



The Grace Vine

September 2005

Rector's Writ

It seems nearly every week in the mail we receive an announcement for some sort of special event or training on church growth. We look at some of the mega-churches, and we wonder what we can do to attract and keep new members. The church "gurus" have suggestions and methods for growing our congregation. Those probably have some merit in some places, but the real impact seems limited. Growth is more related to people than methods.

I borrowed some data from one of Fr. David Canan's past newsletters. He reported that, according to research done by the American Growth Institute, only 20% of people surveyed went to church for combined reasons including: evangelistic crusades (1/2%); door to door visits (1%), special needs (2%), special church programs (3%), the Sunday school (3%), the pastor (6%), or just walking in off the street (3%). Would you believe ~~79%~~ 79% of people who go to church are there because **a friend or relative invited them?!**

Apparently one of the sure signs that people like their church is they invite people to worship with them. God has a place and priority in our lives, and we want to grow in our "knowledge and love of the Lord" and our love for one another. We have several upcoming events to which we ask our members to INVITE a friend or relative to church. Any Sunday is a good time, but especially when Church School begins and the Choir returns. Invite them to our Friendship Day worship with St. Paul's at City Park, September 11th at 10:30...or to our Balloon-a-Fair luncheon September 17th...or the Blessing of the Animals at 2pm, October 2nd.

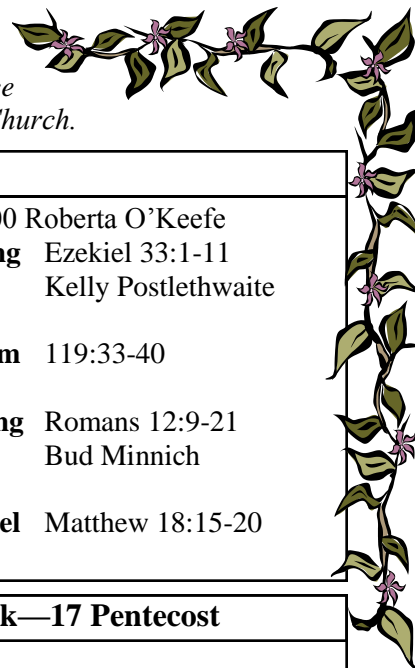
If we think about it, what is it about Grace Church that brings us here and keeps us coming? We kind of like our liturgy. We revere the sacraments. In gathering at the Lord's table for communion, we find an unexplainable spiritual support to lead us through another busy week. We like the people and feel we're part of a caring and friendly church. We experience the mystery and meaning of God's love for us in Christ Jesus by sharing our joys and bearing one another's burdens in the fellowship of our Church family. By sharing in that love and grace, we're then encouraged to practice and pass on that same love to the people we encounter in our households and in the world. We celebrate special events and little wonders and answered prayers. We help each other endure life's trials. Together we worship God, give thanks, and pass on the love of the Father, Son, and

Holy Spirit that is at work among us. Whom do you know that might enjoy these things with us?



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.



Sun. Sept 4—8:00am & 10:00am Holy Eucharist—16 Pentecost	
Officiant: The Rev. Carol Evans	8:00 Roberta O'Keefe
Deacon: The Rev. James Wichman	1st Reading Ezekiel 33:1-11 Kelly Postlethwaite
Lay Reader: Carolyn Englert	Psalm 119:33-40
Greeters: Judy Canan & Bonnie Quay	2nd Reading Romans 12:9-21 Bud Minnich
Acolytes: Julie Canan	Gospel Matthew 18:15-20
Shepherd: 8:00 Roberta O'Keefe, 10:00 Judy Canan	
Altar Guild: Judy Watkins & Barb Popiel	
Coffee Hosts: 8:00 Cindy Hoskins & Pat Williams 10:00 Bud Minnich & Jim Ervin	
Counters: Tim Splinter & Ron Postlethwaite	
Loyalton: Maynard Evans	

Sun. Sept 11—8:00am Holy Eucharist 10:00am HE & Picnic @ City Park—17 Pentecost	
Officiant: The Rev. Carol Evans	8:00 Roberta O'Keefe
Deacon: The Rev. William Snyder	1st Reading Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7 Caroline Englert
Lay Reader: Bette Brooks	Psalm 103:8-13
Greeters: None	2nd Reading Romans 14:5-12 Dennis Dier
Acolytes: Paige Thomas	Gospel Matthew 18:21-35
Shepherd: 8:00 Lloyd O'Keefe, 10:00 None	
Altar Guild: Judy Watkins & Barb Popiel	
Coffee Hosts: 8:00 Mike & Shirley Johnson 10:00 None	
Counters: Tim Splinter & Ron Postlethwaite	
Loyalton: Judy Canan	

Sun. Sept 18—8:00am & 10:00am Holy Eucharist—18 Pentecost	
Officiant: The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading Jonah 3:10-4:11 John Machisko
Deacon: The Rev. James Wichman	Psalm 145:1-8
Lay Reader: Judy Canan	2nd Reading Philippians 1:21-27 Steve Barna
Greeters: John & Irene Machisko	Gospel Matthew 20:1-16
Acolytes: Emily Summy	
Shepherd: 8:00 George Furrer, 10:00 Bill Snyder	
Altar Guild: Judy Watkins & Barb Popiel	
Coffee Hosts: 8:00 Melissa & Lauren Strainer 10:00 John & Mary Jean McDonald	
Counters: Tim Splinter & Ron Postlethwaite	
Loyalton: Bill Snyder	

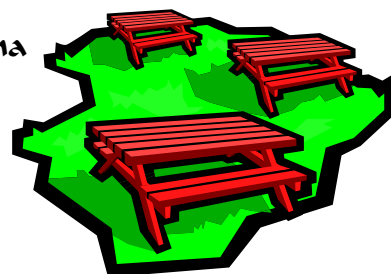


Church Picnic with St. Paul's Lutheran Church

September 11th 10:00 a.m. at City Park, Ravenna
Bring a covered dish to share with others



Come and Enjoy!!





Sun. Sept 25—8:00am & 10:00am Holy Eucharist—19 Pentecost

Officiant: The Rev. Carol Evans
Deacon: The Rev. William Snyder
Lay Reader: Maynard Evans
Greeters: Sandee West & Betty Russell
Acolytes: Chelsea Postlethwaite
Shepherd: 8:00 Jean Mercer, 10:00 Leslie Thomas
Altar Guild: Judy Watkins & Barb Popiel
Coffee Hosts: 8:00 Golec Girls
 10:00 Ron & Kelly Postlethwaite
Counters: Tim Splinter & Ron Postlethwaite
Loyalton: Jim Wichman

8:00 Melissa Strainer
1st Reading Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32
 Kelly Postlethwaite

Psalm 25:3-9

2nd Reading Philippians 2:1-13
 Tim Splinter

Gospel Matthew 21:28-32

Sun. Oct 2—8:00am & 10:00am Holy Eucharist—20 Pentecost

Officiant: The Rev. Carol Evans
Deacon: The Rev. James Wichman
Lay Reader: Carolyn Englert
Greeters: Leslie Thomas & Paige Thomas
Acolytes: Julie Canan
Shepherd: 8:00 Roberta O'Keefe, 10:00—Judy Canan
Altar Guild: Stephanie Higgins & Amy Neely
Coffee Hosts: 8:00 TBA
 10:00 Judy Canan & Kay Canan
Counters: Addrienne Conway & Dennis Dier
Loyalton: Maynard Evans

8:00 Roberta O'Keefe
1st Reading Isaiah 5:1-7
 Bud Minnich

Psalm 80:7-14

2nd Reading Philippians 3:14-21
 Paige Thomas

Gospel Matthew 21:33-43



BALLOON-A-FAIR

PARADE BEGINS AT 8:30 A.M.
 HOG DOG LUNCH 11:00 A.M. UNTIL 2:00 P.M.

Come support our church!! John McDonald will be driving his Corvair. Sign up sheets for those walking in the parade and for helping during the lunch will be available in the church and parish hall.

Our Youth Group will be having a fundraiser out on the front lawn of the church for the children. If your group is interested in doing something during the lunch please call Addrienne at 330-298-1182. We need people to be cashiers and someone to welcome visitors and to sit and chat with our guest.

We will raffle baskets during the lunch time, a "coffee lovers basket", a "relaxation basket", and a "candle basket". If you have any items for these baskets please bring them in to the office or see Addrienne.





Did You Know?...



...Many thanks to all those who worked and participated on the summer J.A.M. program. About 16 children participated with lots of food and activities and an overnight for the older children. The older children all slept in tents and enjoyed the hospitality at Steve and Marsha Barna's farm, especially the pool...

The summer Vacation Bible School was loads of fun for all the children that took advantage of this activity. Thanks to all the parents and non-parents that participated. The Deacons Bill Snyder and Jim Wichman shared their faith with the group and enjoyed the children. The congregation really enjoyed the music they shared with us on the following Sunday morning...

Keep in your prayers Bill Shorts, Sr. who is still fighting an infection he can't shake and Laura Price who is recovering from brain surgery...

Maynard and Carol enjoyed a two week vacation they so richly deserved. Thanks to our deacons for leading us in Morning Prayer for the two Sundays they were gone...

Ken Boydell is headed for Myrtle Beach, South Carolina...

Amanda Brooks is off to Arkansas and back to school...

Nydah Ellet is vacationing in Scotland looking at the bonnie bonnie banks of Loch Lomond...

Stephanie and Brandon Higgins are moving to Wisconsin in October, she'll be greatly missed...

And talking about missing people Blake and Bonnie Quay have their home up for sale and will be moving to South Carolina...

Addrianne Conway is the new Christian Education Director, she will be replacing Kay Canan who has done a wonderful job with the children for many years. Kay will continue as Youth Group Director. Addrianne will be needing all our prayers and support you can give her. It's a BIG job!! Just ask Kay...

We are saddened by the death of Nadine VanPelt who died August 3rd may her soul rest in peace. About 80 people attended the service and Deacons Jim Wichman and Bill Snyder led the service and Bill gave a wonderful sermon...

Fred Ahrens and Christine Vecchio will be married here at Grace Church on September 3rd at 2:00 p.m. Best wishes to the happy couple!!...

Congratulations to Mike and Christ Williams who were married here on August 20th. Mike is the son of Perry and Pat Williams.

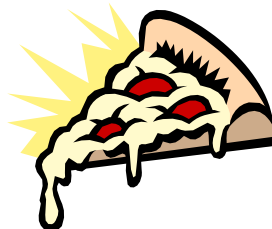


ACOLYTE PARTY & TRAINING

September 24th-3 p.m.

If you are interested in finding a place to help and be connected please come and see what it takes to be an acolyte.

Pizza and soda to follow.



Regional Meetings with the Bishop

What does it mean to be in Communion with one another as the Diocese of Ohio and beyond?

Bishop Hollingsworth will share his experiences and reflections on Communion from his summer trips to Palestine and Nigeria.

Oct 1—St. Mark's Toledo

Oct 8—St John's Cuyahoga Falls

Oct 15—Christ Church, Warren

9am to Noon with potluck lunch to follow.

Bring your favorites!

Register with Eva Cole.

216-774-0459 or 800-551-4815 ext 459

ecole@dohio.org

Birthdays

- 1st Grace Postlethwaite
- 2nd Tim Neely
- 3rd Bill Shorts, Jr.
- 4th Tracey Shriver
- 6th A.J. Neely
- 7th W. Robert Collette
- 10th Mary Jean McDonald
Janell Moore
- 13th Leslie Thomas
- 15th Barbara Popiel
- 17th Caroline Shaver



Congratulations!

and many happy returns...



Baptisms

- 22nd Jillian Conway
Lisa Paxton
- 25th Sue Ahrens
- 26th Gladys Parsons

Anniversaries

- 13th Melvin & Pearlie Holloway
- 24th Michael & Kay Canan



Thank you to everyone who helped with Serengeti Trek-Vacation Bible School.



John McDonald and Denis Dier helped put up "walls" in the Godly Play room, creating a new world in which the kids and Kay explored the Bible. George Furrer put up our sign out side. Irene Machisko made the pies for the bake sale generating \$100. To everyone who made things for the bake sale and all who bought the treats. With the sale we were able to get all the fun stuff for the kids. Kelly Postlethwaite for creating the beautiful elephant. Chris Stickle for helping with the drawings on the walls downstairs.



I would especially like to thank the teachers and volunteers who came out all week. Blake Quay, Ron Postlethwaite, Cory Conway. Paige Thomas, Julie Canan, Colin Thomas, and Emily Summy. Kelly Posthelwaite and Marsha Splinter for Sing and Play Roar, Chris Stickle for Watering Hole Snacks. Carolyn Englert for Chaddar's Adventure Theater and Operation Kid to Kid. Kathy Summy for Critter Crafts. Last, but not least, to Kay Canan who dressed up and made the Bible come to life everyday for the kids. Thank you so much.



Operation Kid to Kid was a great success, between parishioners, the youth group and the children attending we will be sending over thirty packs to kids in Africa and several items to the County Clothing Center to be handed out to children in need here in Portage.

