



# The Grace Vine

January 2024

## Rector's Writ

Happy New Year! It's ironic how this secular holiday is squarely between two of our Principal Feasts, Christmas and the Epiphany. We can enter this new year with the light of Christ leading us along right paths and directing our deeds. We can let go of past mistakes. We can *seek forgiveness and be forgiving*. We can embrace and hold fast to the promise that Jesus makes all things new. (see Bible quote below)

Some of us may be thinking that we could use some newness here at Grace Church. Now is the time to focus on what we can improve, change, or offer that will bring in new people; how we can actively invite people and make sure all people feel welcome. The new year is a good time to build and nurture our ministries and our spiritual lives. How do we best serve our current members? How do we encourage and appreciate the fellowship, service, and support our church family already provides? How do we bring in new members and build up ministries and gifts they're willing to offer?

We've been working on growth in membership and giving for some time without yet achieving results we'd like to have. We invite your attendance and support at **Grace's Annual Meeting, January 28<sup>th</sup>, following one 10am Eucharist this year**. We hope for good fellowship and feedback; time to discuss not only concerns about the deficit, but *ideas* for growth as well. We want to bring in new people; we want to be sure we're ministering to the needs of our current, faithful members who keep the church and our service, giving, and prayers going. We pray to uphold Christ's teachings and for God's direction as we proclaim the Gospel in our day.

*"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (2 Cor. 5:17)*

*"You can keep a faith only as you can keep a plant, by rooting it into your life and making it grow there." (Phillips Brooks)*

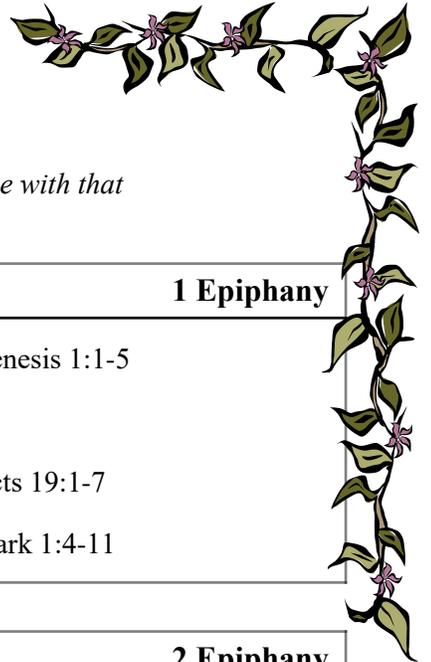
*"Fear knocked at the door. Faith answered. No one was there." (Inscription on an ancient mantelpiece in Hind's Head Hotel, Bray, England)*

*"I expect to pass this way but once; any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." (Etienne De Grellet; also attributed as an early Native American saying)*



May your new year be filled with  
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.*

<b>Sunday, January 7</b>		<b>8:00 &amp; 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist</b>		<b>1 Epiphany</b>	
<b>Celebrant</b>	The Rev. Carol Evans	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	Genesis 1:1-5	<b>Psalm</b>	29
<b>Lectors</b>	8am Bette Brooks 10am Fred Lundgren	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b>	Acts 19:1-7	<b>Gospel</b>	Mark 1:4-11
<b>Greeters</b>	Fred & Nancy Lundgren				
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Bette Brooks & Shirley Johnson				
<b>Coffee Hosts</b>	8am Joan & Frank Seman 10am Mary Jean & John McDonald				
<b>Counters</b>	Midge Myers & Laurie Barney				

<b>Sunday, January 14</b>		<b>8:00 &amp; 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist</b>		<b>2 Epiphany</b>	
<b>Celebrant</b>	The Rev. Carol Evans	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	1 Samuel 3:1-20	<b>Psalm</b>	139:1-5, 12-17
<b>Lectors</b>	8am Bette Brooks 10am Tim Splinter	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b>	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	<b>Gospel</b>	John 1:43-51
<b>Greeters</b>	Barb Popiel				
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Bette Brooks & Shirley Johnson				
<b>Coffee Hosts</b>	8am Mike & Shirley Johnson 10am Nancy Ervin & Cindy Hoskins				
<b>Counters</b>	Carol Marotta & Midge Myers				

<b>Sunday, January 21</b>		<b>8:00 &amp; 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist</b>		<b>3 Epiphany</b>	
<b>Celebrant</b>	The Rev. Carol Evans	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	<b>Psalm</b>	62:6-14
<b>Lectors</b>	8am Bette Brooks 10am Jeff & Martha Croll	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b>	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	<b>Gospel</b>	Mark 1:14-20
<b>Greeters</b>	John & Mary Jean McDonald				
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Bette Brooks & Shirley Johnson				
<b>Coffee Hosts</b>	8am Debbie Shorts & Rick Taylor 10am Cathy Potisuk & Cindy Ward				
<b>Counters</b>	Carol Marotta & Midge Myers				

<b>Sunday, January 28</b>		<b>10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Annual Meeting</b>		<b>4 Epiphany</b>	
<b>Celebrant</b>	The Rev. Carol Evans	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	<b>Psalm</b>	111
<b>Lectors</b>	10am Mary Jane Furrer	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b>	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	<b>Gospel</b>	Mark 1:21-28
<b>Greeters</b>	Jeff & Lisa Marsh				
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Bette Brooks & Shirley Johnson				
<b>Coffee Hosts</b>	11:15am Hospitality group covered dish luncheon				
<b>Counters</b>	Carol Marotta & Midge Myers				



**Sunday, February 4**

**8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist**

**5 Epiphany**

<b>Celebrant</b>	The Rev. Carol Evans
<b>Lectors</b>	8am Bette Brooks 10am Fred Lundgren
<b>Greeters</b>	Fred & Nancy Lundgren
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Shirley Johnson & Bette Brooks
<b>Coffee Hosts</b>	8am Joan & Frank Seman 10am Mary Jean & John McDonald
<b>Counters</b>	Laurie Barney & Carol Marotta

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	Isaiah 40:21-31
<b>Psalm</b>	147: 1-12, 21c
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b>	1 Corinthians 9:16-23
<b>Gospel</b>	Mark 1:29-39

## Thank you! Thank you!

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

- **Laurie Barney and Cathy Potisuk** for ‘fluffing up’ the wreaths and bows and filling candles in the candelabras which made our Church Greening go much smoother. **Our thanks to all the volunteers** who helped with the Greening and all who provided chili, food, and desserts for the lunch we enjoyed afterward. **Nancy Ervin and the Hospitality crew** were in their usual good form, preparing and doing clean up after the meal, and we thank them.
- **John McDonald** for getting the downstairs furnace working one cold morning; for ordering the new kitchen stove; and for replacing parts of the wood corner walls in the foyer.
- **To everyone** who donated to Adopt-a-family.
- **Kingland Pretorius & Carol Marotta** for doing the church inventory, especially the kitchen.
- **Barb Popiel** for taking the items we’ve collected to the Center of Hope.
- **Marcia Splinter** for the good and constant work she does as Grace Treasurer.
- **Tim Splinter and Laurie Barney** for the work they did to put an ad for Grace Christmas services in the Portager. Laurie came up with the wording and Tim did the design work, and it looked really nice!
- **Tim Splinter** for his good and constant work designing the Grace Vine each month and for keeping the office computers in good working order, backing up files, and solving our tech problems.
- **Doug Holzschuh** for livestreaming the 8am service so it’s available for anyone while away or watching from home.
- **All our members who host coffee hour** so we can enjoy some good treats and fellowship after each service.
- **Bill Snyder** for leading Morning Prayer for us on December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- **Our Grace Vestry members** who serve faithfully and work hard for the good of Grace Church.
- **Our volunteers** who help with worship by serving as lectors, greeters, ushers, singing in the choir, and our Altar Guild members who prepare and clean up for two services each Sunday.



# Did You Know?...



I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday. I know it was probably a busy one – they always are. We received a Christmas card from **Amir & Stefanie Amiruzzaman**. They're doing well and shared that their son **Aleo** is now in first grade, and he's enjoying karate, swimming and learning to play the piano. They are certainly missed here at Grace.

Many thanks to **Cathy Potisuk** for steam cleaning the parish hall kitchen floor, she's looking into having the floor professionally cleaned, which certainly wouldn't hurt. That floor gets a lot of use.

The **Lundgrens** had their granddaughters from Texas visiting for the Thanksgiving holiday and they had such a wonderful time with them. They were even treated to a visit to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

**Shirley & Mike Johnson** went to California to visit with their daughter Susan and her family over the Christmas holiday. A trip to the Rose Bowl parade is always a highlight for them.

Thanks to **Rick Taylor** for preaching on the first Sunday of Advent. It was a great sermon and it gave us a lot to think about. And thanks to Rick who looked up and arranged a brief service for the lighting of the Advent candles by our children and their families.

Thanks to **Laurie Barney**, her daughter **Caitlin Fritsch** and her children **George & Matthew** who lit the first Sunday of Advent candle on the wreath. On Advent 2 **Jameson Patrick** and his grandmother **Cindy Ward** lit the candle. For Advent 3 it was lit by the **Lewicki family, Tim, Joji, and Mitsuki with Yuka** observing from the pew. On Advent 4, **Nancy & Jim Ervin's granddaughters and Mike & Amy Ervin's daughters Emily and Kenzie** lit the candle.

The **Poker Boys** gave their months winnings (\$200) to the Animal Protection League. All of us animals lovers thank the "boys" for their generosity.

We all know the old saying, "How do you get to Carnegie Hall?" Practice! Practice! Practice! And the **Lewicki** family has been doing just that. **Joji** was among the winners of a music competition and those chosen were invited to play for a concert at Carnegie Hall over the Thanksgiving holiday. What a trip and what a memory that must have been for all of them! Joji's mother **Yuka** accompanied him on the piano. It was a wonderful experience, and they had a grand time in New York. Yuka is a piano teacher and one of her students was asked to play at Severance Hall, and she also accompanied her student there. So Yuka has played at both Carnegie Hall and Severance Hall. Not many people can say that!

**Mike & Amy Ervin** are keeping busy with two very active daughters. **Emily** is in college in Michigan; **Kenzie** is in high school; and they're both good in sports. Kenzie plays both volleyball and basketball. Emily has a scholarship to play basketball, and her team just got back from a basketball playing trip to Puerto Rico (just in time for Christmas!).

**Kay & Ralph Wise** did a pre-Christmas trip to visit family and to attend a Hindi wedding. Now there's an experience that doesn't happen every day, and we're hoping Kay took a lot of pictures.

Our church secretary was certainly surprised to look at her outside monitor and find two wild turkeys walking between the church building and the cars in the parking lot. They stayed for a good while then wandered off.



## Birthdays

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10th	Pat Williams
15th	Bruce Ahrens
26th	Courtney Rich
28th	Paige Paxton
30th	Bud Hughes

# Congratulations!

*and many happy returns...*

## Baptisms

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9th	Bill Summy
18th	Maggie Rich



## Anniversaries

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11th	Fred & Nancy Lundgren
21st	Leslie and Larry Thomas
28th	Mike & Shirley Johnson

# The Bulletin Board

## Breakfast Club

January 18<sup>th</sup>  
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.

**Blessing Bags** - We will be starting this ministry again for the rest of the winter months. The past group handling this was able to collect items for 20 bags.

Our goal is 10 bags to START. We will need 10 of each of: Gloves, Thermal Socks, Beef Sticks, Crackers, Candy Bars, Toothpaste/Brushes, Wipes, Deodorant, and Snacks, etc.

They will be placed in individual ziploc bags to be given to the homeless.

This ministry will run from January thru March 2024.

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



# Special Collections on the Altar Railings

Every few years, we're reminded that folks who are newer to the parish might need a little more 'orientation' about some of the things that go on around Grace or come up in conversations and meetings. We've had a series of articles to help out with that over the years and it's probably well past time for revisit to a few of them. So without further ado...

## **"Just what are all those baskets on the communion rail for, and that cute little church?" you ask.**

The baskets and the little church are for special purpose offerings. They are placed on the communion rail on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month for people to make their donations.

## **"OK." you say. "When am I supposed to put money in them?"**

The collection baskets should be put up at the beginning of the service. You can come forward before the service, during the peace, during the offertory anthem or hymn, or following immediately behind the ushers when they take the collection forward during the doxology.

## **"OK." you say again. "So just what are they for?"**

### **"The Little White Church"**

– Birthday and Anniversary Donations is the proper name for this one. The idea is to make a donation for your birthday and your wedding anniversary. The donations go into the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

**2¢ a Meal** – The idea behind this one is to put aside 2¢ (or more...) at every meal and bring it in on the second Sunday. The donations go to the Center of Hope's free meal .

**Christian Cupboard** – This is a non-perishable food program that began here at Grace many years ago and used to be run in the church. It is currently housed in the Center of Hope and gives food supplies to the needy.

**Habitat for Humanity** – This one is pretty self-explanatory.

There are two other things that relate to these, so I'll quickly add them too.

**The Mite Box** – This is the small wooden box on the back wall of the church by the Baptismal Font. Money put in here is put in the Rector's Discretionary Fund, earmarked to help parishioners in need.

Also, any unidentified cash that is placed in the offering on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month is put in the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

To tie up the last loose end then...



## **"What is the Rector's Discretionary Fund?"**

This is money set aside for our Rector to use at her discretion. As mentioned above, the Mite Box money is earmarked to be used to help parishioners of Grace. The rest the Rector is free to use as needed. This could include assisting people in need, buying small thank you gifts, and so on...

If you've got some other question rattling around in your mind unasked, by all means, ask away! Ask any Vestry member, Rev. Carol, Bill Snyder, Marsha Snyder...drop an anonymous note in the collection plate if you don't want to ask directly. We'll do what we can to get an answer for you here.

Our services, our prayer book, our church building, and our church vocabulary are filled with symbolism, abbreviations, and rarely used items. We have countless traditions, both from the wider church and those homegrown. We need to bring light to, and keep meaning in, all these things by making sure that we know, remember and share what is in and behind each such shadowed place.

# *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.*

**Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, Co-workers with the Apostles**

**January 29**

Lydia is mentioned in Acts 16:11-15,40. When Paul, on his second missionary journey, carried his preaching out of Asia and into Europe, he began at the city of Philippi in Macedonia (north of Greece). His first European convert was a woman named Lydia, a merchant who dealt in purple-dyed goods. (Purple dye, made from a certain mollusk, was extremely expensive. One use of it was for the stripes in the togas of Roman senators. Lydia's occupation suggests that she was quite wealthy.) She and her household were baptized, and she invited Paul, with Luke and his other companions, to make her house their headquarters.

Dorcas (or Tabitha in Aramaic -- both names mean "gazelle") is mentioned in Acts 9:36-42. She was a member of the early Christian community in Joppa, a seacoast town of Israel, and noted for her acts of charity, specifically making garments and giving them to needy widows. When she fell ill and died, Peter came to see her, and raised her to life. His words to her, "Tabitha, kumi," (Tabitha, arise), are reminiscent of the words of Jesus to the daughter of Jairus, "Talitha, kumi," (little girl, arise) as given in Mark 5:41. Whether this is anything more than coincidence is hard to say.

Phoebe (the name means "bright" or "radiant": Apollo and Diana, the god and goddess of the sun and moon respectively, were often referred to as "Phoebos" and "Phoebe"), was a deacon of the Church at the eastern seaport of the city of Corinth. (Corinth was on a narrow isthmus that connected southern Greece (the Peloponessus) with northern Greece and the mainland of Europe. Attempts had been made to dig a canal through the isthmus to shorten shipping routes, but no attempt was successful until modern times. As a result, many ships were simply dragged out of the water, put on rollers, and moved across the isthmus and into the water on the other side. Naturally, the crew got shore leave. Naturally, Corinth became famous as a port that accommodated sailors with shore leave. This may account for the fact that Paul has a great deal more to say about morals when writing to the Corinthians than he does in other connections.) When Paul mentions Phoebe, she has left the vicinity of Corinth and is in Rome, so that Paul commends her to the Church there.

There has been some dispute about whether Paul means to say that she was a "deacon" in the Church or whether he refers to another office, that of the "deaconess," not the same as a female deacon, or whether he is simply using the word in a non-technical sense to mean someone known for her helpfulness and service to the Church. He calls her a Diakonos, a word which the King James Version translates as "deacon" three times, as "servant" seven times, and as "minister" twenty times (including references to Paul himself).

Phoebe was, in any event, a person of consequence in a congregation near Corinth, someone who had made a valuable contribution there.

## **PRAYER (contemporary language):**

Almighty God, who inspired your servants Lydia, Dorcas and Phoebe to uphold and sustain your Church by their loving and generous deeds: Give us the will to love you, open our hearts to hear you, and strengthen our hands to serve you in others for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen



## The Grace Vine

Grace Episcopal Church  
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Grace Episcopal Church of Ravenna

The Rev. Carol Evans—Rector  
The Rev. William Snyder  
Marsha Snyder—Secretary  
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The Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church  
Laurie Barney, Clerk (2023)  
Barb Popiel, Senior Warden (2023)  
Kingsland Pretorius (2023)  
Midge Myers (2024)  
Carol Marotta, Junior Warden (2025)  
Kay Wise (2025)

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