



The Grace Vine

February 2009

Rector's Writ

Long before it was Groundhog Day, February second was known as a cross-quarter day. The Rev. Dr. Frank Hegedus describes a cross-quarter day as "the mid-point between a solstice and an equinox." In simpler terms, it means we're halfway through winter, and that helps. As winter gets old and harsh, spring feels distant and tax deadlines seem closer, and new catalogs don't even help.

For those of us who live amidst four seasons, a cross-quarter day means that light and warmth are gradually returning. In ancient times, Celtic rituals included huge bon fires to welcome back the sun, as people began to think about spring.

Our Church calendar observes the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple on February 2nd. The Song of Simeon in Compline reminds us of the story and the symbolism: "...These eyes of mine have seen the Savior...a Light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel." (BCP p. 135)

The Presentation of Our Lord is also known as Candlemas and is celebrated in some places by blessing and lighting candles; reminders of Christ as the Light of the world and the one who brings God's love to guide and inspire us.

Although Candlemas is not observed everywhere, we do well to remember this little known celebration of God's love and light. February is framed this year by Candlemas (Feb. 2nd) and Ash Wednesday (Feb. 25th). We're more familiar with this somber service that calls us to "the observance of a holy Lent;" calls us to remember the "need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith." We commit to penitence, prayer, fasting, and self denial, and we're reminded that we are dust. Not much about light here.

Yet, whatever we decide to give up or take on during Lent, we find comfort and strength knowing the light of Christ, the Light of the world, is with us: no matter how long the winter seems; no matter how severe our penitence needs to be. There is light on either side of Lent, all around and through it. The light of Christ is all around and through us, too. And the darkness will not overcome it.

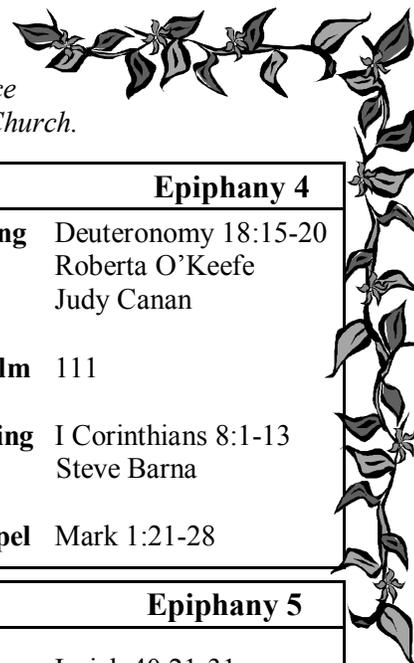


Join us for the Ash Wednesday Liturgy & Eucharist
February 25th: Noon and 7 PM



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.

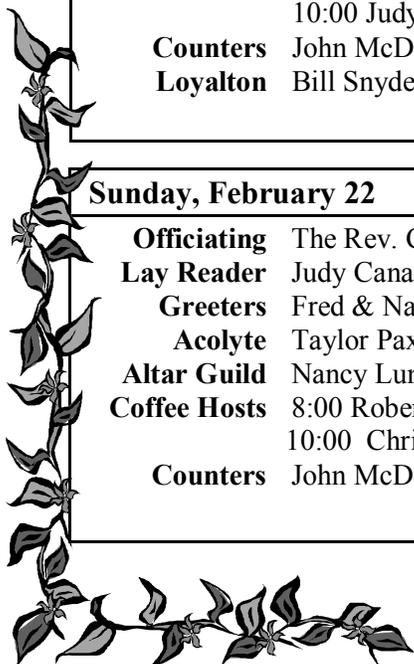


| Sunday, February 1 | | 8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist | Epiphany 4 |
|---------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|
| Officiating | The Rev. Carol S. Evans | | 1st Reading Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Roberta O'Keefe Judy Canan |
| Lay Reader | Bette Brooks | | |
| Greeters | Bud Minnich & Gary Bell | | Psalm 111 |
| Acolytes | Schyler Conway & Kevin Splinter | | |
| Altar Guild | Nancy Lundgren, Shirley Johnson, Toni Worthen | | |
| Coffee Hosts | 8:00 Joan & Frank Seman 10:00 Nancy & Fred Lundgren | | 2nd Reading I Corinthians 8:1-13 Steve Barna |
| Counters | John McDonald & Bette Brooks | | |
| Loyalton | Kathy Summy | | Gospel Mark 1:21-28 |

| Sunday, February 8 | | 8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist | Epiphany 5 |
|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Officiating | The Rev. Carol S. Evans | | 1st Reading Isaiah 40:21-31 Kathy Summy |
| Deacon | The Rev. William D. Snyder | | |
| Lay Reader | Carolyn Englert | | Psalm 147:1-12, 21c |
| Greeters | Bonnie Quay & Bev Lewis – Mercury | | |
| Acolyte | Eric & Kevin Splinter | | |
| Altar Guild | Nancy Lundgren, Shirley Johnson, Toni Worthen | | 2nd Reading I Corinthians 9:16-23 Gordon Thompson |
| Coffee Hosts | 8:00 Rick Lashley, Debbie Shorts 10:00 Nancy & Jim Ervin | | |
| Counters | John McDonald & Bette Brooks | | Gospel Mark 1:29-39 |

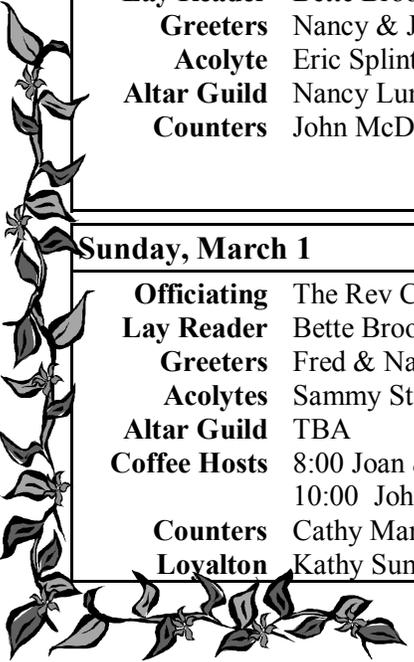
| Sunday, February 15 | | 8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist | Epiphany 6 |
|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Officiating | The Rev. Carol S. Evans | | 1st Reading 1 Samuel 3:1-20 Roberta O'Keefe Carolyn Englert |
| Lay Reader | Maynard Evans | | |
| Greeters | John & Mary Jean McDonald | | Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17 |
| Acolyte | Jenna Summy | | |
| Altar Guild | Nancy Lundgren, Shirley Johnson, Toni Worthen | | |
| Coffee Hosts | 8:00 Cindy Hoskins & Pat Williams 10:00 Judy Canan & Bev Lewis-Mercury | | 2nd Reading I Corinthians 6:12-20 Tim Splinter |
| Counters | John McDonald & Bette Brooks | | |
| Loyalton | Bill Snyder | | Gospel John 1:43-51 |

| Sunday, February 22 | | 8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist | Last Epiphany |
|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Officiating | The Rev. Carol S. Evans | | 1st Reading 2 Kings 5:1-14 Cathy Mansor |
| Lay Reader | Judy Canan | | |
| Greeters | Fred & Nancy Lundgren | | Psalm 30 |
| Acolyte | Taylor Paxton | | |
| Altar Guild | Nancy Lundgren, Shirley Johnson, Toni Worthen | | |
| Coffee Hosts | 8:00 Roberta O'Keefe 10:00 Chris Stickle & Denise Course | | 2nd Reading I Corinthians 9:24-27 Steve Barna |
| Counters | John McDonald & Bette Brooks | | |
| | | | Gospel Mark 1:40-45 |





| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday, February 25 | | 7:00 PM | ASH WEDNESDAY |
| Officiating | The Rev. Carol S. Evans | 1st Reading | Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Judy Canan |
| Deacon | The Rev. William D. Snyder | Psalm | 103 |
| Lay Reader | Bette Brooks | 2nd Reading | 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Gordon Thompson |
| Greeters | Nancy & Jim Ervin | Gospel | Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 |
| Acolyte | Eric Splinter | | |
| Altar Guild | Nancy Lundgren, Shirley Johnson, Toni Worthen | | |
| Counters | John McDonald & Bette Brooks | | |
| Sunday, March 1 | | 8:00 & 10:00 AM | Lent 1 |
| Officiating | The Rev Carol S. Evans | 1st Reading | Genesis 9:8-17 Carolyn Englert |
| Lay Reader | Bette Brooks | Psalm | 25:1-9 |
| Greeters | Fred & Nancy Lundgren | 2nd Reading | 1 Peter 3:18-22 Tim Splinter |
| Acolytes | Sammy Stickle | Gospel | Mark 1:9-15 |
| Altar Guild | TBA | | |
| Coffee Hosts | 8:00 Joan & Frank Seman 10:00 John & Mary Jean McDonald | | |
| Counters | Cathy Manson & Roberta O'Keefe | | |
| Loyalton | Kathy Summy | | |



Annual Parish Meeting, Recap of Actions Taken

As meetings go it was mostly the usual, but a couple things would bear reporting. First, the new faces on the Vestry are Mr. Tony Worthen, Alice Boydell and Reba Cook. Mary Jean McDonald takes a seat on the Beatty Committee.

The other item of substance concerned the use of the Beatty Fund. There was quite a lot of discussion, but it circled mostly around understanding what IS and what may need to be, not on any significant disagreement. Here is a recap...

First a quick refresher on the Beatty Fund. The original \$500K endowment came with no strings. A committee of Parishioners created the rules by which it would operate. Chief among these rules were a protection against spending the original money (the principle) and a requirement to use the income for outreach and certain specific parish uses.

For the past 3 years (or is it 4?) the budget deficit has made it necessary for the Vestry to use Beatty Funds to pay for things that would normally belong to the general budget. This has been in addition to the normal use of Beatty.

To help relieve this extra drain on the fund, which was doing well enough, the normal usage for outreach and such was

kept to its minimum. At the beginning, there was a stated intention by the vestry to return any money used this way back to the fund. Obviously, with several years of deficit in the general budget, that will have to remain a future goal.

The down state of the stock market, however, has changed the situation and forced the issue onto the agenda of the annual meeting. The current value of the fund has fallen to levels hovering around the amount of the principle which the Fund's rules protect from use. Under those rules, neither the normal intended use nor the emergency use to pay the bills could withdraw money below the protected amount.

There is clearly no solution to this that is without any negative aspects, but we must move forward. The Vestry and the Beatty committee were agreed on several thoughts:

- We are not in this situation due to any reckless spending of the fund on the part of the parish.
- The budget is trimmed to a minimum already. We have little choice but to pay bills any way we can.
- We do not wish the emergency

use of the fund to override or prevent it's intended use for outreach.

To those ends, the Vestry's choice of action is to ask that the plan's rule protecting the principle be suspended temporarily and to delay, as long as seems reasonable, any withdrawals from the Fund in hopes of a recovery in it's value. While amounts will be kept to their minimums, Outreach giving will continue for this year. The in-house parish uses will carry on as long as possible without getting their funds for the year.

The parish's self-imposed plan for the fund contains rules for how the rules may be changed by the parish. The Vestry and Parish must both agree by 2/3 majority to make changes. The vote taken at the annual meeting was the final step in that process.

The change we made, by unanimous vote, is this: For the period of 1 year the Vestry has the power to use money below the protected principle. Obviously, we may have to revisit this in future years, but it will be with the full awareness and vote of the parish.

*Reported by Tim Splinter
(prior Senior Warden)*



Did You Know?...



To those who get their Gracevine the old fashioned way, my apologies. Someplace between my computer and the copier I lost track of this page and didn't even notice until Marsha said something weeks later. So here, a month late but here, is last month's with this month's additions...

Mary Jean & John McDonald visited daughter **Amy** and family California. Then on to Arizona to see son **Andrew** graduate with an EMBA from Thunderbird School of Global Management; this school is rated third in the world by the Wall Street Journal. Thirty countries were represented in this graduating class and graduation took five hours, but it was very impressive. Congratulations to Andrews!...

Nancy Lundgren traveled to Texas to visit with her son **Bill** and his family and on the way home she had a two hour lay-over in Atlanta (but then, who doesn't have a lay-over in Atlanta) and who should she spot at the airport but **Linda Corrao** who was traveling north to Ohio to visit with her family. They had a wonderful time catching up, and it certainly was a nice surprise...

Judy Canan hosted the Sit & Stitch group at a Christmas party at her home and of course everyone had a wonderful time. **Bonnie Quay** had some difficulty getting to the party, she just couldn't find Judy's house. But after a few phone calls, she finally made it...

Alice and Ken Boydell enjoyed grandson **Elliot**, but he certainly was busy, especially at Boydell's new house with lots of stairs and cupboards to get into...

Kay Canan, being the "best daughter-in-the world" (just ask Judy, she'll tell you) helped **Judy** make cut out cookies for the E.C.W. cookie sale. Last year Judy said she'd never make cut out cookies again. Never say never!!...

Carolyn and Ken Englert are headed for Texas to visit with their daughter and family for the holidays, their son-in-law **Joe** is headed for Iraq, for another tour...

Betty Capriola will be going to Georgia to be with her daughter and family for the holiday and won't be back until after the new year...

Cary & Bud Minnich's son **Steve** and their niece **Cathy Potisuk** will be home for the holidays...

Gladys Parsons has moved to Loyalton, her new address 141 Chestnut St., room 337, Ravenna, Ohio 44266. I'm sure she'd love to hear from you...

Cora Pierce enjoyed all her children home for the Thanksgiving holiday, this was the first time in five years they have all been together...

John & Irene Machisko will have their sons home for Christmas, **John** and his family are coming from Georgia and **David** from Missouri. Daughter **Lynn** and her family will be in Florida for the holiday...

Melissa Strainer writes that she wishes everyone at Grace a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and thanks us for the cards. The Strainers are now members of St. Matthew Church, in Akron, where **Lauren** goes to school...

Nancy & Jim Ervin's son **Scott** got into the spirit of Christmas when he purchased a car load of toys that he took to the Center of Hope to be given to the needy children of Portage County...

Mike Johnson brought an old picture of a confirmation class that caused quite a stir. Many of those who have been at Grace Church for lo these many years were trying to figure out who all these children are. **Kay Wise** mentioned she was in that class along with her cousin, the two little chubby girls in front - they certainly have changed...

We received a Christmas card and poem from **Helen & Larry White** wishing us all a Merry Christmas. Their card along with many others are on the bulletin board in the parish hall. Check them out!!...

ESPN will be broadcasting the Vanderbilt/South Florida game and has requested **Amanda Brooks** do the stats again for them. They were so impressed with the job she did for them for the last game they aired they wanted her back. Her boyfriend **Jay**, is a bit jealous this isn't even her field of study...

Bette Brooks received the Phi Delta Kappa faculty grant for the year 2008 and also received one of four Mortar Board Society Awards. These are given by the students to faculty members that have been influential and supportive in their lives...

Thanks to those who baked, bought, and packaged up cookies for the E.C.W. Christmas Cookie sale. This year's sale was very successful and we couldn't have done it without everyone's help. The ECW made \$722 on this venture and we hope to make it bigger and better next year. Thanks again!!...

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Sally & Dennis Dier** who lost her brother after many years of illness and to **Ron Postlethwaite** whose father died on December 12th...

Stephanie York shared with us that son **Brandon** won first place in his Cub Scout pack's Pinewood Derby on January 18th. He beat out 75 competitors and will compete in the district race on April 18 at the Chapel Hill Mall. He made his car in the shape of a torpedo because he wanted it to look fast and go fast -- and it did!!...

Addrienne Conway is headed for India, (that place may never be the same again) a work related trip. Hubby **Cory** will be alone with their three girls for three weeks while Addrienne is gone. What a man!!...

Mike Johnson shared pictures of the flock of wild turkeys that have been visiting the Johnson place. About 30 turkeys come to feed, they must enjoy the food. But then turn around in fair play, I'm sure Mike has eaten at least 30 turkeys in his life time, now he's feeding them. God is Good!!

On the Horizon

Saturday, February 7th Candy Sale Samples 1:00 pm

Fundraising will be making sample candies for the Easter Candy sale. More details later and of course, volunteers are welcome.

Saturday, February 21st Youth Group Mardi Gras Pancake Dinner 4-6 pm

The Youth group will put on it's annual Pancake Dinner in the parish hall. \$5 per person up to \$20 per family.



No Fellowship and Game Night for February

Saturday, March 14th Fellowship and Game Night 6:30 pm

Weather willing, we'll try to get back into the swing of things with these game night that have been difficult to pull off lately.

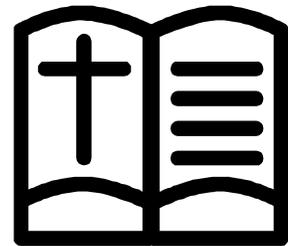
March 1st Easter Candy Sale Begins

The Easter Candy Sale ordering should begin. Photos, weights, types...maybe even some samples... will be available to place your orders and make sales.

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 Dale Espey
- 3rd David Golec
- 9th Janice Lallathin
- 10th Gary Bell
- 13th Gladys Parsons
- 16th Nancy Lundgren
- 21st Irene Machisko
- 29th Fred Lundgren



Congratulations!

and many happy returns...



Anniversaries

- 13th Sonja & Don Sherwood



Baptisms

- 10th Janell & Jesse Moore
- 11th Nancy Ervin
Gary Bell
Josh & Phil Crouse
- 14th Emily Summy
- 24th Rob Young
- 29th Kirsten Seman

Living Out the Grace Church Mission Statement

The mission of Grace Episcopal Church is to worship God, and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to serve Christ through caring for one another, spiritual growth, evangelism, and social service & action.

Grace Church is very active in each of the activities of the mission statement. To “serve Christ through social service & action” this is especially true. Members volunteer and/or provide funds for Habitat for Humanity, Portage County Clothing Center, the Christian Cupboard, Loaves and Fishes, and 2-Cents a Meal.

Through 2-Cents a Meal, we do both social service & action. One cent is given to programs that feed the hungry today such as the Christian Cupboard or Loaves and Fishes; and one cent works to prevent hunger tomorrow. Half of the money collected by Grace Church for 2-cents a meal is sent to The Hunger Network in Ohio. The Hunger Network in Ohio is an ecumenical Christian organization, which was co-founded by the Diocese of Ohio 30 years ago, which enables us to work to end hunger in Ohio. It advocates for the hungry by speaking on their behalf to the political decision makers.

Are you wondering how serious hunger is in Ohio? Here are some facts:

- In any given week, 207,700 different Ohioans receive emergency food assistance.
- 35% are children under the age of 18 -- with one out of 10, under 5 years of age.
- 9% are seniors, often on fixed incomes and deciding between meals, utilities, and medications.
- ½ choose between paying for food or heating/utilities and 1/3 between food or rent/mortgages

Most of us rarely spend a day with nothing to eat. Yet hunger is an everyday fact of life for an epidemic number of families. Poverty, of course, is largely responsible for hunger; and unemployment or underemployment is the leading cause of poverty. In recent years, over a quarter of a million jobs have been lost in Ohio. While “welfare reform” is designed to train and move “able bodied” adults into jobs, many are still not able to get employment or earn enough to support their families. Commitment to long-term remedies for ending hunger is needed.

If you are moved to do more about ending hunger please consider joining the Hunger Network in Ohio’s Public Policy E-mail Network. Simply e-mail HungerNetOhio@aol.com to enroll. Once enrolled, from time to time, you will receive action alerts via your e-mail requesting you to take an action on behalf of Ohio’s hungry.

For further information about 2-cents a meal or The Hunger Network in Ohio please contact me at 330-673-2058 or me at rlokeefe@sbcglobal.net.

Lloyd O’Keefe

Deanery Lenten Mission Focus

This year the Deanery has chosen Malaria prevention as the outreach program. Saying “we are buying mosquito netting” doesn’t sound all that important, but in some parts of the world it is just as important as food and water. Please consider what you can give to this outreach effort.

Treat Your ‘ Family ’ Right!

How many articles have you seen in various magazines and newspapers about how we often treat strangers better than our own families? Scary, but a lot of the time true. These articles typically remind us to say “please” and “thank you” and to “think of others first” - in other words, mind your manners!

As we say frequently, Grace Church really does feel like family, and sometimes we need to be reminded to “mind our manners” in church also. This includes (but is not limited to) try to save long conversations until after the service, speak quietly and silence your cell phones. In other words-“think of others first” so we can stay one big, happy family.

The Bulletin Board

Acolytes Schedule

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

3/8—Schyler & Kevin

3/15—Eric

3/22—Taylor

3/29—jenna

Tim@splinterfactions.net

Marcia@splinterfactions.net

330-527-2084

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.

Ebay for Grace!

Marcia and Tim Splinter are offering Ebay selling service to everybody. We will help you sell 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

Bill Artz of **Marshall's and Majestic Dry Cleaning** sent the parish a letter which included the following...

"I have been praying for a way to make my business prosper as well as further the Kingdom of God. An idea came to me. If your congregation would bring their dry cleaning to us...once a month, bring all the receipts to Marshall's...we would **Tithe [your] church 10% of the total.**"

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

