



The Grace Vine

October 2022

Rector's Writ

October is a sure sign that fall has arrived. Leaves and weather are changing. Ads change from grills and lawn chairs to rakes, coats, and Halloween candy. We've advanced beyond candy corn to peanut-butter pumpkins, chocolate bats, and mini candy bars in Halloween wrap.

Some ad experts might say it's time for mainline churches to consider giving the Church a more attractive, relevant wrapping or presentation. The newer word seems to be "rebranding" a product or service. It's an interesting thought. Can we keep the sacraments, liturgy, and lovely traditions, and just change the way the Episcopal Church is wrapped or branded? What would a rebrand include regarding what young people see as stodgy ways? How do we present Grace Church to unchurched people so they can experience what life with God, Jesus, and the Spirit offers and promises?

Our Mom said the reward of preparing a good meal is having people together and seeing them enjoy the food and the gathering. Our Lord lived in a way that brought a variety of people together: outsiders and outcasts, sinners, the poor, the wealthy. He brought them together to share meals, worship, and fellowship; to see they're not only included, but they belong at God's table. He brought them together to make the love of God known, seen, experienced. He helps them and us to abide in that love.

It's a good example to follow, this bringing people together. In spite of all the challenges churches are facing these days, it's an act of faith to see how we might grow by bringing someone in. As followers of Christ we're to bring, welcome, and gather people into the family of God. What seekers, sinners, and spiritual folks might join us if we focused on bringing people together for worship, prayer, and spiritual food at the Table that has room for all? What outsiders and outcasts might join us if we focused on their needs and sharing fellowship with them? Before people can experience Church as a spiritual home and family, we have to provide something that goes beyond the wrappers and images. We can bring and welcome them with hearts that love God and God's people; with sincerity, hospitality, and without judgment. If it results in one person knowing Christ, making the effort to invite and bring a hundred people is well worth it.

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, October 2		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	17 Pentecost
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading Lamentations 1:1-6 Fred Lundgren Psalm 137 2nd Reading 2 Timothy 1:1-14 Nancy Lundgren Gospel Luke 17:5-10	
Wrshp Ldr	Carolyn Englert		
Greeters	Fred & Nancy Lundgren		
Organist	Tim Lewicki		
Video	Doug Holzschuh		
Altar Guild	Cindy Ward & Carol Marotta		
Coffee Hosts	8am Joan & Frank Seman 10am Mary Jean & John McDonald		
Counters	Barb Popiel & Midge Myers		

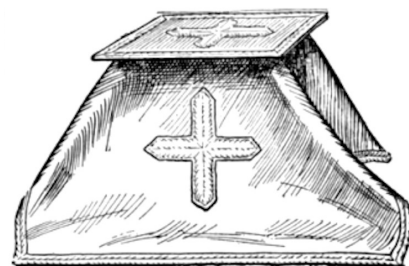
Sunday, October 9		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	18 Pentecost
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading Jeremiah 29:1,4-7 Tim Splinter Psalm 66:1-11 2nd Reading 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Carolyn Englert Gospel Luke 17:11-19	
Deacon	The Rev. William Snyder		
Greeters	Jeff & Lisa Marsh		
Organist	Tim Lewicki		
Video	Doug Holzschuh		
Altar Guild	Cindy Ward & Carol Marotta		
Coffee Hosts	8am Mike & Shirley Johnson 10am Nancy & Jim Ervin		
Counters	Barb Popiel & Midge Myers		

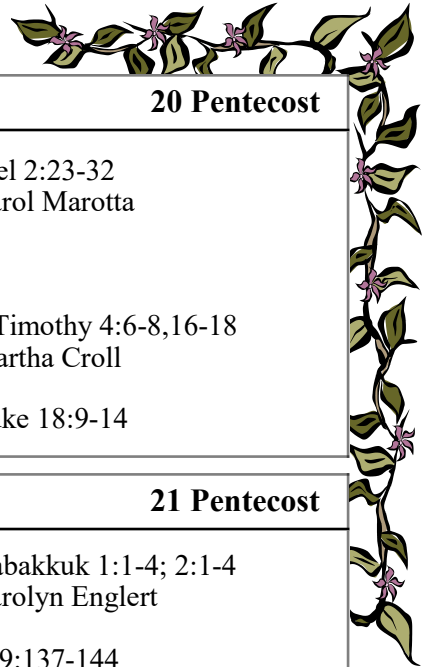
Sunday, October 16		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	19 Pentecost
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading Jeremiah 31:27-34 Martha Croll Psalm 110:97-104 2nd Reading 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 Jeff Croll Gospel Luke 18:1-8	
Wrshp Ldr	Nancy Lundgren		
Greeters	Nancy & Jim Ervin		
Organist	Tim Lewicki		
Video	Doug Holzschuh		
Altar Guild	Cindy Ward & Carol Marotta		
Coffee Hosts	8am Doug & Kingsland Holzschuh 10am Cindy Ward & Cathy Potisuk		
Counters	Barb Popiel & Midge Myers		

Altar Guild News

Laurie Barney and Cathy Potisuk will be taking on the role of Co-Sacristans of the Altar Guild after Nancy Lundgren's retirement (thank you again, Nancy). We are planning a meeting in the future but would like to start putting together a calendar for 2023. It would be appreciated if members could check their calendars and submit the months they would like to be scheduled for next year. If you always work with another person or always have a specific time, please let us know that as well. Contact Cathy or Laurie with this information and we will do our best to accommodate everyone. Thank you.

Cathy Potisuk 937-477-3803 potisukstab@gmail.com
Laurie Barney 716-868-6783 ljbarney@gmail.com

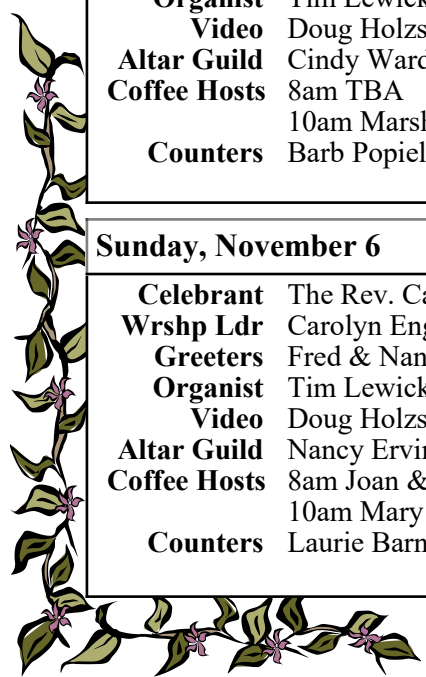




Sunday, October 23		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	20 Pentecost
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Joel 2:23-32
Deacon	The Rev. William Snyder		Carol Marotta
Greeters	Mary Jean & John McDonald	Psalm	65
Organist	Tim Lewicki		2nd Reading
Video	Doug Holzschuh	Martha Croll	
Altar Guild	Cindy Ward & Carol Marotta	Gospel	
Coffee Hosts	8am TBA 10am Doris Whipple & Gail Richards		
Counters	Barb Popiel & Midge Myers		

Sunday, October 30		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	21 Pentecost
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4
Deacon	The Rev. William Snyder		Carolyn Englert
Greeters	Jeff & Lisa Marsh	Psalm	119:137-144
Organist	Tim Lewicki		2nd Reading
Video	Doug Holzschuh	Tim Splinter	
Altar Guild	Cindy Ward & Carol Marotta	Gospel	
Coffee Hosts	8am TBA 10am Marsha & Bill Snyder		
Counters	Barb Popiel & Midge Myers		

Sunday, November 6		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	All Saints' Sunday
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Daniel 7:1-3,15-18
Wrshp Ldr	Carolyn Englert		Nancy Lundgren
Greeters	Fred & Nancy Lundgren	Psalm	149
Organist	Tim Lewicki		2nd Reading
Video	Doug Holzschuh	Fred Lundgren	
Altar Guild	Nancy Ervin & Cindy Hoskins	Gospel	
Coffee Hosts	8am Joan & Frank Seman 10am Mary Jean & John McDonald		
Counters	Laurie Barney & Barb Popiel		



Breakfast Club

October 20th
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 12:00. Meet at Chestnut Hills Park, Ravenna, and walk to the first parking lot.





Did You Know?...



While the initial COVID cases didn't affect us much, the variants have certainly had an impact on some Grace members. **Rick Lashley & Debbie Shorts** were on a cruise when they came down with COVID. How can you enjoy an Iceland cruise when you're quarantined to your cabin for most of the trip? **Marsha & Bill Snyder** were both down for weeks, before they finally felt like going back to work. Thanks to **Martha Croll** for pitching in at the office to get the September 4th bulletin shaped up, printed for Sunday, and e-mailed to at home viewers. **Joan & Frank Seman** have both had COVID, as did several members of the **Ervin** family. **Jeff Marsh, Sarah Beth and Rachel Audet** all had it, and as Jeff said, **Lisa** had to stay healthy to take of all the rest of the family. **Bette Brooks** reported that her son-in-law **Daniel** and granddaughter, **Mollie** both had a not-at-all-mild bout with COVID. **Kathy Summy**, too, has had a not-so-mild case, and tried to take measures not to pass it on to husband **Bill**. **John McDonald** also 'caught it' but managed to be careful enough with staying downstairs, and doing constant handwashing & sanitizing so that **Mary Jean** did not get it. **Doug Holzschuh** is the most recent COVID patient, and he, too is keeping downstairs and being careful, so Kingsland doesn't get it...

Barb Popiel was pleasantly surprised when her granddaughter **Hannah** was knocking at her front door holding a balloon. Daughter, **Michelle** & her husband **Dave**, Hannah, and their dog **Ellie** drove up from North Carolina to celebrate Barb's birthday. 39 again!! They had dinner at Bricco's on Thursday, and a surprise party on Friday. It was a great birthday weekend with her family. Then Barb caught COVID, and now Dave has it. No clue who passed it around...it's a mystery. Apparently the new COVID variant is quite contagious. The only good news is that most of those who've had COVID do NOT think they got it attending church. We continue each Sunday to practice hand sanitizing, safe distancing, and mask wearing. We're grateful to all our members for their cooperation in keeping with the safe practices. We understand & support the cautions some members with health issues are practicing by staying home & viewing the livestream service...

Carolyn Englert reports that husband **Ken** is doing much better after his heart surgery. She thanked everyone for their prayers and for the meals that were sent to them. And we were sad to hear that Carolyn's brother, **Edward Fairman** passed away. Prayers are with them all...

Joanne Sarver has cancer of the eye and is taking chemo eye drops. She's hopeful this treatment will work and appreciates our prayers...

Chris Stickle had a bad fall that broke her ankle. She had to have surgery that involved screws & hardware.

Then Chris's husband **Rodney** was hospitalized with a minor stroke. We're glad to hear he's back to work and on the mend. Chris won't be on her feet for a while though, and that won't be easy for her...

Sally Dier is still doctoring, trying to get her iron level up to where it should be, but she sounds much better. Her husband, **Dennis** recently learned he needs heart valve surgery and is planning to have that done early in 2023...

Rick Taylor is finally out of Hillcrest Hospital after a very lengthy stay which frequently included time in the ICU. He's now at Summa Rehab Hospital, and needless to say, looks forward to regaining his strength and getting home soon. Please continue to keep all these members (those dealing with COVID and/or other health issues) and their families in your prayers...

Did you know that **Cindy and Gary Ward** have been foster parents to more than 250 children and adopted 5 of them? Now that takes a special person, and it's wonderful we have people like that...

Tom Furrer and his wife Mary Jane have moved to Ravenna from Connecticut to be closer to his father **George** and the rest of his family. Tom is a retired Episcopal priest who continues doing good works and keeping busy. It's great to have Tom and Mary Jane joining us for worship and fellowship here at Grace Church. One of Tom's first official acts since moving to Ravenna was to officiate at the funeral of his bother-in-law, **Edward Rafferty**. The service was held here at Grace, the church was full, and Tom and family members shared some interesting memories. Tom also shared some good thoughts regarding hope, God's redeeming love, and eternal life. Thanks to **Nancy Ervin, Cindy Ward, Shirley & Mike Johnson** for serving at the reception after. As always, it was very nicely done...

Phillip George stopped by the office and said "hello" as did **Cherry Monegan**. Cherry said **John** was doing much better after his back surgery...

Thanks to **Nancy Ervin** and everyone who helped with the Volunteer Appreciation Day/Rally Day sloppy joe lunch. We appreciate Nancy and all those who brought food to share, and we enjoyed the fellowship, too!...

Tim & Marcia Splinter's son Eric is back home with them. And we're very happy to have Eric back at Grace Church and singing in the choir...

Mary and Hank Cabot were tired of staying home because of COVID so they decided to visit their out-of-town kids. They spent time in Memphis with their son **Greg** and family. Their granddaughter recently went through the white coat ceremony for her OT degree. Then they were off to St. Genevieve, Missouri to see another

(continued next page...)

Thank you! Thank you!

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

- **Nancy Ervin** for coordinating the meals that are sent to those who are sick or recovering from surgery.
- **Nancy Ervin & the Hospitality Group** members for arranging, set-up, and clean-up for the Appreciation Day/Rally Day lunch
- Hospitality Committee members: **Nancy Ervin, Cindy Ward, Shirley & Mike Johnson** for setting up tables and helping serve the reception for the Furrer family.
- **John McDonald** for clearing a LOT of debris, dirt, growth, etc. of the flat roof areas, and for caulking around the sky light fixtures to avoid winter leaks when snow melts.
- **John McDonald and Jeff Marsh** for painting the rectory front porch.
- All those who **volunteer to host coffee hour** so that all may enjoy refreshments AND fellowship.
- **Eric Splinter** for joining the choir after moving back from New York.
- **Martha Croll** for getting the bulletin arranged, updated, copied, and e-mailed while the secretary was out with COVID.
- **Marcia & Tim Splinter** for all their assistance to the church secretary.
- All those members who contribute, even those who haven't been in church due to COVID concerns. We miss you!
- **Doug Holzschuh** for live streaming and recording services for our members at home to access.
- **Grace Church Vestry members** for their faithfulness and service

(Did You Know, continued)

son; and heading off to St. Louis to spend time with a grandson and his family (two of their great-grandson are there). Next they went to Grosse Isle, Michigan to see another grandchild and great grandchildren. Then Canada called, and they decided to see what Lake Erie looked like across the top. Now that's a lot of traveling. Good for you Mary & Hank!...

Courtney Rich posted on Facebook a picture of their son Sammy who decided to cut his own hair while Mom

was at the store. The results were: he's now all shaved off. He still looks cute... and the spitting image of his dad!...

Shirley & Mike Johnson's daughter Susan and granddaughter **Elizabeth** came from California for a visit. Elizabeth loves thrift stores, and she had to get a suitcase from Gracie's to make it home with all her treasures...

Many thanks to **Shirley Johnson** and **Bette Brooks** who helped **Marsha Snyder** out with her altar duties. I owe you!...

Birthdays

1st MacAlah Simonson
5th Mike Johnson
8th Kay Wise
11th Lynn Ann Zimmerman
13th Maggy Rich
18th Jamie Popiel
21st Nancy Ervin
22nd Janet Hughes
25th Aundrea Seman



Congratulations!

and many happy returns...

Baptisms

3rd Jane O'Neill
13th John McDonald
16th Marsha Snyder
25th Aundrea Seman
29th Kevin Splinter
Martha Croll



Anniversaries

7th Cindy & Gary Ward
11th Jeff & Lisa Marsh
17th Tim & Marcia Splinter
20th Bill & Kathy Summy
31st Tony & Bev Lewis-Mercury

The Bulletin Board

Gracie's Back Door

Until Gracie's Back Door is open again, please don't bring any more items to the store.

Address Changes

We have new addresses for:

Larry Allison

Kingstand & Doug Holtschuh

Judy Watkins

If you'd like to have these updates, please get them from the office.

Outreach Projects

Thanksgiving

The Center of Hope is asking for the following items for the needy at Thanksgiving: boxed stuffing, boxed mashed potatoes, green beans, fried canned onions, JIF corn bread mix, canned Libby's pumpkin, canned carnation milk, yams/sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, or turkeys. **Please take these items to the Center of Hope and not to the church.**

Raven Packs - The vestry has decided to donate money (outreach dollars from Beatty) instead of asking for certain items from parishioners. Anyone is welcome to donate on their own also. The address for any cash/check donations is: Raven Packs, P.O. Box 728, Ravenna, OH 44266

Ravenna High School - Men's hygiene products, Laundry detergent, and Unscented wipes

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. Also Socks, Underwear, Hats, and Gloves will be needed by late November

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

Thank you as always for any help you can give for these Outreach Projects helping those in need.

Thank You!
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.*

Remigius of Rheims, Bishop & Apostle of the Franks

October 10

Our young people (and their teachers) are back in school, so it's time for a history lesson. We'll be delving deep into an early theological argument within the Church, the last days of the Roman Empire, and the early years of the Medieval Period in European History. As a World History teacher of many years, this is just my cup of tea!

Remi (Latin name is Remigius) was born about 438 and became bishop of Rheims about 460, at the remarkably young age of 22. (Both he and the city were named for his tribe, the Remi.) In his time, the Roman Empire and the Christian church were jointly faced with a serious practical problem -- the barbarian invasions. Droughts in central Asia had driven its inhabitants in all directions in search of more livable territory. This brought the Goths, for example, across the Danube in the early 300's.

Now, the Emperor Constantine had died in 337, and during his lifetime the Church had debated the question of whether the Logos, the Word made flesh for our salvation in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, was (as Arius taught) the first and greatest of the beings created by God, but nevertheless not eternal, and not God; or was Jesus (as Athanasius taught) fully God, co-eternal and co-equal with the Father. At the Council of Nicea in 325, the Athanasian position (Jesus is co-equal with God) had been endorsed by an overwhelming majority of the bishops assembled from throughout the Christian world. But the Arians refused to accept the decision, and there were attempts to re-negotiate and find a compromise that would make everyone happy. Then Constantine died, and his Empire was divided among his sons, with Constantius Emperor of the East, and eventually of the whole Empire. Constantius was an Arian, and he made a serious attempt to stamp out the Athanasian position by banishing its leaders and pressuring churches into electing or accepting Arian bishops.

During his reign, missionaries, led by Bishop Ulfilas, were sent to convert the Goths. And naturally, Ulfilas was an Arian. He preached with great vigor and eloquence among the Goths, and translated the Bible into their language (omitting, we are told, the wars of the Hebrews, on the grounds that the Goths were quite warlike enough without further encouragement). In fact, the portions of his translation that have survived are the only material we have in the Gothic language, and as such are highly valued by students of the history of languages. So, the Goths became Arian Christians, and so did the Vandals. And these two highly warlike peoples were most of the time either making war on the settled peoples of the Empire or hiring out as mercenaries to defend the borders of the Empire from the next wave of invaders. Long after Arianism had died out elsewhere, it was the religion of the Goths and Vandals and related peoples, and being an Arian was the mark of a good Army man. (Ever wonder where we got the word "vandal"?)

Now a new people appeared on the scene, a pagan warrior tribe called the Franks. In the late 400's, they were led by a chief called Clovis, a pagan but married to a Christian wife, Clotilda. His wife and Bishop Remi spoke to him about the Christian faith, but he showed no signs of interest until one day when he was fighting a battle against the Alemanni and was badly outnumbered and apparently about to lose the battle. He took a vow that if he won, he would turn Christian. The tide of battle turned, and he won. Two years later, he kept his vow and was baptized by Remi at Rheims on Christmas Day, 496, together with about 3000 of his followers.

(Rheims became the traditional and "proper" place for a French king to be crowned, as we learn from the story of Joan of Arc. It remained so until the French Revolution.)

Clovis was converted to the Athanasian (Jesus is co-equal with God) faith rather than the Arian, and this fact changed the religious history of Europe. The clergy he brought to his court were Catholic, and when the Franks became Christians, which did not happen overnight, they became Catholic Christians, meaning in this context that they were Athanasian rather than Arian, and accepted the belief that it was God himself, and not a particularly prominent angel, who came down from heaven and suffered for our salvation. During the preceding century, the Arians had had a near-monopoly on military power, and now this was no longer true. The conversion of the Franks brought about the conversion of the Visigoths, and eventually (about 300 years later) the empire of Charlemagne (late 700s) and the beginning of the recovery of Western Europe from the earlier collapse of government and of city life under the impact of plague, lead poisoning, currency inflation, confiscatory taxation, multiple invasions, and the assorted troubles of the Medieval Period.

As noted above, Clotilda, a Christian princess of Burgundy, married the pagan Clovis, King of the Franks, thus preparing the way for his baptism by Remi in 496, and for the conversion of the Franks. Their great-granddaughter, Bertha, married the pagan Ethelbert, King of Kent (England), thus preparing the way for his baptism by Augustine of Canterbury in 601, and for the eventual conversion of southeast England. Bertha and Ethelbert's daughter, Ethelburga, married the pagan Edwin, King of Northumbria, thereby preparing the way for his baptism, and for the eventual conversion of many in the North of England. This is the beginning of our historical heritage as Anglicans.

PRAYER (contemporary language)

O God, who by the teaching of your faithful servant and bishop Remigius [and the loving influence and example of your handmaid Clotilda] turned the nation of the Franks from vain idolatry to the worship of you, the true and living God, in the fullness of the catholic faith; Grant that we who glory in the name of Christian may show forth our faith in worthy deeds; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.





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
Carol Marotta, Junior Warden (2022)
Laurie Barney, Clerk (2023)
Barb Popiel, Senior Warden (2023)
Kingsland Pretorius (2023)
Midge Myers (2024)

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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.