



The Grace Vine

March 2011

Rector's Writ

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit."

In the Ash Wednesday liturgy we're invited to "the observance of a holy Lent," by self-examination and repentance; by prayer; and by reading and reflecting on God's holy Word in Scripture. The liturgy and Psalm 51 (verses 11-13 above) address in no uncertain terms the penitential tone of the season, yet our hope in God's constant mercy and goodness.

For Lent 2011, we're inviting all members of our parish family to a six week study of *Unbinding Your Heart*. This book provides a framework that can help us build a stronger prayer life; explore our faith; and build fellowship through small group discussions. It's a commitment that we anticipate will have an impact on our spiritual growth as individuals and as a church family. Members are encouraged to invite un-churched family and friends interested in improving their spiritual lives to attend as well. (Let us know and we can order books!)

The weekly groups will be led by two facilitators. Some of the major themes we'll be discussing from *Unbinding Your Heart* include:

- Why it's important to have God in our lives and the difference being a Christian makes in how we live. How does our faith shape who we are and what's important in life? The small groups will provide a safe place where we can learn to talk about faith and prayer with sincerity.
- The ongoing practice of prayer is one way to move into a deeper relationship with Jesus. The prayer examples in the book are to "help you pray with Scripture, move closer to God and grow as a Christian." They are tools to help us be more open to the Spirit. Staying with God is more important than following the program in this adventure.
- The importance of nurturing good and faithful relationships: with God, with our Church family, and with people outside the Church.
- The significance of learning to share our faith stories and hearing those of others. We learn how God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit have been and continue to be present, loving, and gracious.

We've been blessed with some excellent leaders to help make this study of *Unbinding Your Heart* a good experience and a helpful study for prayer and reflection for the six weeks of Lent. We welcome your participation and commitment. It will be exciting to take this journey together and learn what God will teach us along the path.

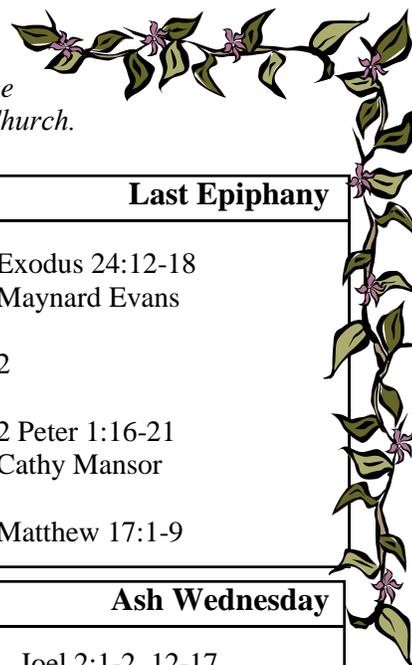


God's blessings and peace.
Carol



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.

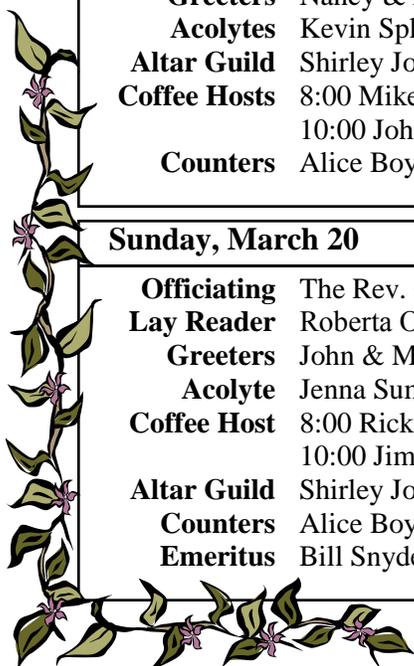


Sunday, March 6		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	Last Epiphany
Officiating	The Rev. Carol S. Evans	1st Reading Exodus 24:12-18 Maynard Evans Psalm 2 2nd Reading 2 Peter 1:16-21 Cathy Mansor Gospel Matthew 17:1-9	
Deacon	The Rev William D. Snyder		
Lay Reader	Carolyn Englert		
Greeters	Bev Lewis-Mercury & Jeff Marsh		
Acolyte	Schyler Conway & Paige Paxton		
Coffee Hour	8:00 Frank & Joan Seman 10:00 Irene & John Machisko		
Altar Guild	Shirley Johnson & Debbie Shorts		
Counters	Alice Boydell & Joan Seman		
Emeritus	Kathy Summy		

Wednesday, March 9		Noon & 7:30 PM Imposition of Ashes	Ash Wednesday
Officiating	The Rev. Carol S. Evans	1st Reading Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Tim Splinter Psalm 103 2nd Reading 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10 Carolyn Englert Gospel Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	
Deacon	The Rev. William D. Snyder		
Lay Reader	Roberta O'Keefe		
Greeters	Jim & Nancy Ervin		
Acolyte	Eric Splinter & Kevin Splinter		
Altar Guild	Shirley Johnson & Debbie Shorts		
Counters	Alice Boydell & Joan Seman		

Sunday, March 13		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	1 Lent
Officiating	The Rev. Carol S. Evans	1st Reading Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Nancy Lundgren Psalm 32 2nd Reading Romans 5:12-19 Fred Lundgren Gospel Matthew 4:1-11	
Deacon	The Rev. William D. Snyder		
Lay Reader	Addrienne Conway		
Greeters	Nancy & Fred Lundgren		
Acolytes	Kevin Splinter		
Altar Guild	Shirley Johnson & Debbie Shorts		
Coffee Hosts	8:00 Mike & Shirley Johnson 10:00 John & Mary Jean McDonald		
Counters	Alice Boydell & Joan Seman		

Sunday, March 20		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	2 Lent
Officiating	The Rev. Carol S. Evans	1st Reading Genesis 12:1-4a Martha Croll Psalm 121 2nd Reading Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 Jeff Croll Gospel John 3:1-17	
Lay Reader	Roberta O'Keefe		
Greeters	John & Mary Jean McDonald		
Acolyte	Jenna Summy		
Coffee Host	8:00 Rick Lashley & Debbie Shorts 10:00 Jim & Nancy Ervin		
Altar Guild	Shirley Johnson & Debbie Shorts		
Counters	Alice Boydell & Joan Seman		
Emeritus	Bill Snyder		



Sunday, March 27 **8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist** **3 Lent**

Officiating The Rev. Carol S. Evans
Deacon The Rev. William D. Snyder
Lay Reader Addrienne Conway
Greeters Irene & John Machisko
Acolyte Eric Splinter & McKenna Conway
Coffee Hour 8:00 Rick Lashley & Debbie Shorts
 10:00 Chris Stickle & Kay Canan
Altar Guild Shirley Johnson & Debbie Shorts
Counters Alice Boydell & Joan Seman

1st Reading Exodus 17:1-7
 Carolyn Englert

Psalm 95

2nd Reading Romans 5:1-11
 Tim Splinter

Gospel John 4:5-42

Sunday, April 3 **8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist** **4 Lent**

Officiating The Rev. Carol S. Evans
Lay Reader Carolyn Englert
Greeters Jeff Marsh & Bev Lewis-Mercury
Acolyte Schyler Conway & Paige Paxton
Coffee Host 8:00 Joan & Frank Seman
 10:00 Nancy & Fred Lundgren
Altar Guild Nancy Lundgren & Cindy Hoskins
Counters Reba Cook & Barb Popiel
Emeritus Kathy Summy

1st Reading I Samuel 16:1-3
 Cathy Mansor

Psalm 23

2nd Reading Ephesians 5:8-14
 Maynard Evans

Gospel John 9:1-41

Why go to Church?

If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this!
 If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it.
 If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!

Why Go To Church?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letter to the Editor" column, much to the delight to the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" When you are DOWN to nothing...God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

"When Satan is knocking at your door, simply say, "Jesus, could you get that for me?"



Did You Know?...



Wow! Sunshine – do you believe it?! Get your children out to take a good look. Do you suppose that groundhog knew what he was doing when he didn't see his shadow and we only have a few more weeks of winter? Let's hope (pray) that is the case. --Oh no, what is that white stuff??? Well... that groundhog isn't all he's cracked up to be. Four more inches of snow and ice, oh kwap!! Will spring ever get here??...

Bette Brooks sends her love and wishes us all well. She's doing well, looks great and is almost finished with her treatments. She appreciates our continued prayers, cards and calls...

Sit & Stitch was canceled due to the weather (what a surprise) but the "baker" of the group, **Shirley Johnson**, delivered brownies to the office and even took some to the members that live nearby. Shirley also sent some books she had for the library at the Lillian Vallely Native Indian School in Blackfoot, Idaho. We received a letter from the librarian and the school's director in appreciation. If you have any school books, hard bound or paper back, that students from grade 1 to 5 would enjoy, please bring them to the church and we'll see that they are sent to this school. Our E.C.W. has supported this Episcopal school for many years and we encourage any support you can give us...

Marsha & Steve Barna sent a note saying they are both doing well, and we are missed (probably not as much as they are missed). Their new landline phone number is 740-892-2038. They would enjoy hearing from you...

Sue Ahrens, Reba Cook, Marcia Splinter and Rev. Carol attended the Winter Convocation in Perrysburg last month, and it was a huge success. Of course the fact that **Presiding Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori** was Keynote Speaker certainly helped account for that. It was reported that 45 youth attended...

We were saddened by the death of **Betty Capriola** who passed away on February 10th after a long illness...

Reba Cook held the Vestry Retreat at her home on February 19th. The vestry worked very hard planning the year's goals. Our new vestry members are **Jeff Marsh, Cathy Mansor and Barb Popiel**. The vestry officers for 2011 are **Cory Conway, Senior Warden; Reba Cook, Junior Warden; Cathy Mansor, Clerk...**

Carolyn Englert's husband **Ken** had successful heart surgery last month and is doing very well. They thank everyone for all their prayers. Carolyn spent many nights at the Cleveland Clinic and couldn't wait to sleep in her

own bed...

Nancy Lundgren and Sally Dier have been working very hard at Gracie's Back Door these days. Take a look and see the wonderful things they've done there...

John McDonald enjoyed a week of warm weather and fishing when he went to Florida on a fishing trip. He certainly knew the right week to get out of Dodge. I hope he brings some of the sunshine back with him...

Bud Minnich is now living at Brookside and his new address is Brookside, 7000 SR88, Bldg 2, #10, Ravenna OH 44266. His phone number remains the same, 330-296-4235. We we're thrilled to see him in church on the 27th and he even brought two friends! Keep in touch with Bud. He's love to here from you and see you visit...

Colin Thomas will be headed to Peru as part of his KSU course in International Studies. He'll spend 10 days traveling and visiting the sites. Have a great time, Colin!...

If you have information you want to share in "Did You Know" please email it to office@graceravenna.org.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Sit & Stitch group continues a prayer shawl ministry. If you know anyone who is sick or in need of some comfort, please see a member of the group or Rev. Carol and they will be sure to get one for you. These shawls are made with love and prayers and are given with love and concern for whoever receives it.

On the Horizon

Sunday, March 6 Candy Sale Forms

Watch for order forms for the annual Easter Candy Sale to show up! Orders and money will be due March 27. Product will be ready April 17.

We'll need help making candy. You can help at the weekend work sessions or take the simpler types home to work.

Donations of or for supplies are needed as well.

Saturday, March 12 Fellowship and Game Night 6:30pm

Saturday, May 7 Mother's Day Flower Sale

Pray for good weather. We'll need donations of ribbon and knick knacks to put in with the basket plants.

Saturday, September 17 Ravenna Balloon A-fair

We are considering putting in a float this year. See Addrienne if you have interest in helping.

Saturday, October 22nd 2nd Annual Wine Tasting

Save the date...details will follow.

Beer Tasting?

There has been suggestion of having a Beer Tasting to compliment our Wine Tasting. If anyone steps up to lead, the Fun-draising Committee is ready to help make it happen.

Acolytes Schedule

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

4/10—Kevin & McKenna

4/17—Jenna

4/24—All Hands

5/1—Eric

Tim@splinterfactions.net

Marcia@splinterfactions.net

330-527-2084



Birthdays

1st Bette Brooks
3rd Amelia Golec
6th Sally Wolf Langan
10th Eli Stover
14th Amanda Brooks
Beverly Brooks
22nd George Furrer
Dutch Shriver
Rodney Stickle
26th Ken Boydell
27th Mike Ondrejko
29th Amanda Ondrejko

Congratulations!

and many happy returns...

Anniversaries

29th Dennis & Sally Dier



Baptisms

11th Beth Dier
18th Joan Seman
21st Bill Shorts Sr.
24th Michael Williams
25th Mary Jean McDonald
26th Bernice McCauslin
31st Kay Canan

Fathers (and Mothers) and Friends

By Bette Brooks

*They lived not only in ages past; there are hundreds of thousands still.
The world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus' will.*

Richard Allen

March 26

Richard Allen was born on February 14, 1760 in Germantown, PA, now part of Philadelphia. His mother was biracial, his father was African, and both were held as slaves by a Quaker-born lawyer. This made Richard a slave. When the owner suffered financial setbacks, he sold the family to a Delaware plantation owner. As a young boy, Richard and his brother attended meetings of the local Methodist Society and Richard joined the Methodists when he was 17. As a result of his conversion, he began to evangelize and attended services so regularly that he attracted criticism from local slave owners. Touched by Richard's zeal and his hard work on the plantation, his owner was open to the idea of slaves purchasing their freedom. He finally offered his slaves this opportunity and Richard purchased his own freedom and that of his brother in 1780. He had also taught himself to read and write.

Richard qualified to preach in 1784 at the first conference of the Methodist Church in North America. He was allowed to lead the 5 AM services that were attended by black congregants. In 1786, he became a preacher at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia but again was restricted to the early morning services. As he attracted more black congregants, the vestry at St. George's voted to build a segregated gallery for the use by the blacks. Richard and his friend Absalom Jones, also a Methodist preacher, resented the white congregants forcing them into a segregated section for worship and prayer. They left St. George's and created an independent worship space. Although criticized by the white church and the more established blacks of the community, Richard and Jones established the Free African Society, a non-denominational mutual aid society that assisted fugitive slaves and new migrants in Philadelphia. Jones eventually formed a new congregation of blacks within the Episcopal Church, but Richard wanted to remain in the Methodist practice. He called his congregation the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) and opened the doors of Bethel AME Church in July 1794 in a converted blacksmith shop. This church is now referred to as "Mother Bethel AME Church." The congregation had to rely on visiting white ministers; however, in 1799, Allen became the first black Methodist minister, ordained by Bishop Francis Asbury.

In 1816, Richard united four African-American congregations of the Methodist Church in Philadelphia, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland to found the independent denomination of the AME Church, the first fully independent black denomination in the United States. Allen was elected the first bishop. The AME Church is the oldest and largest formal institution in black America.

Since 1797, Richard had operated a station on the Underground Railroad for escaping slaves. Dangerous work, he continued it until his death in 1831. His church, Mother Bethel AME, continued his work until Emancipation during the Civil War. Even after the Civil War, his congregation aided blacks who migrated to Philadelphia to live, helping them learn the ways of free men and teaching them the skills of citizenship. The city of Philadelphia honored Richard's memory by naming an area of public housing the Richard Allen Homes. Comedian Bill Cosby was raised here and continued the legacy by making it the home of his fictional character Fat Albert.

Prayer: Loving God, your servant Richard Allen was born a slave, but in you he learned that he was your beloved child by adoption in Jesus Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit was led to proclaim liberty to his captive people: Give us strength to proclaim your freedom to the captives of our world; through Jesus Christ, Savior of all, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

March

The Grace Vine

2011

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 •6pm Healing Service with HE	2 •10-2 Gracie's Back Door •6-7pm Unbinding the Heart •7-8:30 Choir Practice	3	4	5 •4-6pm Mardi Gras Pancake Dinner
6 Last Epiphany •8am HE •9am Coffee •9:15 Choir •9:45 Ch. Ed. •10am HE •11:15 Coffee	7	8 •2-4pm Sit & Stitch	9 •Noon & 7:30pm Ash Wednesday Service •10-2 Gracie's Back Door •6-7pm Unbinding the Heart	10	11	12 •6:30 Fellowship & Game Night
13 1 Lent •8am HE •9am Coffee •9:15 Choir •9:45 Ch. Ed. •10am HE •11:15 Coffee	14	15 •7pm Vestry Meeting	16 •10-2 Gracie's Back Door •6:30-8pm Unbinding the Heart •7:00-8:30 Choir Practice	17 •8am Retired Men's Breakfast	18	19
20 2 Lent •8am HE •9am Coffee •9:15 Choir •9:45 Ch. Ed. •10am HE •11:15 Coffee	21	22 •7pm MAC meeting at Church of Our Saviour, Akron	23 •10-2 Gracie's Back Door •6:30-8pm Unbinding the Heart •7:00-8:30 Choir Practice	24	25	26
27 3 Lent •8am HE •9am Coffee •9:15 Choir •9:45 Ch. Ed. •10am HE •11:15 Coffee	28	29	30 •10-2 Gracie's Back Door •6:30-8pm Unbinding the Heart •7:00-8:30 Choir Practice	31		

The Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church
 Tony Worthen (2011)
 Reba Cook (2011)
 Alice Boydell (2011)
 Cory Conway (2012)
 Sue Ahrens (2012)
 Joan Seman (2012)
 Cathy Mansor (2013)
 Jeff Marsh (2013)
 Barb Popiel (2013)

Grace Episcopal Church of Ravenna
 The Rev. Carol Evans—Rector
 The Rev. William Snyder
 Marsha Snyder—Secretary
 Mary Ann Switz—Organist/Choirmaster
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 Web Site: www.gracecleveland.org
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If you would like to take advantage of this, send me an email at grwebmaster@gracecleveland.org. Please consider carefully, however. We would rather make the paper copy and have it read than save the paper and postage and have it go unread. Thank you.



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