



The Grace Vine

April 2024

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.*

Alphege, Archbishop and Martyr

April 19

Alphege was born about 953, during the second major period of Viking raids against England. He became first a monk and then a hermit, and then was appointed Abbot of Bath. In 984 he became Bishop of Westminster. In 994 King Ethelred the Unready sent him to negotiate with the Danish invaders. The Anglo-Saxons paid tribute, but one of the Vikings became a Christian and swore never to invade England again. He never did. In that same year Alphege brought the newly baptized King Olaf Trygvason of Norway to a peaceful meeting with King Ethelred, and to his confirmation at Andover. ("Unready" does not mean that the king was often unprepared; it merely means that he was headstrong and stubborn, and would not accept "rede," which means counsel or advice.)

In 1005 Alphege became Archbishop of Canterbury. In 1011 the Danes overran much of southern England. The payment of the tribute agreed on (the Danegeld) did not stop them, and in September they captured Canterbury and held Alphege and other prominent persons for ransom. The tributes for the others were duly paid and they were released, but the price demanded for Alphege was a fantastically high 3,000 pounds (worth, of course, far more than modern pounds). Alphege, knowing the poverty of his people, refused to pay or let anyone else pay for him. The infuriated Danes, at the end of a drunken feast, brought him out and repeated their demands. When he again refused, they threw various objects at him (large bones from the feast, for example) and finally an axeman delivered the death-blow. Their chief, Thorkell the Tall, tried to save him, offering all his possessions except his ship for the Archbishop's life. By his death Alphege became a national hero.

When the Dane Cnut (Canute) became King of England in 1016, only 4 years later, he adopted a policy of conciliation, and in 1023 he brought the body of Alphege from London to Canterbury, where he was long remembered as a martyr, one who died, not precisely for professing the Christian faith, but for exercising the Christian virtue of justice. In art, he is shown with an axe, the instrument of his death, or as a shepherd defending his flock from wolves.

PRAYER:

O loving God, whose martyr bishop Alphege of Canterbury suffered violent death when he refused to permit a ransom to be extorted from his people: Grant that all pastors of your flock may pattern themselves on the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life for the sheep; and who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen



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, April 7		8:00 & 10:00 AM Morning Prayer	2 Easter
Deacon	The Rev. William Snyder		
Lectors	8am Bette Brooks 10am Fred Lundgren	1st Reading	Acts 4:32-35
Greeters	Fred & Nancy Lundgren	Psalm	133
Altar Guild	Joan Seman & Marsha Snyder	2nd Reading	1 John 1:1—2:2
Coffee Hosts	8am Joan & Frank Seman 10am Mary Jean & John McDonald	Gospel	John 20:19-31
Counters	Barb Popiel & Kingsland Pretorius		

Sunday, April 14		8:00 & 10:00 AM	3 Easter
Celebrant	TBD	1st Reading	Acts 3:12-19
Deacon	The Rev. William Snyder	Psalm	4
Lectors	8am Bette Brooks 10am Carol Marotta	2nd Reading	1 John 3:1-7
Greeters	Barb Popiel	Gospel	Luke 24:36b-48
Altar Guild	Joan Seman & Marsha Snyder		
Coffee Hosts	8am Ralph & Kay Wise 10am Nancy Ervin & Cindy Hoskins		
Counters	Barb Popiel & Kingsland Pretorius		

Sunday, April 21		8:00 & 10:00 AM	4 Easter
Celebrant	TBD	1st Reading	Acts 4:5-12
Deacon	The Rev. William Snyder	Psalm	23
Lectors	8am Bette Brooks 10am Jeff & Martha Croll	2nd Reading	1 John 3:16-24
Greeters	Mary Jean & John McDonald	Gospel	John 10:11-18
Altar Guild	Joan Seman & Marsha Snyder		
Coffee Hosts	8am TBD 10am Cindy Ward & Cathy Potisuk		
Counters	Barb Popiel & Kingsland Pretorius		

Civil Discourse

The Vestry is trying to put together this program the Diocese has recommended for parishes. The program is to facilitate conversations among people who may not be of the same opinion & whose subject matter may be difficult to discuss openly.

Our first session is tentatively scheduled for **Saturday, May 18th at 10:00am**. More information will come if we are able to get this up and running.





Sunday, April 28

8:00 & 10:00 AM

5 Easter

Celebrant TBD
Deacon The Rev. William Snyder
Lectors 8am Bette Brooks
 10am Tim Splinter
Greeters Jeff & Lisa Marsh
Organist Tim Lewicki
Video Doug Holzschuh
Altar Guild Joan Seman & Marsha Snyder
Counters Barb Popiel & Kingsland Pretorius

1st Reading Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:24-30
2nd Reading 1 John 4:7-21
Gospel John 15:1-8

Sunday, May 5

8:00 & 10:00 AM

6 Easter

Celebrant TBD
Deacon The Rev. William Snyder
Lectors 8am Bette Brooks
 10am Fred Lundgren
Greeters Fred & Nancy Lundgren
Altar Guild Nancy Ervin & Cindy Hoskins
Coffee Hosts 8am Joan & Frank Seman
 10am Mary Jean & John McDonald
Counters Midge Myers & Kingsland Pretorius

1st Reading Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
2nd Reading 1 John 5:1-6
Gospel John 15:9-17



Congratulations!

and many happy returns...

Birthdays

- 1st Rick Lashley
- 2nd Laurie Barney
- 12th Phil Rich
- 13th Kathy Summy
- 20th Sue Ahrens
- 21st Ralph Wise
- 29th Marcia Splinter



Anniversaries

- 20th Jim & Nancy Ervin

Baptisms

- 2nd Dennis Dier
Phillip George
- 5th Bill Snyder
- 7th Dale Espey
- 9th Jim Ervin
- 10th Jamie Popiel
- 11th Bruce Ahrens
- 29th Cathy Potisuk





Did You Know?...



We've been blessed with wonderful spring like weather. Looks like winter is behind us – well almost. Sunday, March 10th Ravenna got hit with a snowstorm—so much snow that our supply priest **Rose Anne**, who's coming to us from up north, called **Deacon Bill** to say she couldn't get to Ravenna for the Sunday service and Deacon Bill had to “wing it”. But he did a good job, and all went well. Thanks to everyone who braved the weather on that day...

This year we have been blessed to have **Carolyn Englert** lead our Lenten Study that took place on the Tuesdays of Lent. We began with a light soup supper followed by a short film on the Gospels, followed by a discussion and then ending with Compline. It was well attended by **Doug Holzschuh, Kingsland Pretorius, Midge Myers, Roberta O'Keefe, Kay Wise, Marsha & Bill Snyder**, and of course Carolyn. No matter how many times you study the Bible you always learn something new...

Barb Popiel, Marcia Splinter, and Marsha Snyder had the responsibility of getting the Parochial Report to the National Church and the Diocese by the March 1st deadline. Now Marcia, our treasurer,

had all her ducks in a row and all her information to us; however, Barb and Marsha didn't even know where most of the ducks were. And finding the needed information was sometimes a challenge. Even getting online to get into the report wasn't easy; our password didn't work (had to call the diocese and get a new password) the pages didn't advance to complete. Our figures hadn't been completed and Barb was on the calculator getting that information. The diocese wasn't interested in giving us an extension on the deadline. So, Barb and Marsha worked all day getting the information posted and finally we finished before the deadline. There isn't anything our Senior Warden can't do – thanks Barb...

Nancy & Fred Lundgren and Sally & Dennis Dier and Shirley Johnson have been busy in Gracie's Back Door getting everything ready for Spring and Easter. And Gracie's looks great. Shirley posted pictures and information online to advertise items available in the shop and there have been more customers. They all have been working hard getting some rooms cleaned out and taking some of their “treasures” elsewhere. Come and see some of the beautiful spring items at Gracie's Back Door...

Martha Croll our choir director and our organist **Tim Lewicki** along with the choir have been busy with the Easter music offerings, and we are so blessed with such dedicated choir members, they are here every Thursday

for practice and every Sunday for the service. Thanks to **Tim, Marcia, & Eric Splinter, Walt & Cathy Zielinski, Martha & Jeff Croll, and Marsha Snyder** for their dedication. And if you're interested in singing just see Martha anytime after church and she'll be happy to hear from you...

Martha doesn't only work with the choir she and **Tim Splinter** created a new brochure and website for our church. Check it out at Graceravenna.org. It looks great. Thanks Martha & Tim!!...

Cathy Potisuk and Maryjane Furrer attended Christ Church, Warren where Maryjane's husband Tom is the supply priest. Tom was kind enough to come to Grace Church and serve the altar on Ash Wednesday. Fr. Tom had two Ash Wednesday services at Christ Church, Warren and then went to a nursing home and had a service there and then off to Grace and held a service here. Four Ash Wednesday services in all; that's a lot of ashes!!...

We are delighted having the **Rich family** back at Grace Church with us. **Courtney, Phil, Gerry & Sammy** have been attending and Courtney even asked if they could serve as coffee hour host on a Sunday – you bet you can. And thanks for offering...

The new 2024 Church Directory is now available and on the table in back of the church...

Vestry members: **Laurie Barney, Carol Marotta, Midge Myers, Barb Popiel, Jeff Croll, Jeff Marsh and Kingsland Pretorius, and John McDonald** went through the church building and decided our building is long overdue for a good cleaning. We have so much “stuff” that have been sitting around for years. It was decided to do one room at a time to get things in good order. And with so many people working it doesn't take long. This is a very hard-working Vestry members and of course John...

Bette Brooks had news to share with us: daughter **Laurel** underwent preventive surgery in late February at UH-Portage. The procedure went smoothly, and she recuperated with her mom Bette in Kent before returning to her apartment in Coventry Township. Bette Brooks and Laurel met **Amanda Brooks** in Washington, DC, for the promotion ceremony of **Caroline Brooks Shaver** in late January. Bette says the reception afterwards was delicious! **Amanda Brooks** has been promoted to Senior Director of Communications for ESPN US TV. She's been with ESPN since fall 2017.



Rummage Sale

Saturday August 24th 9:00-3:00

All your SELLABLE items are welcomed (no clothing or furniture). A room downstairs has been marked "Rummage Sale Items". Please feel free to bring any items you wish to donate from now until August 10th. We will need volunteers the 2 weeks prior to the sale to assist with organizing the donations.

Thank you! Thank you!

Our thanks & appreciation to those who serve & help at Grace Church in so many ways, including:

- **John McDonald** for all the little things he does around the church: replacing batteries, light bulbs, and hanging the bishop, well a picture of her in the hall.
- Our dedicated acolyte **Eric Splinter**, who you can always count on to do a great job.
- Our **Vestry** for the outstanding work they are doing in the absence of our minister.
- **Martha Croll & Tim Splinter** for our new church brochure and website
- **Kingland Pretorius & Carol Marotta** for doing the church inventory, again –it's a never-ending job.
- **Marcia Splinter, Barb Popiel & Marsha Snyder** for completing the Parochial report before the deadline.
- **Laurie Barney** for arranging to get the parish hall carpet cleaned.



The Bulletin Board

Breakfast Club

April 18th
8:00 AM

Cracker Barrel

Everyone is invited to join the group!
We order off the menu and pay for our
own meals.



Outreach Projects

Center of Hope (red wagon) -Peanut Butter, Ramen Noodles, Mac n cheese, Cans of Tuna/Chicken

Center of Hope - Shampoo/Conditioner, Toothpaste/Toothbrushes, Travel Mouthwash, and Dental Floss. We will also be collecting childrens socks and underwear all year.
Also, Shampoo/Conditioner, Toothpaste/Toothbrushes, Travel Mouthwash, and Dental Floss.

APL - List of needs is on the container in the parish hall

Ravenna High School - Male/Female Deodorant, Body Wash, other hygiene products, Unscented Wipes, and Laundry Detergent which is sent home with the students.

The Townhall II Foundation-Prevention programs have been presented to thousands of students & young adults over the past year. Subjects such as Personal Body Safety and Too Good for Drugs are just a few. Please see the write up in the Parish Hall. If you wish to donate, information is there or visit <http://www.townhall2.com>.



Please help with these Outreach Projects. There are many in need.
Thank You for any assistance you can give.



The Grace Vine

Grace Episcopal Church
250 W. Cedar St.
Ravenna OH 44266

Grace Episcopal Church of Ravenna

The Rev. Carol Evans—Rector
The Rev. William Snyder
Marsha Snyder—Secretary
Tim Lewicki—Organist
Martha Croll—Choirmaster

Phone: 330-296-3443
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The Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church
Midge Myers (2025)
Barb Popiel, Senior Warden (2026)
Laurie Barney, Clerk (2027)
Kingsland Pretorius (2027)
Carol Marotta, Junior Warden (2026)
Jeff Croll (2027)
Jeff Marsh (2027)

If you would like to take advantage of this, send me an email at grwebmaster@graceravenna.org. Please consider the paper copy and have it read rather than save the paper and postage and have it go unread.

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