him now. We're also assured of God's presence with us throughout our lives, wherever our spiritual journey and discipleship may lead us. The Lord's promises and gifts we celebrate at Christmas are with us and available to us always. One faithful response is to be available to God, that we may be instruments of his peace. A small part of sharing our faith is simply inviting others to Church with us *anytime*, but especially on Christmas Eve. We're called to invite and welcome; the Lord takes care of the transformation part. *God's blessings of peace, joy, and love be with you and yours.*

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all man-kind; bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace. (From O come, O come, Emmanuel, Hymn #56, vs. 7)

"Our autumned hearts stand waiting for God's precious gift. Someone is coming whose sandals we aren't worthy to carry. (Matt. 3:11) Prepare the way of the Lord! (Matt. 3:3) But how do we prepare the way for a King who is not of this world? Crowns, red carpets and flowing robes He desires not at all.

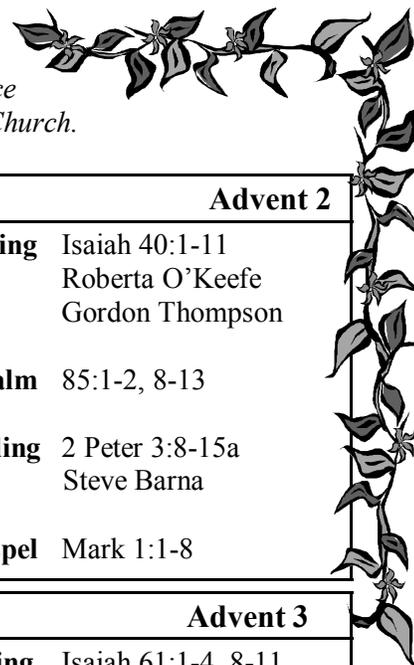
Our ungospelled hearts try to hide, embarrassed at our slowness to respond to such a gift. Poor, cluttered hearts starving for the emptiness that makes fullness possible Prepare the way of the Lord! It is so little that God asks of us. Give some evidence that you mean to reform. (Matt. 3:8) Wear lights in your hearts instead of on your trees. Our autumned hearts stand waiting for God's gracious gift Come, Lord Jesus, come! Gospel up our lives with your presence and we'll wear lights in our hearts instead of on our trees."

(From Seasons of Your Heart, The Birth of Christmas, p. 45-46, Macrina Wiederkehr)



Service and Lay Ministry Schedule

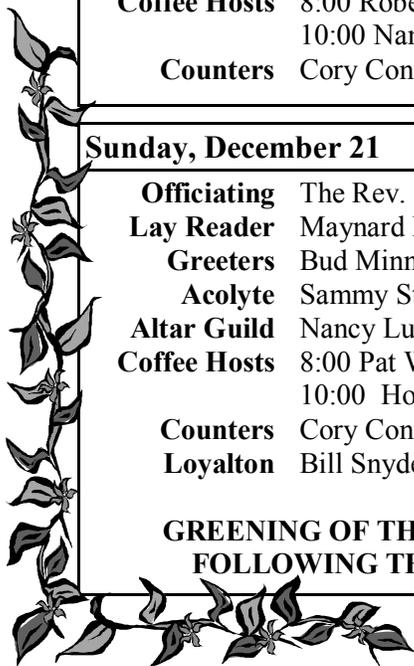
If you cannot serve when scheduled, please find a substitute and call the parish office with that person's name. Thank you for sharing in the liturgical ministry of Grace Church.



Sunday, December 7		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	Advent 2
Officiating	The Rev. Carol S. Evans		1st Reading Isaiah 40:1-11 Roberta O'Keefe Gordon Thompson
Lay Reader	Bette Brooks		Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
Greeters	John & Irene Machisko		
Acolyte	Schyler Conway		2nd Reading 2 Peter 3:8-15a Steve Barna
Altar Guild	Nancy Lundgren, Shirley Johnson & Nancy Ervin		
Coffee Hosts	8:00 Joan & Frank Seman 10:00 Judy Canan & Bev Louis-Mercury		
Counters	Cory Conway & Bette Brooks		Gospel Mark 1:1-8
Loyalton	Kathy Summy		

Sunday, December 14		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	Advent 3
Officiating	The Rev. Carol S. Evans		1st Reading Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Bud Minnich
Deacon	The Rev. William D. Snyder		Psalm 126
Lay Reader	Carolyn Englert		
Greeters	Judy Canan & Bev Louis-Mercury		2nd Reading I Thessalonians 5:16-24 Kathy Summy
Acolyte	Taylor Paxton & Jenna Summy		
Altar Guild	Nancy Lundgren, Shirley Johnson, & Nancy Ervin		
Coffee Hosts	8:00 Roberta O'Keefe 10:00 Nancy & Fred Lundgren		Gospel John 1:6-8, 19-28
Counters	Cory Conway & Bette Brooks		

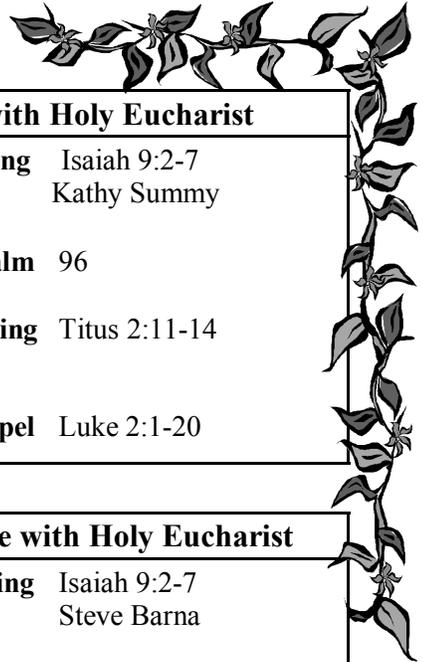
Sunday, December 21		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	Advent 4
Officiating	The Rev. Carol S. Evans		1st Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Roberta O'Keefe Carolyn Englert
Lay Reader	Maynard Evans		Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Greeters	Bud Minnich & Gary Bell		
Acolyte	Sammy Stickly & Eric Splinter		2nd Reading Romans 16:25-27 Tim Splinter
Altar Guild	Nancy Lundgren, Shirley Johnson, & Nancy Ervin		
Coffee Hosts	8:00 Pat Williams & Cindy Hoskins 10:00 Hospitality Committee		
Counters	Cory Conway & Bette Brooks		Gospel Luke 1:26-38
Loyalton	Bill Snyder		
GREENING OF THE CHURCH WITH LUNCH FOLLOWING THE 10 O'CLOCK SERVICE			



DIOCESAN WINTER CONVOCATION FEBRUARY 6TH & 7TH EVANGELISM AND LEADERSHIP

Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Terry Martin, Evangelism Program Officer, The Episcopal Church

Holiday Inn French Quarter Perrysburg, OH



Wednesday, December 24		7:00 PM Family Christmas Eve Service with Holy Eucharist	
Officiating	The Rev. Carol S. Evans	1st Reading	Isaiah 9:2-7 Kathy Summy
Lay Reader	Judy Canan		
Greeters	Bud Minnich & Gary Bell	Psalm	96
Acolyte	C1—Schyler, T1—Taylor, Sammy C2—Jenna, T2—Eric, Kevin	2nd Reading	Titus 2:11-14
Altar Guild	Nancy Lundgren, Shirley Johnson, & Nancy Ervin		
Counters	Bette Brooks & Cory Conway	Gospel	Luke 2:1-20

Wednesday, December 24		11:00 PM Festive Christmas Eve Service with Holy Eucharist	
Officiating	The Rev. Carol S. Evans	1st Reading	Isaiah 9:2-7 Steve Barna
Deacon	The Rev. William D. Snyder		
Lay Reader	Maynard Evans	Psalm	96
Greeters	John & Irene Machikso	2nd Reading	Titus 2:11-14 Cathy Mansor
Acolyte	Th—Phil, C—Emily, T—Eric & Kevin		
Altar Guild	Nancy Lundgren, Shirley Johnson & Nancy Ervin	Gospel	Luke 2:1-20
Counters	Bette Brooks & Cory Conway		



Sunday, December 28		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist		Christmas 1
Officiating	The Rev. Carol S. Evans	1st Reading	Isaiah 61:10—62:3 Cathy Mansor	
Deacon	The Rev. William D. Snyder			
Lay Reader	Judy Canan	Psalm	147	
Greeters	John & Mary Jean McDonald	2nd Reading	Galatians 3: 23-25;4:4-7 Tim Splinter	
Acolyte	Kevin Splinter & Emily Summy			
Altar Guild	Nancy Lundgren, Shirley Johnson, & Nancy Ervin	Gospel	John 1:1-18	
Coffee Hosts	8:00 TBA 10:00 Chris Stickle & Denise Crouse			
Counters	Cory Conway & Bette Brooks			

MATCHING FUNDS GIFT

The Parish has received an anonymous gift of up to \$2500 in the form of a matching gift drive. If you can contribute matching funds, **simply mark your donation for the “Matching Gift”** and help us match up the entire \$2500. We have received \$1630 to this effort so far.





Did You Know?...



Judy Canan, Nydah Ellet, Carolyn Englert, & Marsha Snyder attended the E.C.W. deanery women's retreat on October 24 & 25 at Cedar Hills, our diocesan conference center. It was a two day retreat led by **The Rev. Julie Fisher** of Christ Church, Kent, who presented the program "Pray outside the Box". Fourteen women prayed, meditated and enjoyed the beautiful fall weather and each other's company for a wonderful twenty four hours...

The Rev. Alan James preached at Grace Church on October 26th. His had a wonderful sermon and after church we met in the parish hall for a question and answer period where he responded to our concerns and answered some of our questions...

We had a big surprise when, during the Sunday service, our own **Josh Crouse** came into the church. Josh had spent several months in basic training at Fr. Benning, GA with the National Guard. He said it was good to get back home and it was good to see Josh home and looking very fit and happy. I know his family is thrilled to have him back and the choir will be thrill too...

Shirley & Mike Johnson are members of the Grange and they spent time at a Grange Convention in Columbus...

Ken and Alice Boydell enjoyed Ken's 60th Class reunion...

The adult education classes held on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM have been doing well, if you get the opportunity, please join us...

On November 1st **Toni, Tony, & Megan Worthen** invited the parish to a bonfire at their home in Atwater, and what a wonderful time we had!! There was a lot of very good food (**Bill Snyder** said that it was the best pulled pork sandwich he had ever eaten) and the beautiful fall evening was enjoyed by the following members of the church: **Mike & Shirley Johnson; Mary Jean & John McDonald; Cory, Addrienne, Jillian & McKenna Conway; Sue & Bruce Ahrens; Bill Snyder; Rev. Carol; Pat Williams; Cindy Hoskins; Fred & Nancy Lundgren; Lisa, Paige, & Taylor Paxton; John & Irene Machisko; Kathy, Emily, & Jenna Summy; and Chris, Nikki, and Sammy Stickle**. Thanks to the Worthens, for a wonderful evening!!...

Jim Ervin & John McDonald are putting a new flag pole in the church/rectory front yard. Jim received the flag and pole from the American Legion. Many thanks to that organization...

Our Junior Warden, **John McDonald**, has been busy around the church fixing doors and getting the parish hall ready for air conditioning...

Bette Brooks went to Vanderbilt to visit with daughter **Amanda**; **Rev. Carol** went to Hannibal to visit with family, **Marsha Snyder** was in Dayton visiting with daughter **Jill and the girls**; **Reba Cook** was in California visiting (when Reba was called concerning a meeting at Grace, she said "I'd love to come but I'm in California and wouldn't make it in time ☺!!). And **Irene & John Machisko** will be going to Georgia for the holiday to be with their son **John** and his family, **Marcia & Tim Splinter** will be hosting Tim's parents for Thanksgiving, and **Bill & Marsha Snyder and Bruce & Sue Ahrens** will be going to Minnesota for Thanksgiving to visit their families. We are an "on the move" community...

The Diocesan Convention took place on November 14th & 15th in Cleveland. Representing Grace Church as delegates were **Sandy Ulbricht, Roberta O'Keefe, and Nancy Lundgren**. And our **Deacon Bill Snyder** also attended. **Rev. Carol** was in Missouri ill with the flu and couldn't get home in time for Convention...

Nydah Ellet volunteered to work the Fabulous Food Show at the IX Center and got to work for many area and nationally known chefs including Cleveland's own Iron Chef Michael Symon...

The ECW met on November 15th and plans for the Christmas Cookie Sale were made. Also plans for buying children's underwear for the County Clothing Center. If you are interested in participating, please pack the underwear in zip top bags in packages of three and mark the size on the bag. Cookies will sell of \$4.00 a dozen and order forms are in the parish hall...

Bonnie Quay fell and broke her ankle, keep her in your prayers...

Phyllis Shorts writes that **Bill's** second cornea transplant was a success and that his eye accepted the donor tissue and now he can see that little white ball!!...

Have a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas, from everyone at Grace Church!!



On the Horizon

Saturday December 13th Advent Quiet Day 9:00am

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. We'll end with Holy Eucharist at 11:30 AM

Saturday December 13th ECW Cookie Packaging 9am

ECW will be packaging up the cookie for distribution.

Fellowship & Game Night 6:30pm

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

Sunday December 14th ECW Cookie Pickup

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

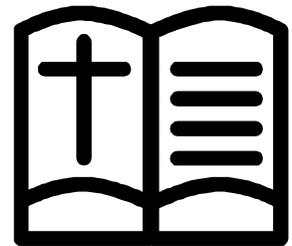
Sunday December 21st Hanging of the Greens 11:30am

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

Adult Bible Studies 6:30pm on Wednesdays

Each evening looks ahead to the lessons for the coming Sunday for reflection and discussion.

The kids room is open and Goldie is on duty, so children are welcome to come along if you wish.



Birthdays

2nd Nydah Ellet
7th Roberta O'Keefe
11th Kay Canan
12th Caroline Minnich
16th Shirley Johnson
Tim Scibelli
20th Stephanie York
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
9th Faith Postlethwaite
13th Mike Johnson
22nd Michael Canan
23rd Mechele Novak
Ricky Sanek
24th Leslie Thomas
Betty Russell



The Bulletin Board

Acolytes Schedule

Check these dates now so we can make any changes before we publish next month:

1/11—Taylor & Eric

1/18—Jenna

1/25—Sammy

Tim@splinterfactions.net

Marcia@splinterfactions.net

330-527-2084

Fun-draising is look ahead to next year and planning a *Homemade Chocolates* sale for Easter. Anyone willing to help please let one of the committee know:

Addrianne Conway, Marcia Splinter
Roberta O'Keefe, Pat Williams
Courtney Rich, Chris Stickle

Ebay for Grace!

Marcia and Tim Splinter are offering Ebay selling service to everybody. We will help you self your stuff...take pictures, do the computer work, use our Ebay account, the whole nine yards... Once your item sells, we will deduct the selling fees, give 10% to the parish and get the rest of the proceeds to you.

Clean out your saleable stuff and help the parish at the same time!

Tim@splinterfactions.net

Marcia@splinterfactions.net

330-527-2084

Children's Underwear Project

Again this year the E.C.W. will be collecting children's underwear that will be given to the County Clothing Center. We only ask that you "repackage" and place three pairs of underwear in a zip top plastic bag with the size and whether it's for a boy or girl on the package. You can bring your packages to the church office or to the church on Sunday.

HOW MANY EPISCOPALIANS DOES IT TAKE TO SCREW IN A LIGHT BULB?

The Diocese has provided Compact Florescent lightbulbs for use in the parish and distribution to parishioners to encourage "Shrinking our Ecological Footprint". Please see John McDonald if you'd like a couple.

John also placed a box in the parish hall to take in dead CFL's for proper recycling.

And of course, the answer to the question is...
*"Change it!? My mother donated
that light bulb!..."*

Bill Artz of Marshall's and
Majestic Dry Cleaning is
offering a **10% Tithe** to
area churches on any
receipts from parishioners.

To that end, please give any
receipts from Marshall's
Dry-cleaning to **Marcia
Splinter** for handling.

"Rector's Parking" Reminder

**To all the newer members who may never
have heard and a reminder to EVERYONE...**

**The last two parking spots on the right
against the back of the parish hall are
reserved for Rev. Carol and Maynard at all
times. The rectory has no other parking, so
please leave these two open for them.**