



The Grace Vine

May 2023

Rector's Writ

This Writ is an effort to provide a brief report on the surveys returned regarding the suggestion of combining to one 9am service and to re-starting Sunday School (which we found an interest in general Christian Formation for all, not just children & youth). A majority of those responding were willing to attend one 9am service. The comments and suggestions though made it clear we have a lot of gray area on this issue. The vestry reviewed the survey comments at our April 25th meeting. After much discussion and deliberation, the vestry voted to keep the service schedule as it is. The rector supports this decision as well, and any members with comments or questions are welcome to call or set up a time to meet with the rector to discuss these.

One of the main concerns is that it doesn't seem wise to make a change that would cause us to lose ANY members. In an effort to attract new members, we'd be pushing aside the worship preferences—and the long time support and service—of some members. We certainly want to do what brings new people in, yet we certainly want to be sure we minister to our members supporting and participating at Grace Church now.

The vestry and rector support the idea of a combined service for special events, especially those where we're trying to bring in new members, and for fellowship as well. We discussed a possible quarterly 'combined service' to invite new people, but also to increase the fellowship among members who attend the two services.

The first step is determining a) what church growth programs or events and b) what Christian Ed/Formation programs will help us with that difficult task of bringing new members to Grace Church. Of course there are no easy answers to any of this.

We're blessed in many ways by the people who attend and support Grace Church. We ask for your continued prayers, presence, and support so we can explore and take some risks with programs or events to attract new people while avoiding the lure of quick solutions that might cause some of our family to leave their church home. Church growth—in the Spirit and in numbers—is a process that takes some time and a lot of people willing to work and pray to help make it happen.

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, May 7 8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 5 Easter

<p>Celebrant The Rev. Carol Evans Wrshp Ldr 10am Carolyn Englert Greeters Fred & Nancy Lundgren Organist Tim Lewicki Video Doug Holzschuh Altar Guild Nancy Ervin & Cindy Hoskins Coffee Hosts 8am Debbie Shorts & Rick Lashley 10am Mary Jean & John McDonald Counters Midge Myers & Kingsland Pretorius</p>	<p>1st Reading Acts 7:55-60 Nancy Lundgren</p> <p>Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16</p> <p>2nd Reading 1 Peter 2:2-10 Fred Lundgren</p> <p>Gospel John 14:1-14</p>
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Sunday, May 14 8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 6 Easter

<p>Celebrant The Rev. Carol Evans Deacon The Rev. William Snyder Greeters Nancy & Jim Ervin Organist Tim Lewicki Video Doug Holzschuh Altar Guild Nancy Ervin & Cindy Hoskins Coffee Hosts 8am Mike & Shirley Johnson 10am Nancy & Jim Ervin Counters Midge Myers & Kingsland Pretorius</p>	<p>1st Reading Acts 17:22-31 Tim Splinter</p> <p>Psalm 66:7-18</p> <p>2nd Reading 1 Peter 3:13-22 Martha Croll</p> <p>Gospel John 14:15-21</p>
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Sunday, May 21 8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 7 Easter

<p>Celebrant The Rev. Carol Evans Wrshp Ldr Carolyn Englert Greeters John & Mary Jean McDonald Organist Tim Lewicki Video Doug Holzschuh Altar Guild Nancy Ervin & Cindy Hoskins Coffee Hosts 8am Joan & Frank Seman 10am Cindy Ward & Cathy Potisuk Counters Midge Myers & Kingsland Pretorius</p>	<p>1st Reading Acts 1:6-14 Jeff Croll</p> <p>Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36</p> <p>2nd Reading 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 Martha Croll</p> <p>Gospel John 17:1-11</p>
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Outreach Projects

Ravenna High School - They are VERY LOW on Deodorant and Body Wash for both sexes, and Toothpaste. Other Hygiene Products are also needed: Unscented Wipes, Laundry Detergent which is sent home with the students

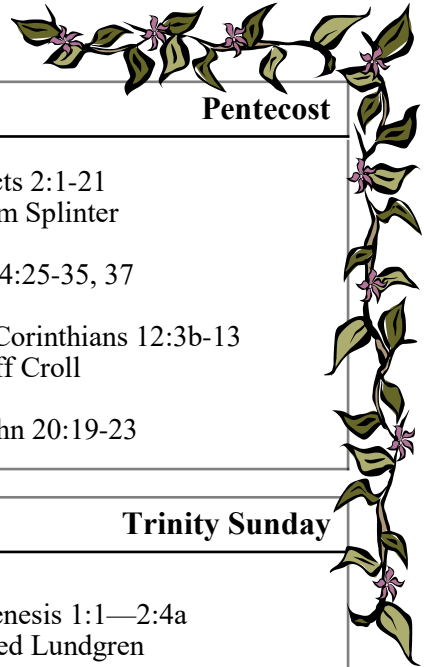
Center of Hope (red wagon) -Peanut Butter, canned Tuna/Chicken, Ramen Noodles, and Mac & Cheese

Center of Hope - Shampoo/Conditioner, Toothpaste & Toothbrushes, Travel Mouthwash, Dental Floss, and Combs.

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

Thank you for any donations- they are greatly appreciated!

Grace's Vestry



Sunday, May 28

7:00 PM Holy Eucharist

Pentecost

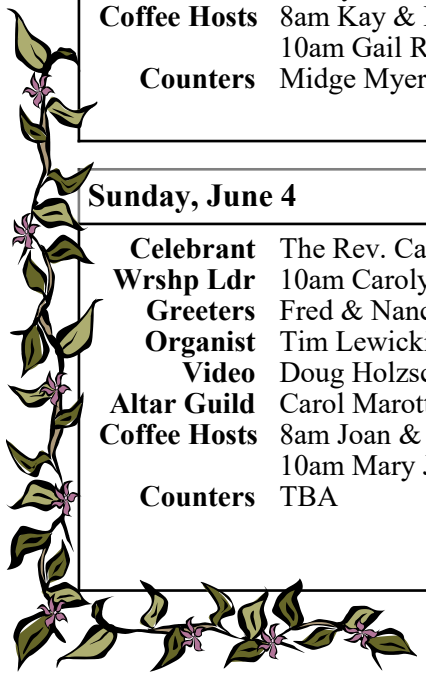
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Acts 2:1-21 Tim Splinter
Deacon	The Rev. William Snyder	Psalm	104:25-35, 37
Greeters	Jeff & Lisa Marsh	2nd Reading	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 Jeff Croll
Organist	Tim Lewicki	Gospel	John 20:19-23
Video	Doug Holzschuh		
Altar Guild	Nancy Ervin & Cindy Hoskins		
Coffee Hosts	8am Kay & Ralph Wise 10am Gail Richards & Doris Whipple		
Counters	Midge Myers & Kingsland Pretorius		

Sunday, June 4

8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist

Trinity Sunday

Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Genesis 1:1—2:4a Fred Lundgren
Wrshp Ldr	10am Carolyn Englert	Psalm	8
Greeters	Fred & Nancy Lundgren	2nd Reading	2 Corinthians 13:11-13 Nancy Lundgren
Organist	Tim Lewicki	Gospel	Matthew 28:16-20
Video	Doug Holzschuh		
Altar Guild	Carol Marotta & Cathy Potisuk		
Coffee Hosts	8am Joan & Frank Seman 10am Mary Jean & John McDonald		
Counters	TBA		



Breakfast Club

May 18th
8:00 AM

Cracker Barrel

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



Walking Group

Come walk with us.
Carol Marotta & Laurie
Barney will lead the
walk at noon. Meet at
Chestnut Hills Park,
Ravenna, and walk to
the first parking lot.





Did You Know?...



We had a beautiful Easter Sunday, here at Grace. Thanks to everyone who came to celebrate our Lord's resurrection. The altar flowers were wonderful, the music was very nice, the choir had a great anthem, and we especially enjoyed **Joji Lewicki's** prelude of "Simple Gifts" on his violin. It was nice having the Lewicki family here to enjoy it with us! It didn't sound like a 'simple' piece, but he was up to the challenge and played very well.

The church looked good and smelled good with all the beautiful spring flowers adorning the altar. And of course, our fearless acolyte **Eric Splinter** did double duty keeping the thurible & incense going AND singing in the choir.

We all enjoyed having **Sally & Dennis Dier** here on Easter along with their daughter **Dani** and her boyfriend **Wyatt**. They had to start the day EARLY to be here for the 8am service, but they managed. It was so nice to visit with all of them at coffee hour before they left to meet up with daughter **Beth** for an Easter brunch outing.

Fred & Nancy Lundgren's son Bill came in from Texas to visit and be with the folks at home. He and his sister **Lisa** were both in church on Easter with their parents.

The Saturday before Easter, Altar Guild Co-Director **Cathy Potisuk** arranged an all member work day to do some spring cleaning in the sanctuary and some serious polishing and sprucing up. Those who helped get many things done included **Bette Brooks, Nancy Ervin, Cathy Potisuk, Kingsland Pretorius & Doug Holzschuh, Rev Carol, John McDonald, Midge Myers, Roberta O'Keefe, Barb Popiel, Marcia Splinter, Kay Wise, and Carol Marotta**. After cleaning everything they put all the flowers out and prepared the altar. Thank you to everyone for their hard and helpful work and for the fellowship we enjoyed as well. Thanks to Cathy for providing us all with Dunkin donuts to keep everybody going.

Fred and Nancy Lundgren have reported that their granddaughter **Suzy** is doing very well after having her leg removed. Suzy has had a tumor from birth that has been increasingly painful and inoperable. After consulting with doctors, surgeons, and talking with people who had the surgery, Suzy made the very difficult—and very

brave—decision that the leg had to go. Once healed, the freedom from constant pain will give her a better quality of life. Nancy & Fred & Bill (and all of us) are impressed by her remarkable faith and great attitude.

It was wonderful to see **Sue Ahrens** and daughter **Sonja** in church with us the Sunday after Easter. Sue is looking good, and it was so nice for Sonja to bring her. This was Sue's first time back in church since her stroke in January of 2022. **Sue, Bruce, and all the Ahrens family** gathered at **Fred & Chris's** home on Easter, where Sue did all right playing UNO with only a bit of assistance per Sonja.

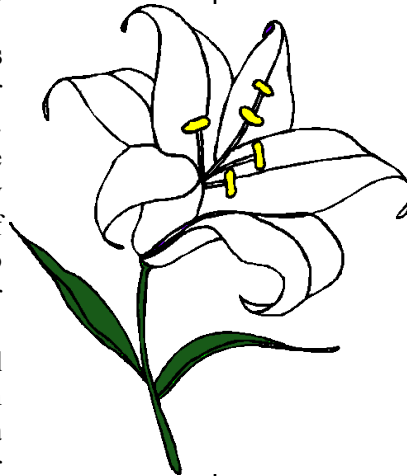
Shirley & Mike Johnson headed for California to be with their granddaughter, **Elizabeth** at her graduation from Art School. That was a memorable day made extra special—for Elizabeth and proud parents **Susan Kay** and **Larry**—by having Shirley and Mike there for the celebration. It's wonderful to have Choir Director **Martha Croll** back in the choir loft after a very involved back surgery, and it was great to have her and **Jeff** both with us for Easter. Jeff was great about giving us updates on how her recovery was going until she rejoined us. Our thanks to **Kathy Summy** for coming to the choir's rescue

by singing alto while Martha was away. Kathy sang during the Easter season even though she had surgery on her hand on Good Friday.

Laurie Barney spent her Easter in Europe where she traveled to Netherland and even got to France which she really love.

Mary Jane Furrer went to be with her daughters in Charlestown S.C. for Easter. She had a wonderful time then she went off to Baltimore to be with another daughter. Since Mary Jane's husband, **Tom**, is serving as interim at Christ Church, Warren, he drove to Baltimore after Easter to enjoy some family time and then bring Mary Jane home.

It was nice to see our "Snow Birds" back from Florida. **Lynn & Dan Francoise** have made it back to Ohio. I'm not too sure the weather is quite right for them yet. But we're in Ohio and—as the saying goes—if you don't like the weather, just wait 15 minutes and it'll change...but not always for the better.



Thank you! Thank you!

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

- **Cathy Potisuk & Marsha Snyder** for going to Louisville to order Easter flowers and to all who purchased spring flowers for Easter.
- Everyone who pitched in to do spring cleaning, polishing altar pieces, and sprucing up the church—and setting up flowers and the Altar—the Saturday before Easter.
- **John McDonald** for fixing the damage in the church foyer and for fixes and maintenance work we don't even know he's done.
- **Shirley & Mike Johnson and Nancy & Jim Ervin** for hosting the 8 & 10 Easter coffee hour with some special treats.
- We appreciate ALL the people who host coffee hour at 8 & 10am, and we enjoy the fellowship time as well.
- Grace's Altar Guild for all their work during Holy Week, Easter, and each Sunday.
- Treasurer, **Marcia Splinter** and those volunteering to do the internal Committee Audit at Grace for 2022, including **Bette Brooks, Roberta O'Keefe, and Rick Taylor**.
- **Tim Splinter** for graphic design and all the work he puts into each issue of The Grace Vine.
- **Bette Brooks** for the interesting (and educational) articles she writes for The Grace Vine each month in her *Fathers (and Mothers) and Friends* section.

Birthdays

3rd	Carolyn Englert Tim Splinter
4th	Laurel Brooks
5th	Phillip Crouse
15th	Midge Myers
16th	Marsha Snyder
22nd	Gerry Rich
26th	Ken Englert
27th	Joan Seman



Congratulations!

and many happy returns...



Anniversaries

1st	Bill & Marsha Snyder
17th	Tim & Yuka Lewicki

Baptisms

11th	Kathy Summy
12th	Morgan Ahrens Emily Ahrens
13th	Nancy Lundgren
18th	Amanda Brooks Beverly Brooks
20th	Paige Paxton
28th	Marcia Splinter



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.*

Simon of Cyrene

May 12

There are many who were present during the time from Jesus's trial to his resurrection, people about whom we know little at all, sometimes, not even their names. For example, have you ever wondered how the maid in the courtyard recognized Peter? Had she followed our Lord and seen the disciples around Him? Or the centurion who won Jesus's robe? Lloyd C. Douglas wrote a best-selling novel The Robe in 1942 that remained on the New York Times Fiction Best Seller List for nearly a year. And there are many more.

However, there is one person whose name we know. As Jesus was carrying his cross out of Jerusalem to the place of execution, a man named Simon of Cyrene was coming in, and the soldiers compelled him to carry the cross of Jesus. This referred to the legal right of a soldier to require a provincial to carry his gear one mile for him. He is mentioned only in synoptic Gospels; John says Jesus carried the cross himself. Mark identifies him as "the father of Alexander and Rufus" without further explanation, apparently taking it for granted that his readers would all know who Rufus and Alexander are. It is believed that Mark originally wrote his Gospel, the earliest one written, for the Christian community in Rome. This suggests that Alexander and Rufus were well known to, and probably part of, the Christian congregation there.

Did Simon become a Christian? We don't know. He came from Cyrene, a Greek city in the province of Cyrenaica, in eastern Libya (northern Africa), where there was a sizeable Jewish community. Jews had been forced to settle there and it was an early center of Christianity. The Cyrenian Jews also had a temple in Jerusalem where many went for annual feasts. Could Simon have been in Jerusalem for Passover? Could his two sons have accompanied him? Could this have been their introduction to Christianity? So many questions; so few answers.

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, whose most dear Son, as He walked the way of The Cross, accepted the service of Simon of Cyrene to carry his physical burden for him: grant us each the grace gladly to bear one another's burdens, for the love of him who said, "As you did it to the least of these my brethren, you did it to me," your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who now 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
Tim Lewicki—Organist
Martha Croll—Choirmaster

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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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