



The Grace Vine

November 2023

Rector's Writ

It seems no sooner is Halloween over than we start seeing ads for turkeys, pies, and a wide range of Christmas gift options and decorations. As we approach and start making plans for the Thanksgiving holiday, we do well to observe a season of thanks for all the blessings God so graciously and generously provides. There's no need to limit our thankfulness to God on Thanksgiving day only or in the stewardship decisions we make each November, but in daily gratitude, faithfulness, and trust in God's goodness.

Following are a few quotes from Holy Scripture as well as a few prayers that may help us remember to give thanks and praise to God on holy days and on ordinary days. Thanks be to God, who surrounds and sustains us by the blessings and grace our Lord provides so generously.

*O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.
(1 Chron. 16:34)*

Enter (God's) gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; give thanks to him and call upon his Name. (Ps. 100:4)

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall ever be in my mouth. (Ps 34:1)

*Lord, we give you thanks: For each new morning with its light, for rest and shelter of the night, For health and food, For love and friends, For everything Thy goodness sends.
Amen. (R.W. Emerson)*

*Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds.
(Theodore Roosevelt, 1901)*

We would worry less if we praised more. Thanksgiving is the enemy of discontent and dissatisfaction. (Harry Ironside, American preacher)

*May the God of peace and love be ever dwelling with you. May the God of mercy give you sustenance, replenish your hearts with love and thankfulness, and give you perseverance in all good works. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and to their glory. Amen.
(From Services & Prayers for Country Use, Paul Welsby, p. 47, adapted)*

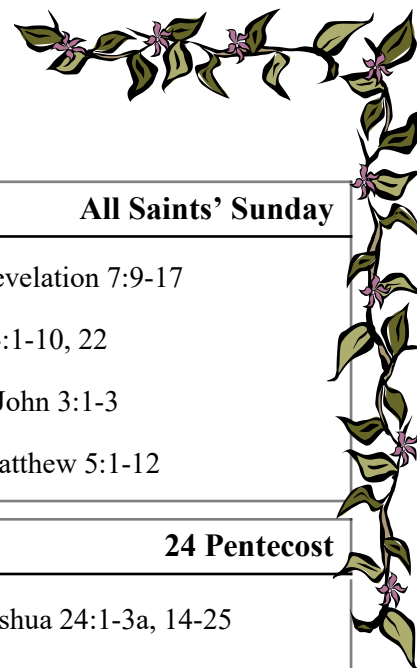
A blessed season of thanksgiving to you and yours.

Carol +



NOTE!

With the 'Single Reader' scheduling of Lectors, they have moved to the left-hand box for simplicity



Sunday, November 5 **8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist** **All Saints' Sunday**

Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Revelation 7:9-17
Lectors	8am Bette Brooks 10am Fred Lundgren	Psalm	34:1-10, 22
Greeters	Fred & Nancy Lundgren	2nd Reading	1 John 3:1-3
Altar Guild	Cathy Potisuk & Laurie Barney	Gospel	Matthew 5:1-12
Coffee Hosts	8am Joan & Frank Seman 10am Mary Jean & John McDonald		
Counters	Midge Myers & Kingsland Pretorius		

Sunday, November 12 **8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist** **24 Pentecost**

Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Deacon	The Rev. William Snyder	Psalm	78:1-7
Lector	10am Tim Splinter	2nd Reading	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Greeters	Barb Popiel	Gospel	Matthew 25:1-13
Altar Guild	Cathy Potisuk & Laurie Barney		
Coffee Hosts	8am Mike & Shirley Johnson 10am Nancy Ervin & Cindy Hoskins		
Counters	Midge Myers & Kingsland Pretorius		

Sunday, November 19 **8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist** **25 Pentecost**

Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Judges 4:1-7
Lectors	8am Bette Brooks 10am Jeff & Martha Croll	Psalm	123
Greeters	John & Mary Jean McDonald	2nd Reading	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Altar Guild	Cathy Potisuk & Laurie Barney	Gospel	Matthew 25:14-30
Coffee Hosts	8am Kay & Ralph Wise 10am Cindy Ward & Cathy Potisuk		
Counters	Midge Myers & Kingsland Pretorius		

Sunday, November 26 **8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist** **Last Pentecost**

Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Exodus 34:11-16, 20-24
Deacon	The Rev. William Snyder	Psalm	100
Lector	10am Maryjane Furrer	2nd Reading	Ephesians 1:15-23
Greeters	Jeff & Lisa Marsh	Gospel	Matthew 25:31-46
Altar Guild	Cathy Potisuk & Laurie Barney		
Coffee Hosts	8am TBD 10am Gail Richards & Doris Whipple		
Counters	Midge Myers & Kingsland Pretorius		

Sunday, December 3 **8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist** **Advent 1**

Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Isaiah 64:1-9
Lectors	8am Bette Brooks 10am Fred Lundgren	Psalm	80:1-7, 16-18
Greeters	Nancy & Fred Lundgren	2nd Reading	1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Altar Guild	Cathy Potisuk & Laurie Barney	Gospel	Mark 13:24-37
Coffee Hosts	8am Joan & Frank Seman 10am Mary Jean & John McDonald		
Counters	Kay Wise & Kingsland Pretorius		





Did You Know?...



October was a busy month as was September. The last day of September was Fall Clean-up Day, and the outside of the church looks great. Thanks to those members of our parish who came to help including **John McDonald, Carol Marotta, Barb Popiel, Nancy & Jim Ervin, Nancy & Fred Lundgren, Midge Myers, Kay Wise, and Rev. Carol**. Before and after Clean-up Day, **John McDonald and Mike Johnson** trimmed overgrown flowers and bushes around the church and rectory, and cleared growth around the west foundation wall so that could be sealed (John sealed the west wall and the concrete steps to the red doors as part of the work day projects.) That Saturday John and Carol Marotta also did some major clearing of small trees, bushes, flower beds, etc. on the east side of the rectory. John, Mike, and Carol Marotta came back a few days later to not only pull out some stubborn stumps that couldn't be budged on the work day, but to load up ANOTHER truck load of trimmings which John took care of disposing. Prior to the Fall Clean-up, **Jeff Marsh** and John McDonald gave the church front doors a fresh coat of red paint. At the Saturday Fall Clean-up, Barb Popiel did a thorough job of weeding, trimming back hastas, and clearing out flower beds at the two garden areas around the deck at the rectory, as did Fred & Nancy Lundgren in clearing out the hastas and flower beds along the sidewalk & by the handicap entrance. Nancy & Jim Ervin and Midge Myers tackled the job of organizing the kitchen and getting items where they belong. Kay Wise brought her Shark vacuum and gave all the pew cushions a good cleaning, and there are a LOT of them! Rev. Carol made sure we enjoyed some fellowship, donuts, and coffee along with all our work. Many thanks to our members who worked so hard and got so much done—before, during, and after the Fall Clean-up Day! ...

The very next day, Sunday Oct. 1st we had a baptism. We rejoice with **Taissir Alnouri** in his baptism. We welcome him and his mother, **Samar** to our Grace Church family and to the larger family of God...

After services on October 1st we had a 1pm Pet Blessing, and it was a beautiful day. **Cathy Potisuk** brought her handsome cat **Max**; **Martha Croll** & their friend/family member **Marty Kurtz** brought the Crolls' energetic & always curious dog **Fuzzy**; **Debbie Shorts** brought their dog **Buddy** who's kind of laid back and gets along with pets and people; **Shirley Johnson** came to take pictures and also brought a cute picture of their cat **Teddy**, who was blessed in absentia, as were Martha's brother Joe Benek's three horses--**Sadie, Aztec, and Dandy**. We enjoyed the pet blessings; the pets were cooperative and fun to be around; and we ended with some treats...

Sunday school class with **Jameson Patrick and George Fritsch** and their teachers **Carol Marotta and Laurie Barney** built a scare crow, one of several displayed for fun and for Halloween at downtown Ravenna businesses. Our scare crow was standing in front of Walgreen's through October. We hope you got to take a look; he was really cute, and his name was Mr. Grace...

The Sit 'n Stitch group is delighted that **Bonnie Quay** has moved back into the area and is joining them. Even more important, Bonnie is back attending services and has brought her good friend **Tommy Adams** with her. We're happy to have them both as part of our Grace Church family...

Members of the Vestry--**Barb Popiel, Laurie Barney, Carol Marotta, Kingsland Pretorius, Midge Myers, and Kay Wise**--planned the October 14th Wine Tasting Event for all of us here at Grace. Thanks to Laurie's arrangement and contacts, we had the parish hall carpet cleaned, so everything was washed and looking good for our guests. Thanks to those who made raffle baskets including: **Carol Marotta, Laurie Barney, Barb Popiel, Marsha Snyder, Kay Wise, and Nancy Lundgren & Sally Dier**. And of course we can't forget those who provided or made some delicious hors d'oeuvres including: **Laurie Barney, Barb Popiel, Midge Myers, Shirley Johnson, Roberta O'Keefe, Marcia Splinter, Carol Marotta, Marsha Snyder, Kay Wise, Kingsland Pretorius, and Joan Seman**. We had over 60 people in attendance, and it was good to see some familiar faces in the crowd...

Grace Church is the proud owner of a brand-new boiler. That may not sound too exciting, but in the middle of winter when the old boiler occasionally went out, it could be a bit chilly in the church. The new boiler and equipment have passed all the needed inspection. Yah!! Hopefully we won't have to call **John McDonald** early on Sunday morning to jump start the new one. Our thanks to John for the time and effort he put into managing this major project and seeing it through...

Amanda Brooks was honored as A Woman of Disney! She leads ESPN's College Football and College Networks PR efforts, the bridge between ESPN and the media. For example, if you enjoy College Gameday broadcasts, know that Amanda does PR for everyone on camera and lots more! She was asked to give the keynote address at the student division of the PR Society of American conference ICON in October. Her twin sister **Beverly** attended with her and sent pictures. Just ask **Bette!** We join the family in offering our congratulations

Continued on next page...

to Amanda in being chosen for these honors and opportunities...

Carolyn Englert and her daughter **Jennifer** have been busy with doll houses. We all know a girl is never too old for a doll house. Carolyn's husband **Ken** built Carolyn one, and now she's busy making all those little things that make doll house enthusiasts smile. Can't wait to see the finished project!...

Marcia Splinter, our treasurer extraordinaire, is well known for being good with numbers, but many of us don't know that she makes some of the most beautiful cross stitch projects. She's now working on a large sea scape. Can't imagine how many shades of blue and white she has to use in that project! (*Marcia reports: 33*)...

Martha Croll and former student **Marty Kurtz** are designing a new brochure for Grace Church. We appreciate the time, effort, and expertise they've both put into creating that for us, and it sounds like it'll soon be ready for printing...

Our Annual Diocesan Convention is November 10-11 in Wooster and **Barb Popiel**, **Laurie Barney**, and **Kay Wise** will represent Grace Church as delegates. Thanks, ladies for giving your skills, knowledge, and time to represent our church...

Carol Marotta and her sister **Gail Richards** are going on a cruise. Gail is so excited; she's never been on a cruise before, and she's been packed for a month. Have a wonderful time, ladies!!...

The choir has been blessed with two new members (well – not so new; they've been with us before). However, **Martha Croll** has invited friends **Cathy & Walt Zielinski** to join the choir, and we're glad they did join! Martha even invited friends that came to stay with her and Jeff, and when they stayed until Sunday morning, they were asked to join the choir and they did – now that's a friend...

Did you know there is a groundhog living under the rectory porch. He's doing very well – he's a big one, but very shy!

Breakfast Club

Nov 17th , 8:00 AM

Cracker Barrel

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



Christmas Gift Card Outreach for Portage County Foster Teens



We're inviting Grace Church members to participate in providing \$25 gift cards for Foster Teens in Portage County, a group that is too often overlooked at Christmas. The Ravenna Assembly of God Church is partnering with Job & Family Services and another ministry group in an effort to provide two \$25 gift cards for each foster teen in Portage County. They're also appealing to other churches for help with this endeavor, and Grace members have responded generously the past few years.

They're asking for physical, not digital, gift cards from places that are 'teen friendly' and easy to access (Walmart, Target, Starbucks, fast food, retail stores or restaurants. NO Amazon or GameStop gift cards, please.)

You can either bring the gift cards you're donating to the Grace Church office by November 15th; or if you prefer, you can drop the cards off BEFORE the November 19th deadline at Ravenna Assembly of God: 6401 State Route 14, Ravenna 44266. Ring the doorbell at the single glass door off their parking lot to leave your gift cards anytime Monday through Thursday, 9am—5pm. Thank you for remembering Portage County foster teens at Christmas!



Thank you! Thank you!

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

- **Barb Popiel, Laurie Barney**, and all our Vestry members who planned and participated in the Wine Tasting event.
- **Everyone** who contributed to the wine tasting event with food, setting up tables, making gift baskets, cleaning up, etc. etc. etc. AND to all those who attended.
- **Tim Splinter** for tracking down and fixing network issues, and for prep/setup of our livestream each week.
- **Eric Splinter** who does triple duty on Sunday – sings in the choir, serves as acolyte, and helps with livestream.
- **Marcia Splinter** for installing Chrome on the rector's computer, so it's compatible to access Church Pension Fund
- **Carolyn Englert** for working the camera for our livestream.
- **Doug Holzschuh** for setting up the links for live streaming.
- **John McDonald and Mike Johnson** for trimming the trees and bushes in the church yard.
- **Jeff Marsh & John McDonald** for painting the front door of the church.
- **John McDonald** for moving the old stove out of the kitchen & overseeing its removal.
- **Everyone** who worked hard and worked together to accomplish a LOT for our Fall Clean up day and to **Carol Marotta** for arranging it.
- **Shirley Johnson and Lynn Francois** for helping out in Gracie's while Sally Dier was at an appointment.
- **Shirley Johnson** for taking pictures of vestry, choir, the Pet Blessing, and the Wine Tasting Event.
- **Barb Popiel** who continues to be a wonderful Senior Warden
- **Carol Marotta** for all the work she's done as Junior Warden, and most recently for cleaning the kitchen wall & floor where the old stove was.
- **All those who serve** as coffee hour hosts, lectors, greeters, counters, on Altar Guild and in the choir every week.
- **All those who say "yes"** when asked to help out. You know who you are!!

Birthdays

1st Amy Neely
4th Gail Richards
17th Sarah Beth Audet
18th Judy Watkins
29th Eric Marotta



Congratulations!

and many happy returns...



Baptisms

2nd Sally Dier
5th Luke Kearsey
Shala Kearsey
John Monegan
17th Dani Dier
21st Frank Seman
Kay Wise

Anniversaries

3rd John & Mary Jean McDonald



The Bulletin Board

Adopt-A-Family 2023

Our Grace Vestry has once again decided to “Adopt-A-Family” that is in need this holiday season. We’re asking for monetary donations to assist with this outreach project. Our goal is \$1,500. You were very generous last year, and we exceeded our goal.

If you are so moved by this appeal, please make your check out to: Grace Episcopal Church and mark “Adopt” in the memo. Please place it in the collection plate or mail it to the church office by December 10th.

The address is:
Grace Episcopal Church
250 W. Cedar Ave.
Ravenna, OH 44266

Again, your generosity in the past has been phenomenal for people in need. Thank you for any help you can give. It will be greatly appreciated.

Grace Church Vestry

Outreach Projects

Center of Hope (red wagon) -nonperishable food items

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

Ravenna High School - List of needs is on the container in the parish hall

Thank you for any donations- they are greatly appreciated!

Grace's Vestry



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.*

Southern author Eudora Welty wrote that Southerners not only listen **to** the story; we listen **for** the story, a skill born of playing quietly under the bushes that surrounded the porch, listening to the adult conversation in the cool of the evening (before air conditioning!), hoping the adults would forget we were there. I get a similar sense of listening **for** the story each November when I see our list of friends and family who have entered God's nearer presence. What are the stories of faith here? What are the lessons we have learned from these saints who lived among us? Below is a story of one of my saints.

Rev. Dr. Russell Hurd, Minister and Educator

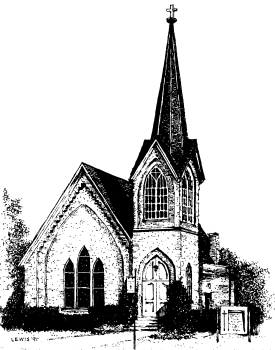
1945-July 9, 2023

I first met Russ in 2000 when the two of us were working to create the full undergraduate programs for the newly-created state teaching license in Middle Childhood education at Kent State's Kent and Stark Campuses. His calm demeanor, obvious intelligence, and gentle sense of humor made the hours of meetings (filled with arguments and frustration) possible.

Russ was born in Warren, Ohio, in 1945. He grew up in Kent and graduated from the now-closed Kent State University School (1962) and Oberlin College (B.A., 1966). He answered the call to the ministry and attended Chicago Theological Seminary, graduating with his Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree in 1969. While serving United Methodist churches in Ohio and Delaware, he attended Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. and received his Doctor of Ministry degree (D.Min.) in 1979. He resigned from the ministry in 1990 and entered graduate school in educational psychology at Kent State, receiving his Ph.D. in 1996. While working on his doctorate, Russ began teaching part-time at Kent's Stark and Tuscarawas Campuses. He retired as a tenured assistant professor at the Stark Campus in 2008 and continued teaching part-time there until 2013. I met him during his service as coordinator of the Department of Education at the Stark Campus, a position he held from 2000-2008. In his Ph.D. studies and his teaching, he blended his two professional careers into the research he conducted on childhood bereavement experiences.

I learned much from Russ about the importance of questions. Participating in meetings with him was always challenging—his questions and comments went to the heart of the issue at hand, often uncomfortably so. “To get the right answer, Bette, we have to ask the right questions,” he'd say when I grew impatient with discussions. He must have led us into many right questions; the two programs became the model for the program at Kent State Geauga-Twinsburg and has not needed alteration since approval in 2001. When Russ learned that I was a single parent to 14-year-old twins after David's death, his pastoral counseling side showed clearly. His careful questions about Amanda and Beverly were phrased in such a way that I saw that the ideas behind them were actually suggestions. His funeral at The Bath Church was packed with family, friends, colleagues, and former students, not a spare seat anywhere. We had all come to honor a good and decent man who asked hard questions and participated in answering them.





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

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The Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church
Laurie Barney, Clerk (2023)
Barb Popiel, Senior Warden (2023)
Kingsland Prtorius (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. Please consider the paper copy and have it read rather than save the paper and postage and have it go unread.