



The Grace Vine

February 2007

RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Once the holidays have passed, it seems the Epiphany 'season of light' doesn't last long, especially with the gray days of winter. With the arrival of Ash Wednesday (Feb. 21st this year), we'll be marked with ashes and reminded of our mortality, our sinfulness, and God's mercy. It's a time for repentance and reflection. Some take on various disciplines as a way to remember what Christ endured in his 40 days of temptation in the wilderness. Whether we observe Lent by giving up things we enjoy (chocolate, meat, or coffee) or by taking on practices we must work to maintain (daily Scripture reading and prayer, good deeds), the key is fixing our minds and hearts on Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Below are a few quotes from C.S. Lewis which might be helpful in our efforts and prayers to keep...and experience...a faithful Lent.

"Good and evil both increase at compound interest. That is why the little decisions you and I make every day are of such infinite importance."

(Mere Christianity, bk III, chap 9, p. 117)

"The Christian is in a different position from other people who are trying to be good. They hope, by being good, to please God if there is one; or—if they think there is not—at least they hope to deserve approval from good men. But the Christian thinks any good we do comes from the Christ-life inside us. We do not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us."

(Mere Christianity, bk. II, chap. 5, p. 64)

"No good work is done anywhere without aid from the Father of Lights."

(Reflections on the Psalms, chap. 11, p. 110)

"The sense in which a Christian 'leaves it to God' is that (we) put all our trust in Christ; trust that Christ will somehow share with (us) the perfect human obedience which He carried out from His birth to His crucifixion: that Christ will make (us) more like Himself and, in a sense, make good our deficiencies. In Christian language, He will share His "sonship" with us, will make us, like Himself, "Sons (and daughters) of God."

(Mere Christianity, bk. III, ch 12, p. 128)

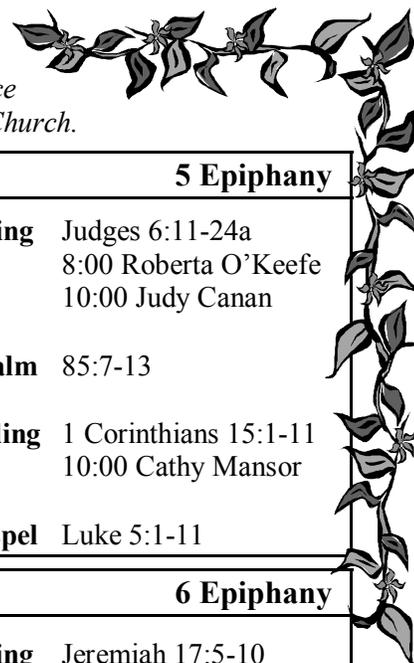
"I think that if God forgives us we must forgive ourselves. Otherwise it is almost like setting up ourselves as a higher tribunal than Him."

(Letters of C.S. Lewis, 19 April 1951, p. 230)



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.

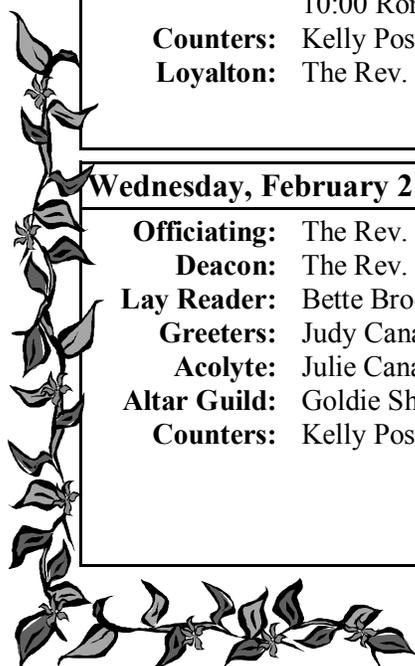


Sunday, February 4	8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	5 Epiphany
Officiating: The Rev. Carol S. Evans Deacon: The Rev. William D. Snyder Lay Reader: Carolyn Englert Greeters: Leslie & Paige Thomas Acolyte: Paige Thomas Altar Guild: Goldie Shriver & Shirley Johnson Coffee Hosts: 8:00 Golec Girls 10:00 John & Mary Jean McDonald Counters: Kelly Postlethwaite & Cathy Mansor Loyalton: Maynard Evans	1st Reading Judges 6:11-24a 8:00 Roberta O'Keefe 10:00 Judy Canan Psalm 85:7-13 2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 10:00 Cathy Mansor Gospel Luke 5:1-11	

Sunday, February 11	8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	6 Epiphany
Officiating: The Rev. Carol S. Evans Lay Reader: Bette Brooks Greeters: John & Mary Jean McDonald Acolyte: Julie Canan & Samantha Stickle Altar Guild: Goldie Shriver & Shirley Johnson Coffee Hosts: 8:00 Len & Jean Mercer 10:00 Judy & Kay Canan Counters: Kelly Postlethwaite & Cathy Mansor	1st Reading Jeremiah 17:5-10 8:00 Melissa Strainer 10:00 Steve Barna Psalm 1 2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 10:00 K. Postlethwaite Gospel Luke 6:17-26	

Sunday, February 18	8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	6 Epiphany
Officiating: The Rev. Carol S. Evans Lay Reader: Judy Canan Greeters: Fred & Nancy Lundgren Acolyte: Janell Moore Altar Guild: Goldie Shriver & Shirley Johnson Coffee Hosts: 8:00 George Furrer 10:00 Ron & Kelly Postlethwaite Counters: Kelly Postlethwaite & Cathy Mansor Loyalton: The Rev. William D. Snyder	1st Reading Exodus 34:29-35 8:00 Roberta O'Keefe 10:00 Paige Thomas Psalm 99 2nd Reading 1 Corinth. 12:27-13:13 10:00 Tim Splinter Gospel Luke 9:28-36	

Wednesday, February 21	7:00 PM Service	Ash Wednesday
Officiating: The Rev. Carol S. Evans Deacon: The Rev. William D. Snyder Lay Reader: Bette Brooks Greeters: Judy Canan & Carolyn Englert Acolyte: Julie Canan & Samantha Stickle Altar Guild: Goldie Shriver & Shirley Johnson Counters: Kelly Postlethwaite & Cathy Mansor	1st Reading Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Carolyn Englert Psalm 103:8-14 2nd Reading 2 Corinth. 5:20b-6:103 Judy Canan Gospel Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	





Did You Know?...



...**Eric and Kevin Splinter and Jesse Moore** participated in their Cub Scout Pack Pinewood Derbies this last month. In case you don't know what a "Pinewood Derby" is; the boys make their own car from a small pine block and plastic wheels and race them down a sloped track, Soap Box Derby in miniature. It was great fun for the boys—but I'll bet the dad's had just as much fun...

Janell Moore is playing basketball for the Lady Ravens and is really enjoying herself, and according to her mother **Kelly**, doing quite well...

Mary Jean and John McDonald went to see their first grade granddaughter play her first basketball game and **Sandra's** team scored ten points—all ten points were Sandra's...

Schylar Conway is also playing basketball and daddy **Cory** is coaching her and teaching her the finer art of the game...

We welcome **Philip and Joshua Crouse** as the newly baptized members of Grace Church...

NyDAH Ellet had a stray cat in her house for a month (as close as she can tell.) The stray looked just like her gray tabby, however her cats knew he didn't belong there because they were making quite a fuss. She finally got the cat out of the house and closed off all the "cat doors." Now maybe no more raccoons and stray cats!!!...

John and Irene Machisko are headed for Florida for several weeks. We hope they bring that warm weather back to us upon their return...

Our prayers are with **Frank Seman** as he recovers from hip replacement surgery. He is doing well according to the latest reports...

Pat Williams is retiring this month from Parker Hannifin after many years of service. What will you and Perry do with all your time??...

The choir is thrilled to have **Cathy Mansor** and **Gordon Thompson** back in the choir. Cathy was out after she broke her leg at work and KSU student Gordon was on Christmas break back in New Jersey enjoying time with his family. When two people are gone from such a small choir they are truly missed...

The 142nd Annual Meeting of Grace Church took

place on January 21st. The "State of Grace Church" is ok, we still have a deficit budget (as we did last year), but with the help of the Beatty Fund, Fundraising committee, and increases in giving by those who could, we ended in the black. But even better is there are a lot of people working very hard and we are involved in many outreach programs to assist our community...

At the Annual Meeting the election of vestry members took place and **Bette Brooks, Cathy Mansor, and John McDonald** were elected to vestry and **Leslie Thomas** was elected to the Beatty Committee...

Thanks to **Nancy Ervin** and her hospitality committee and the members of Grace Church for all their work making this annual meeting a success...

On January 20th we held a memorial service for **Dick Thacker** who died on Sunday, January 14th, after a long illness. Our love and prayers go to **Louise** and all their families...

Thanks to **Jean Mercer** for making the drapes in the lounge. They look great!

From Habitat for Humanity,

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your donation to Habitat for Humanity of Portage County. Our next two homes going up in Atwater are moving right along. Dedication of the sites took place on December 17th. The families should be able to move in by the end of January. The renovation in Kent has also begun with work continuing at both sites every Saturday.

Your donation will enable us to continue to provide simple, decent homes for God's people in need. Again thank you for your gift and support, and may God continue to bless you.

Sincerely,
Mary Shaffer
Exec. Director

Birthdays

2nd—Dale Espey
3rd—David Golec
9th—Janice Lallathin
13th—Gladys Parsons
16th—Nancy Lundgren
21st—Irene Machisko
29th—Fred Lundgren



Congratulations!

and many happy returns...



Baptisms

10th—Janell & Jesse Moore
11th—Nancy Ervin
14th—Emily Summy
20th—Kirsten Seman



Anniversaries

13th—Sonja & Don Sherwood

To the members of Grace Church who sent cards to the soldiers for Christmas,

Well, yet another Christmas has come and gone, and the Army has me in a land far from the home I share with Beki and the kids in Texas. A little history goes a long way, so here is some on me...

I joined the Army in 1987 and was stationed in Germany where I met the most wonderful woman in the world. After spending 2 years with her there, I married her in 1990. Just a few short days after we were married, I was deployed to Saudi Arabia, and later on, to Kuwait in support of Operation Desert Storm. That was our first year apart for the holidays.

A few years and children later I joined the National Guard in Texas and I never would have thought that I would be away from my family more on weekend status than I would have been if I had stayed on Active Duty.

I have been sent on every flood duty, since 1993. I served as a search and rescue team leader on the Space Shuttle Disaster. I was a team leader standing guard in an airport in Houston in October 2001. I was deployed to Iraq in 2004 as a Squad Leader, and now on to Egypt.

So as you can tell, I have missed many a birthday, anniversary (not recommended), Christmas, New Years, Valentine's Day and so many more, but to receive the thanks from so many people that I do not know makes it a little more bearable.

I don't do this for money or fame or anything like that. I do this job because it is what God has called me to do and I believe that I was meant to be a soldier.

But I am not the only one who suffers throughout these deployments and these separations. I have a beautiful wife and three wonderful children who I believe suffer more than anyone could ever imagine. They are the single mom, the fatherless baseball players, tumblers, and toddlers. They are the ones that don't have the Husband at anniversaries, and on the weekends. They don't have the dad at their games and birthday parties and Father son/daughter days at school.

They do without so much more than I could ever complain about. I may sleep on a cot in a tent, take showers in a tent without hot water, and hope not to get blown up while driving down a highway, but I have my troops and we form a bond that gets us by. The families we leave behind are just left, so share your wishes with them too.

Thank you for your cards. They made a lot of soldiers here a little happier.

Staff Sgt. Joe Amodio
Carolyn Englert's Son-in-law

