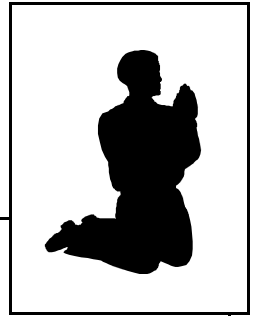




The Grace Vine

December 2005



Rector's Writ

We all make plans and spend money and have our ideas of how we want the holidays to be. Whether that image is one of Courier & Ives or Norman Rockwell or Thomas Kinkaid, the difference between expectations and the reality of what we experience sometimes reveals a gap. The parties are fun, but temporary. The gifts we give and receive are nice, but not as fulfilling as simply being with family and friends...and quietly recognizing in the midst of it all that God's love is the source of our celebration and joy.

What would happen to the way we experience the holidays if we were to focus on meeting God, rather than attempts to meet our expectations? How might the world change if we were to spend as much time in Church as we do shopping in December? Maybe the Church should offer holiday specials and "extended hours" just so people could come in and pray and meditate upon God's love for humanity in the birth and life of Jesus Christ. One of the wonderful things about the grace, mercy, and love that God offers is there's never a time when it's NOT available. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are with us; holidays and every day. Whenever we're willing to give time to pray and be in his presence, God listens.

I invite you to take some time to be in God's presence--even if it's brief--in the midst of this busy holiday season. We'll have an Advent Quiet Day on Saturday, December 3rd, beginning at 9am and ending with the Eucharist at 11:30am. You're welcome to join us for any or all of this time. You can pray, read, knit, sew, or just drink coffee and listen. Quiet time in the Church is one of many ways to respond to our Lord's invitation and gifts. It's a time to "prepare the way" and give thanks for the love, peace, and hope God has given us in Christ Jesus.

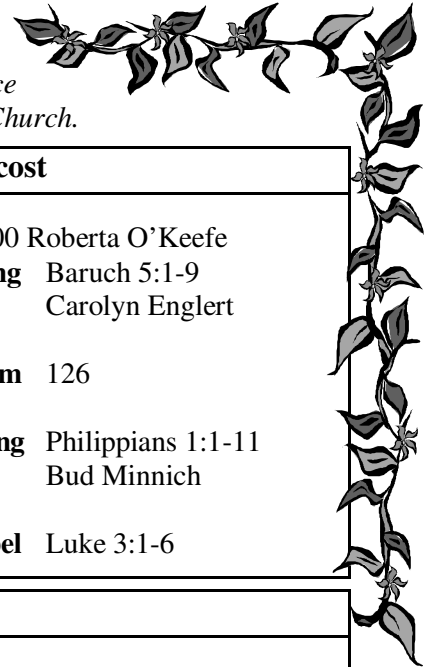
"O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen."
(BCP, p. 214)

God's blessings of love, peace, and joy
be with you and those you love.



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.



Sun. December 4—8:00am & 10:00am Holy Eucharist—2 Advent Pentecost

Officiant: The Rev. Carol S. Evans Deacon: The Rev. William Snyder Lay Reader: Judy Canan Greeters: Betty Capriola & Bud Minnich Acolytes: Emily Summy Shepherd: 8:00 George Furrer 10:00 Leslie Thomas Altar Guild: N. Ervin, N. Lundgren, and G. Shriver Coffee Hosts: 8:00 Lauren Strainer 10:00 Jim & Nancy Ervin Counters: Tim Splinter & Kathy Summy Loyalton: Maynard Evans	8:00 Roberta O'Keefe 1st Reading Baruch 5:1-9 Carolyn Englert Psalm 126 2nd Reading Philippians 1:1-11 Bud Minnich Gospel Luke 3:1-6
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Sun. December 11—8:00am & 10:00am Holy Eucharist—3 Advent

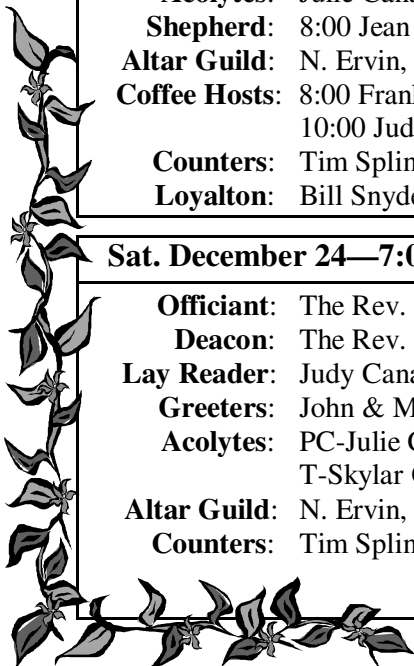
Officiant: The Rev Carol S. Evans Deacon: The Rev. William Snyder Lay Reader: Bette Brooks Greeters: Nancy & Jim Ervin Acolytes: Cory Postlethwaite Shepherd: 8:00 Roberta O'Keefe 10:00 Leslie Thomas Altar Guild: N. Ervin, N. Lundgren, & G. Shriver Coffee Hosts: 8:00 Janice Lallalthin 10:00 Nancy & Fred Lundgren Counters: Tim Splinter & Kathy Summy Loyalton: Judy Canan	8:00 Melissa Strainer 1st Reading Isaiah 65:17-25 Paige Thomas Canticle 15 2nd Reading I Thessalonians 5:12-28 Steve Barna Gospel John 3:23-30
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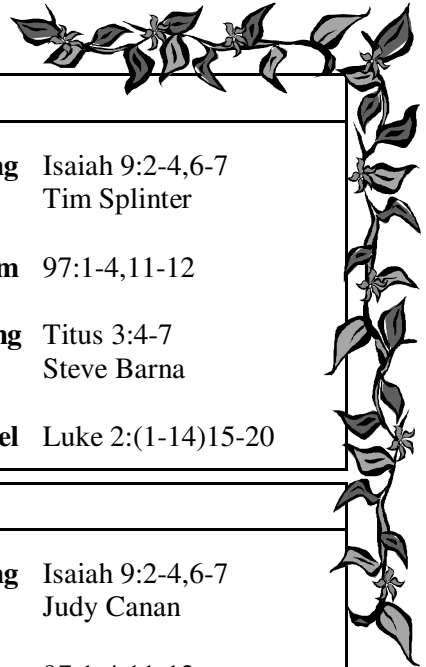
Sun. December 18—8:00am & 10:00am Holy Eucharist—4 Pentecost—Hanging of the Green

Officiant: The Rev. Carol S. Evans Deacon: The Rev. James Wichman Lay Reader: Carolyn Englert Greeters: Betty Russell & Sandee West Acolytes: Julie Canan Shepherd: 8:00 Jean Mercer 10:00 Bill Snyder Altar Guild: N. Ervin, N. Lundgren, G. Shriver Coffee Hosts: 8:00 Frank & Joan Seman 10:00 Judy & Kay Canan Counters: Tim Splinter & Kathy Summy Loyalton: Bill Snyder	8:00 Roberta O'Keefe 1st Reading 2 Samuel 7:4,8-16 Blake Quay Psalm 132:8-15 2nd Reading Romans 16:25-27 Tim Splinter Gospel Luke 1:26-38
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Sat. December 24—7:00PM Holy Eucharist —Family Service & Children's Pageant

Officiant: The Rev. Carol S. Evans Deacon: The Rev. James Wichman Lay Reader: Judy Canan Greeters: John & Mary Jean McDonald Acolytes: PC-Julie Canan, CC-Emily Summy, T-Skylar Conway & Jenna Summy Altar Guild: N. Ervin, N. Lundgren, & G. Shriver Counters: Tim Splinter & Kathy Summy	1st Reading Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7 Kelly Postletheaite Psalm 97:1-4,11-12 2nd Reading Titus 3:4-7 Kathy Summy Gospel Luke 2:(1-14)15-20
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Sat. December 24 (10:30 p.m. – Carols) – 11:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

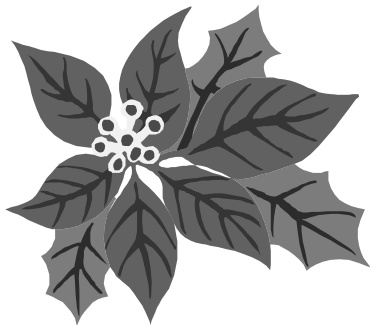
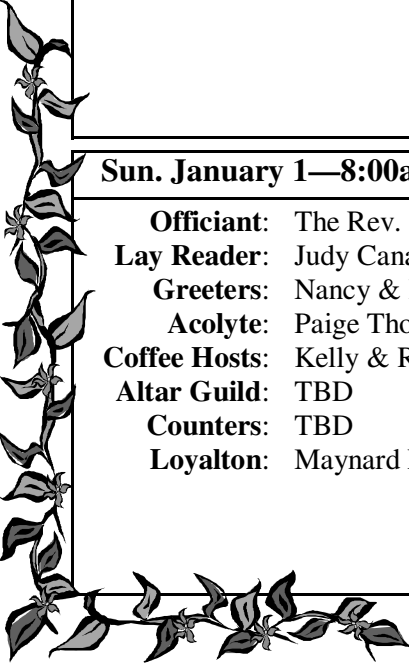
Officiant: The Rev. Carol S. Evans Deacon: The Rev. William Snyder Lay Reader: Bette Brooks Greeters: Bud Minnich & John Machisko Acolytes: PC-Paige Thomas, CC-Katie Ahrens, Th-Eli Stover T-Cory Postlethwaite and Chelsea Postlethwaite. Altar Guild: N. Ervin, N. Lundgren, & G. Shriver Counters: Tim Splinter & Kathy Summy :	1st Reading Isaiah 9:2-4,6-7 Tim Splinter Psalm 97:1-4,11-12 2nd Reading Titus 3:4-7 Steve Barna Gospel Luke 2:(1-14)15-20
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Sun. December 25—9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Christmas Day

Officiant: The Rev. Carol S. Evans Lay Reader: Maynard Evans Altar Guild: N. Ervin, N. Lundgren, & G. Shriver Counters: Tim Splinter & Kathy Summy Loyalton:	1st Reading Isaiah 9:2-4,6-7 Judy Canan Psalm 97:1-4,11-12 2nd Reading Titus 3:4-7 Maynard Evans Gospel Luke 2:(1-14)15-20
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Sun. January 1—8:00am & 10:00am Morning Prayer—Holy Name Sunday

Officiant: The Rev. William Snyder Lay Reader: Judy Canan Greeters: Nancy & Fred Lundren Acolyte: Paige Thomas Coffee Hosts: Kelly & Ron Postlethwaite Altar Guild: TBD Counters: TBD Loyalton: Maynard Evans	Roberta O’Keefe 1st Reading Exodus 34:1-8 Dennis Dier Psalm 8 2nd Reading Romans 1:1-7 Steve Barna Gospel Luke 2:15-21
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Christmas Flowers

Contributions for Poinsettias may be given using this form.
The suggested Contribution is \$15.

Here is my contribution for ____ (#) Poinsettias.

- In memory of... In thanksgiving for... Given by...



Did You Know?...



Mary Jean and John McDonald celebrated their anniversary by getting their flu shots and having a cookie. What will they do next year??? ...

Addrienne Conway got tired of making jelly from the grapes she grows --- so wine was the next best thing. As she siphoned the wine into the bottles, she was beginning to feel the results of all that wine just as the phone rang. It was daughter **Schyler** asking her to bring her notebook to school that she'd forgotten. Addrienne walked to the school, she didn't want to take a chance driving her car. Smart girl!! ...

Richard Kunig, son-in-law of **Richard Thacker**, has finally become a doctor after 10 long years of hard work. He will be opening his practice at Robinson Memorial on December 1st...

Many thanks goes to **George Furrer** who has faithfully taken care of the grass at the church and the rectory...

Congratulations to **Judy Canan** who is now the new provost of the Deanery of the Western Reserve...

Katie Ahrens made the basketball team at her Crestwood school...

We now have a new acolyte, and let us all welcome **Eli Stover** as he serves God's altar...

Paige Thomas was so excited to announce that she got her driver's license. Congratulations Paige!! Look out Ravenna!! (just kidding)...

Ken Boydell returned from a trip to Milwaukee to visit with his daughter Ann and her family...

We heard from our "snow birds" and **Judy Watkins** reports that **Roger** is doing fine and asked us to say "hello" to everyone...

Phyllis Shorts says **Bill** is doing much better and isn't using his walker any longer. Prayers are still with the all of you...

Stephanie and Brandon Higgins successfully moved to Wisconsin and Brandon is enjoying school...

Marsha and Bill Snyder will be going to Minnesota for Thanksgiving to visit with **Luke and Alex**...

June and Charlie Marks have moved to Akron for the winter. June admits that doesn't sound quite right -- but the

farm is getting to be too much for them and being closer to their family and a garage door opener is making life a bit easier for them...

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the Fall Festival. It was wonderful with a lot of crafts, food and music. Music was every where in the church. **Dennis Dier** got the chimes playing CD's and **Elvis** was even singing some of his spirituals along with other favorites. In the church the music the choir will be singing at the Choral Evensong was played. Many thanks to **Jan Ebert**, a friend of **Nydah Ellet**, for playing the keyboard for us in the parish hall, we enjoyed all the music during the festival. The "fun"draising committee has a lot to be proud of, they really pulled this together. We especially want to thank the members of that committee: **Pat Williams, Addrienne Conway, Sue Ahrens, Roberta O'Keefe and Kelly Postlethwaite. Midge Myers, Cindy Hoskins, and Mechele Novak** manned "The Grace Café" where pies, cookies and coffee and tea were served. Thanks to all those who baked. Some of the other members of the church who took part at craft tables were: **Sonja Sherwood, Bonnie Quay**, with her daughter and sister and a friend, **Carolyn Englert, Marcia Splinter, Nydah Ellet, Jan Ebert, Chris Stickle, and Addrienne Conway. Addrienne's girlsclub troop** did their service project sending cookies to the soldiers in Iraq. **Marsha Snyder** and **Maynard Evans** gave tours of the church and Gracie's was opened. So there was lots of things going on for everyone. Thanks to everyone who came and supported this effort...

The choir and director **Mary Ann Switz** worked very hard for months to present to you a Choral Evensong, I hope you all enjoyed it as much as they enjoyed presenting it to you!!...

Bette Brooks' graduation ceremony at KSU MAC Center will take place at 1:00 AM on December 17th. Congratulations Bette...

Check it out -- our babies are walking, **Gracie Postlethwaite and Kirsten Seman** are looking really cute enjoying their new found freedom. And you can see moms and family members moving quickly as the little ones take off.

Advent means Awakening

Advent is a time for rousing. Human beings are shaken to the very depths, so that they may wake up to the truth of themselves. The primary condition for a fruitful and rewarding advent is renunciation, surrender...a shattering awakening; that is necessary preliminary. Life only begins when the whole framework is shaken.

-Alfred Delp

On the Horizon

Saturday Dec. 3rd 9:00 am Advent Quiet Day

Take a pause for some quiet reflection to begin Advent. The day will begin at 9am with meditation being read each hour. We will end with Eucharist at 11:30 and depart quietly.

Saturday Dec. 10th 6:00 pm ECW Christmas Party

All women of Grace Church are invited to attend our annual Episcopal Church Women's Christmas Party. The party will be at Marcia and Tim Splinter's house in Garrettsville. Please bring an unwrapped gift for a child. The gifts will be taken to the Center of Hope and given to needy children.

Sunday Dec. 11th 8:00 and 10:00 Services Rev. Alan James

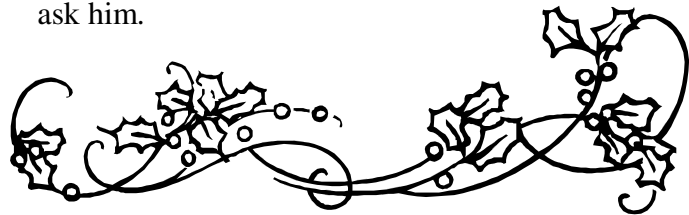
The Rev. Alan James, Diocesan Executive Officer, will be at Grace Church to preach at both services on December 11th. The Vestry and rector wanted to make his time here open to the entire parish, so we're planning a reception following the 10am service. At the reception Father James will be available to answer questions parishioners may have as well as to share information on how the diocese is doing. Please welcome Fr. James, plan to attend, and be thinking of things you want to ask him.

Sunday Dec. 18th Greening of the Church After 10:00 Service

Our traditional decorating of the Church in preparation for Christmas Eve. The work will be followed by a Chili and Hotdog Lunch.

Saturday Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Services

7pm Family Service with Children's Pageant
10:30 pm Christmas Carols and Hymn Sing
11:00 Festive Holy Eucharist



Birthdays

2nd Nydah Ellet
7th Roberta O'Keefe
11th Kay Canan
12th Caroline Minnich
14th Karli Lash
16th Shirley Johnson
20th Stephanie Higgins
21st Wilbur Minnich
Steve Barna



Congratulations!

and many happy returns...



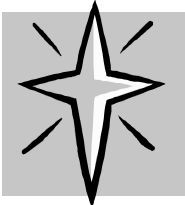
Anniversaries

17th Bruce & Sue Ahrens
22nd Jim & Amy Neely
27th Rev. Lloyd & Roberta O'Keefe
28th Blake & Bonnie Quay

Baptisms

3rd Rev. Carol Evans
13th Mike Johnson
22nd Michael Canan
23rd Mechele Novak
Ricky Sanek
24th Leslie Thomas



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 •Advent Quiet Day 9-11:30 am Eucharist
4 2 Advent •8am HE •9am Coffee •8:45 Choir •9:45 Ch. Ed. •10am HE •11:15 Coffee	5	6 •2-4pm Sit & Sew	7 Advent Clergy Retreat at Cedar Hills	8 Advent Clergy Retreat at Cedar Hills	9	10 •6pm ECW Christmas Party at Marcia Splinter's
11 3 Advent •8am HE •9am Coffee •8:45 Choir •9:45 Ch. Ed. •10am HE •11:15 Coffee	12	13	14 •6pm Healing Service with Eucharist	15	16 •10-2 County Clothing Center	17
18 4 Advent •8am HE •9am Coffee •8:45 Choir •9:45 Ch. Ed. •10am HE •11:15 Coffee	19	20 •2-4pm Sit & Sew	21	22	23	24 •Christmas Eve 7pm Family Service with Pageant 10:30pm Hymns 11pm Eucharist
25 Christmas Day •9am HE	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 