



The Grace Vine

October 2023

Rector's Writ

Many people have observed that the modern world seems to give a lesser priority and value to religion. By his life teachings in Holy Scripture, Jesus reminds us today--as he did his disciples then--to keep our minds fixed on the divine, not human things. We find it can be a struggle at times. It's more than just keeping our mind and heart set on the Holy, spiritual, and the Divine; it's the willing trustful obedience to God that must be a very deliberate part of deciding where and to whom our heart belongs.

For example, we trust in and believe in God, but worry 'how do we get more people (especially young families) to attend Grace Church?' We trust and believe in God, but 'it's also important to take care of the members we have; to minister to each other and to do ministry with each other.' How do we 'lessen our budget deficit; increase outreach; and determine what Grace Church might do in response to the needs of people in our communities?' Do any of our inner dialogues sound like these?

It's easy to get so focused on our problems and what we lack, that we may forget to give thanks to God for so many blessings; for all the good our Lord has done and continues to do for this Grace Church family. There are so many things we can give thanks to God for, including:

- ◆ the Father's blessings, lovingkindness, and mercy; Christ's grace, peace, and constant presence throughout our lives; the Spirit's wisdom, counsel, and gifts
- ◆ faithful members who together worship, serve, give, and help in many ways
- ◆ Church fellowship that includes caring for & praying for each other (and many others);
- ◆ a lovely, safe place to WORSHIP GOD;
- ◆ a Church family where joys and burdens are shared
- ◆ a friendly fellowship that welcomes and accepts all God's people
- ◆ the prayers & ministries of our Church family caring for and about each other
- ◆ a place where we can grow in our love of God and one another.

As we approach the season of stewardship, service, giving and gratitude, what would you add to this list of things for which we're thankful to God?

May we together give thanks and praise to the Lord, in thought, word,
and deed with grateful and joyful hearts.

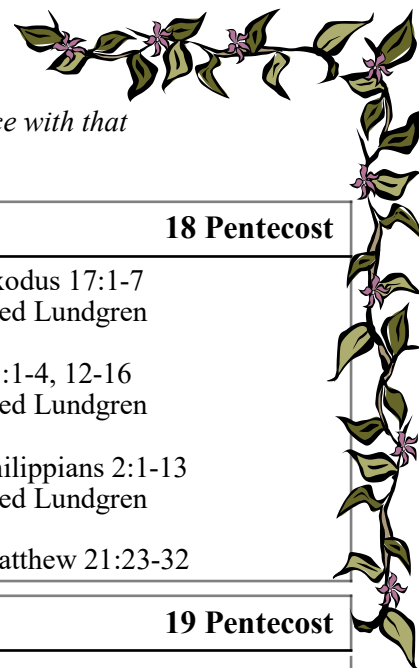


Carol +



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 1	8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	18 Pentecost
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<p>Celebrant The Rev. Carol Evans Wrshp Ldr 8am Bette Brooks Greeters Fred & Nancy Lundgren Altar Guild Nancy Ervin & Cindy Ward Coffee Hosts 8am Joan & Frank Seman 10am Mary Jean & John McDonald Counters Laurie Barney & Barb Popiel</p>	<p>1st Reading Exodus 17:1-7 Fred Lundgren</p> <p>Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 Fred Lundgren</p> <p>2nd Reading Philippians 2:1-13 Fred Lundgren</p> <p>Gospel Matthew 21:23-32</p>
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Sunday, October 8	8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	19 Pentecost
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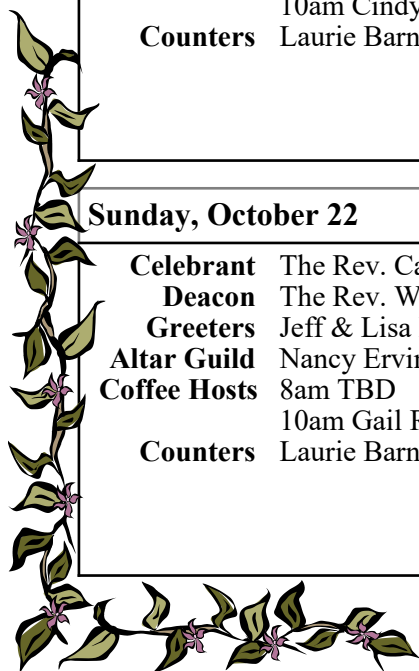
<p>Celebrant The Rev. Carol Evans Deacon The Rev. William Snyder Greeters Barb Popiel Altar Guild Nancy Ervin & Cindy Ward Coffee Hosts 8am Mike & Shirley Johnson 10am Nancy Ervin & Cindy Hoskins Counters Laurie Barney & Barb Popiel</p>	<p>1st Reading Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Tim Splinter</p> <p>Psalm 19 Tim Splinter</p> <p>2nd Reading Philippians 3:4b-14 Tim Splinter</p> <p>Gospel Matthew 21:33-46</p>
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Sunday, October 15	8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	20 Pentecost
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<p>Celebrant The Rev. Carol Evans Wrshp Ldr 8am Bette Brooks Greeters John & Mary Jean McDonald Altar Guild Nancy Ervin & Cindy Ward Coffee Hosts 8am Kay & Ralph Wise 10am Cindy Ward & Cathy Potisuk Counters Laurie Barney & Barb Popiel</p>	<p>1st Reading Exodus 32:1-14 Jeff Croll</p> <p>Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 Jeff Croll</p> <p>2nd Reading 2 Peter 1:16-21 Martha Croll</p> <p>Gospel Matthew 22:1-14</p>
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Sunday, October 22	8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	21 Pentecost
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<p>Celebrant The Rev. Carol Evans Deacon The Rev. William Snyder Greeters Jeff & Lisa Marsh Altar Guild Nancy Ervin & Cindy Ward Coffee Hosts 8am TBD 10am Gail Richards & Doris Whipple Counters Laurie Barney & Barb Popiel</p>	<p>1st Reading Exodus 33:12-23 Maryjane Furrer</p> <p>Psalm 99 Maryjane Furrer</p> <p>2nd Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Maryjane Furrer</p> <p>Gospel Matthew 22:15-22</p>
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Sunday, October 29 **8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist** **22 Pentecost**

Celebrant The Rev. William Snyder
Deacon The Rev. William Snyder
Greeters Cindy Ward & Jameson Partick
Altar Guild Nancy Ervin & Cindy Ward
Coffee Hosts 8am TBA
 10am Maryjane Furrer
Counters Carol Marotta & Kay Wise

1st Reading Deuteronomy 34:1-12
 Carol Marotta

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
 Carol Marotta

2nd Reading 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
 Carol Marotta

Gospel Matthew 22:34-46

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

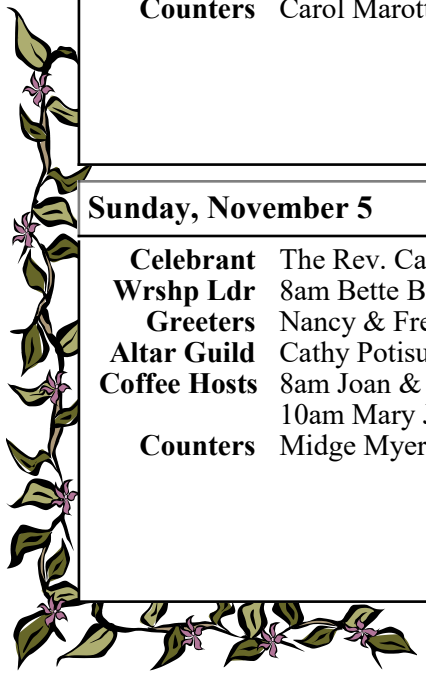
Celebrant The Rev. Carol Evans
Wrshp Ldr 8am Bette Brooks
Greeters Nancy & Fred Lundgren
Altar Guild Cathy Potisuk & Laurie Barney
Coffee Hosts 8am Joan & Frank Seman
 10am Mary Jean & John McDonald
Counters Midge Myers & Kingsland Pretorius

1st Reading Revelation 7:9-17
 Fred Lundgen

Psalm 34:1-10, 22
 Fred Lundgen

2nd Reading 1 John 3:1-3
 Fred Lundgen

Gospel Matthew 5:1-12



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





Did You Know?...



This fall we've hit the ground running. Busy, busy, busy. Many thanks to **Rick Taylor** for making the arrangements for a group to attend the musical "Matilda" at the Weathervane Playhouse. It was enjoyed by **Marcia & Tim Splinter, Roberta O'Keefe, Kay & Ralph Wise, Kingsland Pretorius, Laurie Barney and several of her friends, Barb Popiel, Bill & Marsha Snyder, and of course Rick**, who brought with him some friends and relatives. We'll have to make more plans to get out and enjoy the theater...

On September 10th we celebrated "Fall Fellowship Day" (the new name for Rally Day). The choir started back & sounded great with **Tim and Marcia Splinter, Eric Splinter, Jeff & Martha Croll, and Marsha Snyder...**

We also restarted Sunday school classes, thanks to teachers **Laurie Barney & Caitlin Fritsch** (on Sept. 10th; **Carol Marotta** also plans to help with teaching) along with students **George & Matthew Fritsch and Jameson Patrick**. The class worked on a scarecrow that will be part of the fall decorations around our downtown...

The luncheon that followed the 10am service was well attended, and **Nancy Ervin, Cindy Ward, and Cindy Hoskins** worked in the kitchen to get everything set up. As usual, our church family brought lots of food, more than enough to feed everyone there. Nancy had to have more tables set up for the extra people who attended...nice to have more people than we anticipated...

Balloon-A-Fair has come and gone, and it was a beautiful weekend. Interim priest **Mary Staley** invited us to share a booth with her & members of Christ Church, Kent to have an Episcopal presence at the Ravenna event and mingle with the community. Thanks to **Martha Croll** and her friend **Marty** who created beautiful brochures for us (which Martha had printed) to hand out from Grace Church. **Carolyn Englert & Shirley Johnson** knitted pocket prayers along with a little prayer on each. We gave out copies of prayers that **Rev. Carol** had printed from the Book of Common Prayer. Even a prayer shawl was given away. A special thanks to Grace volunteers who staffed the booth: **Midge Myers, Barb Popiel, Maryjane Furrer, Carol Marotta, and Rev. Carol...**

The ladies at Gracie's Back Door, **Sally Dier and Nancy Lundgren** (with support from **Dennis Dier & Fred Lundgren**) had Gracie's open from noon until 2pm during the Balloon-A-Fair for anyone wanting to shop...

Several members of our congregation attended the Seating of the Bishop at Trinity Cathedral on September 9th. **Kay & Ralph Wise, Kingsland Pretorius & Doug Holzschuh, Barb Popiel, and Midge Myers** went in person. **Rick Taylor** offered a Zoom meeting to watch

the proceedings from the parish hall. He was joined by **Marsha & Bill Snyder and Rev. Carol**. Rick served tea and crumpets, and Carol brought crackers and cheese for snacking. The Seating of the Bishop was a very moving service and everyone who attended was happy they went to see our new bishop **Anne B. Jolly** in action. They said she was wonderful and preached a good sermon as well...

Once again, we will have special education students from Ravenna High School here at Grace, two Thursdays a month. They clean in the parish hall, the church, and after that they come to the multi-purpose room and help the secretary fold, staple, and stuff the weekly bulletins. The students really enjoy our "comfy" chairs and conversation. They are served a snack, and then it's back to school for lunch...

Many thanks to our Senior Warden, **Barb Popiel** who has been working so hard on our Wine Tasting event. It looks like it's going to be a hit. If you haven't gotten your tickets see Barb soon before they're sold out...

Marcia and Tim Splinter had a real treat for the choir when they invited the group to their home one Sunday after church for a cookout...

Tim and Marica also went to Wisconsin to start arranging things for Tim's mother **Barb** to move out of her condo into a home she will be sharing with her other son Dan and his family...

Debbie Shorts and Rick Lashley are relaxing & getting away for a camping trip. **Kingsland Pretorius and Doug Holzschuh** enjoyed spending some time away at the Outer Banks. **Carol Marotta** and her sister **Gail** are going on a Caribbean Cruise in October.

Breakfast Club

Oct 19th , 8:00 AM

Cracker Barrel

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



Please keep these people in your thoughts and prayers

Sue & Bruce Ahrens
Sally & Dennis Dier
Nancy & Jim Ervin
Maynard Evans

Janet & Bud Hughes
Bonnie Quay
Joanne Sarver

Thank you! Thank you!

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

- **John McDonald** for changing all those light bulbs and light fixtures and for being there every time something breaks; and for all the work involved in overseeing the new boiler project.
- **Richard Taylor** for making the arrangements for a group to attend the Weathervane Playhouse to see the play, Matilda; and taking those craft items that have sat in the parish hall to the Senior Center.
- To all those volunteers who helped with the Balloon-A-Fair: **Barb Popiel, Carol Marotta, Midge Myers, Maryjane Furrer, Rev. Carol, Martha Croll, Shirley Johnson, Carolyn Englert**, and I hope I didn't leave anyone out.
- All the **Altar Guild members** for the month of September: **Roberta O'Keefe, Laurie Barney, and Marsha Snyder**.
- **Nancy Ervin, Cindy Hoskins, and Cindy Ward** for all their work getting the Fellowship Day luncheon arranged.
- To all the members of the church who brought food for the luncheon. We had more people than we expected, and still had food left over. God does supply.

Birthdays

1st MacAlah Simonson
5th Mike Johnson
8th Kay Wise
11th Lynn Ann Zimmerman
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
16th Tom & Maryjane Furrer
17th Tim & Marcia Splinter
20th Bill & Kathy Summy
31st Tony & Bev Lewis-Mercury

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.*

Geoffrey Chaucer, Poet, Spiritual Writer

October 25

Geoffrey Chaucer, born around 1340, spent most of his life in what we would now call the Civil Service. He served under three English kings (Edward III, Richard II, and Henry IV) and had the trust of all three. Under the first two, he was head of diplomatic missions sent to France, Flanders, Genoa, and Milan to negotiate confidential agreements with those powers. He also held other positions, such as Member of Parliament, Chief of Customs for most items at the Port of London, Keeper of the King's Works (a post which made him responsible for maintenance and upkeep on such buildings as Westminster Palace and the Tower of London), and Subforester of North Pemberton (an office given him in his later years, probably as a sinecure which gave him status and an income but required no work). He died 25 October 25, 1400, the model of a successful administrator, and was buried in Westminster Abbey, in those days an unusual honor for a commoner. His tomb was later moved and became the first burial in what is now known as Poets' Corner in the Abbey. But what everyone remembers about him is his writing. It is worth noting that he was recognized for it while he lived--he was accustomed to read his poems aloud to each of the Royal Couples and their court.

We are most familiar with *The Canterbury Tales*, a collection of stories supposedly told by a set of thirty pilgrims as they traveled to Canterbury Cathedral, to the shrine of Thomas Becket who had been martyred in 1170. It is agreed among them that, to pass the time as they ride along, each pilgrim will tell two stories on the way there and two on the way back. That makes 120 stories, but Chaucer had completed only 24 of them when he died. The framework of the book gives him a chance to give us descriptive portraits of the pilgrims, a varied and fascinating group. Our high school English Literature teachers may have noted that Chaucer takes it for granted, and expects his audience to do likewise, that a mendicant friar or member of certain other religious groups will, of course, be a fraud.

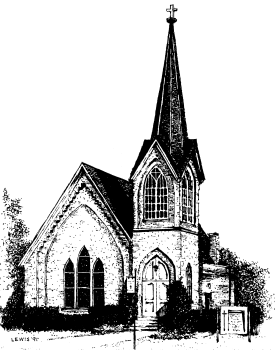
Most of the stories deal with the question of the proper attitude toward marriage, love, sex, and the connections between them. This is the time of Courtly Love. In Chaucer's day, the upper classes, at least, held that it was a man's highest privilege to select a lady and lay his heart at her feet, counting her smile an ample reward for years of faithful service. On the other hand, a wife was obliged to obey her husband, and this did not fit the pattern of the knight serving his lady, ready to risk his life to satisfy her slightest whim. Chaucer explores this problem through the stories told by his pilgrims. Some quick examples prove the point. The Miller's Tale is a light-hearted caper about a youth who has an affair with his landlord's wife. It is followed by the Reeve's Tale, with a superficially similar theme, but with themes of treachery and malice becoming explicit, as we are reminded that, quite aside from any religious prohibition, adultery has a way of turning out not to be just innocent fun-and-games. The Knight's Tale deals with two noble warriors, each prepared to fight to win the hand of his lady in marriage.

The other stories, or most of them, deal in other ways with the question, "What ought to be the relation between a man and a woman, or between husband and wife?" In one story, a knight sets out on a quest to learn what it is that women want most and arrives at the answer: "What they want most is to have their husbands show them as much consideration after marriage as before."

The book ends with the Parson's Tale, which is not a tale but a sermon on sin, and repentance, and confession, and forgiveness, and amendment of life. It is followed immediately by Chaucer's farewell remarks, in which he asks pardon for anything in his work that may have encouraged his readers to sin but asks to be remembered for anything that has pointed them toward virtue, holiness, and the love of God.

PRAYER:

O God, who have enlightened your church by the writings of your servant Geoffrey Chaucer: Enrich us evermore with your heavenly grace and raise up faithful witnesses who by their life and teaching will show to others the truth of your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now 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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Email: revcarol@graceravenna.org

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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