



The Grace Vine

August 2007

Rector's Writ

We enjoyed a perfect day for an outdoor Eucharist at Steve & Marsha Barna's farm on July 22nd. The J.A.M. youth sang and did a skit for the gospel story, which was Mary and Martha. The skit included young people scurrying about "distracted by many things," while another group sat in a prayer circle. When invited to join the prayer group, some were "too busy" because they had sports to attend, meals to cook, messes to clean up, and school reports to write. One finally joins the prayer group and after some time gets up refreshed. The moral paraphrased: 'You're right. I feel better. I still have a lot to do, but I feel better after spending some time with God in prayer.'

How ironic that the youth are teaching us about such lessons! It's the sort of thing that makes you wonder how we adults model making time for God and worship and service. By watching how we live our lives, do our children and youth get the message that it's not only important, but primary to make time for God... primary in keeping our hearts and minds centered through prayer and worship?

Many believe there's a bit of Mary and Martha in all of us. It may be that Jesus was showing us we would have to learn to discern: when we're being called to 'go and do likewise' (i.e. to show mercy as in the good Samaritan story) or to learn and listen as faithful disciples (from the Mary and Martha story).

Although Jesus said nothing about prayer in either of these stories, prayer and a spiritual approach to life are key. Douglas Steere was one of the few people in our time to combine the rigor of academics with a genuine spirituality. He taught philosophy at Haverford College, and was a member of the Society of Friends (Quakers). He seemed to understand the balance between the inner life (prayer and contemplation) and the outer life (deeds and actions). He wrote:

"[Prayer] is not a question of changing God's mind or of exercising some magical influence or spell over the life of another. Before we begin to pray, we may know that the love of the One who is actively concerned in awakening each life to its true center is already lapping at the shores of that life. We do not do it at all.

...During these active forms of work in the silence: in contrition...simplification and refreshment, in petition, and in intercession...if we were sensitive and listening, there come clear insights of things to be done. Often they come in that receptive silent waiting after we have opened our needs and where we do nothing but wait for direction. Again, they may come during the day and push their way in between events that seem to bear no connection with them. These insights are precious and to be heeded if we are to live in response to that which we feel in prayer. Mind the Light...come under holy obedience."

(excerpts from Prayer and Worship, Douglas V. Steere)



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, August 5		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	Pentecost 10
Officiating	The Rev. Carol S. Evans		1st Reading Hosea 11:1-11 8am Roberta O'Keefe 10am John Machisko Psalm 107:1-9, 43 2nd Reading Colossians 3:1-11 Kathy Summy Gospel Luke 12:13-21
Lay Reader	Judy Canan		
Greeters	Julie & Kay Canan		
Acolyte	Jenna Summy		
Altar Guild	Nancy Lundgren & Cindy Hoskins		
Coffee Hosts	8:00 Janice Lallathin 10:00 Nancy & Fred Lundgren		
Counters	Cory Conway & John McDoanld		
Loyalton	Maynard Evans		

Sunday, August 12		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	Pentecost 11
DEANERY PULPIT EXCHANGE			1st Reading Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 Steve Barna Psalm 50:1-8, 23-24 2nd Reading Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 Cathy Mansor Gospel Luke 12:32-40
Officiating	The Rev. Dr. Eric Funston		
Deacon	The Rev. William D. Snyder		
Lay Reader	Bette Brooks		
Greeters	John & Mary Jean McDonald		
Acolyte	Janell Moore		
Altar Guild	Nancy Lundgren & Cindy Hoskins		
Coffee Hosts	8:00 Pat Williams & Cindy Hoskins 10:00 Ron & Kelly Postlethwaite		
Counters	Cory Conway & John McDonald		

Sunday, August 19		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	Pentecost 12
Officiating	The Rev. Carol S. Evans		1st Reading Isaiah 5:1-7 8am Roberta O'Keefe 10am Bud Minnich Psalm 80:1-2, 8-18 2nd Reading Hebrews 11:29-12:2 Kelly Postlethwaite Gospel Luke 12:49-56
Lay Reader	Carolyn Englert		
Greeters	Nancy & Fred Lundgren		
Acolyte	Schyler Conway		
Coffee Hosts	8:00 Frank & Joan Seman 10:00 Kay & Judy Canan		
Altar Guild	Nancy Lundgren & Cindy Hoskins		
Counters	Cory Conway & John McDonald		
Loyalton	Bill Snyder		

PULPIT EXCHANGE AUGUST 12th

The **Rev. Dr. Eric Funston** from St. Paul's, Medina will be at Grace to preach and celebrate at both the 8 and 10 am services on August 12th. This is part of a deanery pulpit exchange we're doing to increase fellowship and unity. Please give Fr. Eric a warm welcome to Grace Church and share your hospitality with him!

Our **Rev. Carol Evans** will be preaching and celebrating at both services at Christ Church, Hudson on that day, while The **Rev. Brian Suntken**, Christ Church's rector, will do the same at St. Paul's, Medina. The **Rev. Albert Jennings** of St. Timothy's, Macedonia exchanged pulpits with The **Rev. Meghan Froelich** at Church of Our Saviour, Akron on July 22nd. The **Rev. Julie Blake Fisher**, rector of Christ Church, Kent, and The **Rev. Deborah Rankin** of St. John's, Cuyahoga Falls, will be working out an exchange. It's been several years since we've done this, and we hope it will be a good experience for both laity and clergy.



Did You Know?...



The surprise birthday party for **The Rev. Carol** was wonderful, and we really “pulled off” the surprise, thanks to **Maynard**. Thanks you to everyone who participated and gave gifts to make this event a wonderful occasion for Carol and we did have a great time. The “Menopause the Musical” skit, performed by members of the Sit and Stitch group (obviously they do more than sew) had everyone laughing in their seats. The food was wonderful and the cake was the even better. We had a full house and everyone enjoyed themselves. And it’s hard to believe our beloved priest is now 50 years old, but we won’t tell anyone that!!...

Thanks to **Nancy and Jim Ervin and Gary Bell** for planning and cooking at the annual Steak Fry held on June 30th. And thanks to the members of the hospitality committee: **Mary Jean McDonald, Irene Machisko, and Betty Capriola**. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal and the profit went to the new hymnals that are now on order. And let’s not forget to thank **Kathy Summy** for getting the fabulous steaks from her father, who just happens to be a butcher. It always pays to know someone...

Marsha and Bill Snyder took a week to vacation and headed north to Minnesota to visit with their son **Luke and his wife Alex**. Luke will be going back to the Balkans for his fifth tour of duty there...

Mary Jean and John McDonald are being visited by daughter **Amy** and her family all the way from San Francisco. Mary Jean is working with the granddaughters on sewing projects. What a great grandma!!...

Amanda Brooks took some time from her busy summer schedule to visit with mom **Bette** and it was great to see her in church...

Ken and Alice Boydell had a visit from his daughters **Janet and Ann** and granddaughter **Mary Catherine** and it was nice to see them in church...

Sonja (Ahrens) Sherwood and her family were here from Massachusetts visiting with **Bruce and Sue**...

Carolyn and Ken Englert went camping and, of course, we had our first nice rain in months - doesn’t that figure!!...

Roberta & Lloyd O’Keefe were in Maine, visiting with family for some of their vacation...

Bonnie and Blake Quay have been very busy with visiting children and grandchildren. Bonnie looked a little rough around the edges when last seen. They were there to celebrate Grandpa Blake’s 60th birthday...

The **Youth Group** has been having car washes on several Saturdays this summer. Their plan is to adopt a family for Christmas with the money they earn, so if you’ve missed the car washes, I’m sure they’ll be happy to accept any cash donation you can spare for this worthwhile cause...

We were saddened by the death of **Laura Price**, who died on July 2nd. Laura had brain surgery and cancer and came out of all that just fine and went to play bingo, which was one of her favorite things, and died of a heart attack; daughter **Jane**

Carlton said she did what she like to do. Our prayers are with her and her family...

Congratulations to **Stephanie Higgins and Stephen York** who had their nuptials here at Grace Church on July 7th. One of the happier members of the wedding party was Stephanie’s young son **Brandon**, he really likes Stephen and isn’t that a great way to start a new life together...

Nydah Ellet did it again -- she walked into her house and instead of the usual raccoons and/or stray cats in her house, she found a strange dog standing in middle of her kitchen floor. He was a friendly thing (thanks be to God) and he didn’t stay long, just enough to excite her cats and have something to eat and then he left. Just a friendly visit!...

Please keep **Bill Shorts Sr.**, in your prayers he broke his “good” hip. Our prayers are with you Bill and Phyllis...

And keep **Jack and Nydah Ellet**, in your prayers, Jack’s wife died on July 19th, after a long illness...

We are happy to report that **Pauline Wamsley** is out of the hospital and doing much better and that **Bernice McCauslin** is hoping to get out of the nursing home soon, and **Caroline Minnich** was also released from Robinson this week. Please keep all of them in your prayers...

Schyler, McKenna, and Jillian Conway had a lemonade stand (which isn’t an unusual summer activity) but what was unusual is that they gave all the money they earned to two-cents-a-meal. Now that’s wonderful!!...

Bill Lyle has moved back to Kent and it’s good to have him back in the neighborhood...

Mary and Larry Harper celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 21st., congratulations...

Summer J.A.M. was a huge success. Once again the **Barna’s** hosted this event and the youth enjoyed the overnight. The 10:00 AM Sunday Eucharist was also at the J.A.M. session and a covered dish lunch followed...

While everybody else was “JAM”ing, **Tim, Eric and Kevin Splinter** were off to Cub Scout Camp at Camp Stambaugh in Canfield for four days with the Garrettsville pack and about 100 other cub scouts. The weather was quite merciful and everybody came through healthy and happy, even the beautiful 6 foot black ratsnake that wanted to patrol the busiest foot traffic area in camp...

While all her boys were gone, **Marcia Splinter** hopped up to her parent’s house in Syracuse to crack the whip and get a few more closets full of pack-ratted stuff cleared out...

The **Christian Education department** was busy this month. J.A.M. took place Saturday & Sunday July 21 & 22 and then vacation Bible School from July 23 - 27th. Vacation Bible was great fun with lots of kids enjoying the week...

If you have any information for “Did You Know”, please give it to the church office or email it to Tim Splinter (webmaster@graceravenna.org)

On the Horizon

Saturday August 11th Fellowship & Game Night 6:30pm

Name your game and bring it. Maybe bring a snack. Have lots of fun! Let Marcia Splinter know if child care from the teenagers will help you.

Saturday August 18th Gospel Fest

Choirs from around the community will be getting together at the First Congregational Church to sing God's praises.

Saturday September 15th Balloon Affair

We'll be marching in the parade again. Lineup is at 8:30am. We'll be adding a table to sell craft items as well at the Hotdog Lunch. Contact Addrienne about the parade and Hotdog Lunch and Marcia Splinter about the Bake Sale and Craft Sale.

NEW PARISH T-SHIRTS

We will be placing an order for new Parish T-shirts. A sample will be around in the parish hall with an order form. This isn't a fundraiser, the price is straight cost and will be based on the quantity ordered.

Sunday September 23rd Ministry Fair

This is your chance to learn about ALL the different groups and activities both in parish and by the parish in the community. It will be after both Sunday services.

Sunday September 30th Choral Evensong at Trinity Cathedral

Marcia Splinter will organize carpooling for anyone interested.

Sunday November 15th Youth Spaghetti Dinner 4-6pm

**May 10th 2008
Flower Sale**

**May 17th 2008
Men's Garage Sale**

NOAH'S ARK DEANERY OUTREACH PROJECT

Our Western Reserve Deanery reps are hoping to generate interest in Noah's Ark, our Deanery Outreach Project. It's an opportunity for to do more with the combined efforts of several churches than we can with each church working solo. It's an outreach that cooperates with Millennium Development Goals. We're now in the process of raising funds to send animals (cows, chickens, pigs, etc.) to needy families through the Heifer Project. Our goal is to raise \$5,000 by December 30th, and we're almost halfway there already. We ask for your prayerful and financial support to the project. (Any contributions please memo "Noah's Ark Outreach.") THANK YOU.

Safer Futures Event

at the Port House Theatre at Blossom Music Center

Saturday August 11th

Wine and Hors d'Oeuvres at 6:30, Silent Auction

"Sweet Charity" show at 8pm

Call 330.673.2500 or 330.296.2100 and ask for Janet

Safer Futures can also use your donations: towels, silverware, umbrellas, lotion, pull-ups, baking pans, shampoo, conditioner...

Donate at 143 Gouglar Ave in Kent or call the above phone numbers

We Say Thank You

To Our Grace Church Family:

Thank you so much for the wonderful birthday party and gathering on June 22nd. You all did many things that were thoughtful and fun. The meal and cake were enjoyable (as always); the “live entertainment” was a hoot (little did we know we had such talent!); the cards were lovely and fun (everything from religious to racy.); and the gifts—including wine, an apple pie, books, a very generous check and a two night stay away—were all much appreciated. The assorted pictures are a treasure of both past highlights and a memorable evening with our Church family. What a lot of planning and work went into all this! Many, many thanks to all of you and especially to Marsha Snyder and Mary Jean McDonald, who had apparently been chief planners for quite some time. Thanks also to Maynard...it’s a joy to share life, laughter, and getting older with my beloved. Our Grace Church family continues to be a blessing to us both. I appreciate each one of you and give thanks to God for your friendship, thoughtfulness, good humor, and generosity. I’ll remember this 50th birthday party and the dear friends who made it so special.

With much love,

Carol

Please let these people know we appreciate their willingness to share their time, God given gifts, and (let’s be honest) outright labor for the good of the Church & fellowship:

- **Steve & Marsha Barna** for hosting JAM & an outdoor Sunday Eucharist at their farm, to **Addrienne Conway, Denise Crouse, Chrissie Stickle, & Kathy Summy**, who staffed the JAM weekend (July 21st & 22nd), to **Joshua, Phillip, and Andy** for help unloading, all who brought hot dogs, covered dishes, & desserts to share at the Outdoor JAM Eucharist, to **Cory Conway** for grilling; to **Nancy Lundgren** for bringing bread and preparing the altar for an outdoor service, to **Fred & Nancy** for ‘counting’ that day
- **Mike Johnson** for weeding around the Church and rectory (looks much better!)
- **George Furrer** for mowing the grass all season and for replacing plants alongside the Church sidewalk
- **Cory & Addrienne Conway** and **John McDonald** for putting new mulch around the Church and rectory
- **John McDonald** for replacing the wiring on the parking lot light after the roof repair
- **Marsha Snyder & Nydah Ellet** for the hot dog & melon lunch at coffee hour July 8th
- **Fred Lundgren** for giving a full Saturday (plus prep time) to oversee the audit
- Chefs **Jim Ervin & Gary Bell, Nancy Ervin, Betty Capriola, & Goldie Shriver** for their help with a great Steak Fry
- **Tim & Marcia Splinter & Marsha Snyder** for putting together the Grace Vine
- **Addrienne & Cory Conway, Julie Canan, Denise, Joshua, & Phillip Crouse, Chrissie & Nikki Stickle, Marsha Snyder, Kathy & Emily Summy, and Stephanie York** for all their help with Avalanche Ranch Vacation Bible School.
- **Dennis and Sally Dier** for donating an electric Weedwacker.
- **Tim Splinter** for keeping the computers updated.