



# The Grace Vine

December 2006

## *Rector's Reflections*

As our Church calendar begins a new year with Advent, we're called to watchfulness, waiting, and preparation. "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." (Isaiah. 40:3) At one level we know that preparation must include some spiritual nurturing and a time for listening and quiet reflection. The reason for such preparation is remembering and celebrating the birth of Christ. Yet the secular focus of Christmas is more than a subtle contrast to the paths we're to explore during Advent.

Watch, wait, and prepare has become more of a focus on shopping, bargains, and the constant lure of retailers to buy early. We're already hearing news of people waiting in lines to buy the latest Elmo doll or IPODs or whatever items are in big demand and short supply. It's more difficult to practice patience and preparing our hearts for God when retailers don't even wait until Halloween is over to bring on the Christmas items. The spiritual and worldly are in stark contrast. The Advent season of quiet preparation has to compete with a flurry of activity where we shop, make merry, make cookies, and wear ourselves out in the process. And the Church holds a quiet day in December of all times! 'WHO has time to be quiet?!' Listening and preparing are work, but...worthwhile work.

Our Church celebrates Christmas with a sense of joy and hopefulness; with children sharing in the wonder of the Christmas story; with music and singing; with fellowship and Communion gathering us close to God and one another.

The pace and priorities of our secular world are transformed as we remember the humble birth of a promised Savior and Prince of Peace. May God draw us near as we embrace the promises and hope of that holy night; as we receive and rejoice in his love, joy, and peace. Please invite or bring to Church on Christmas Eve anyone you know who needs such gifts.

***Celebrate and share the gifts of God's love, peace, and joy.***

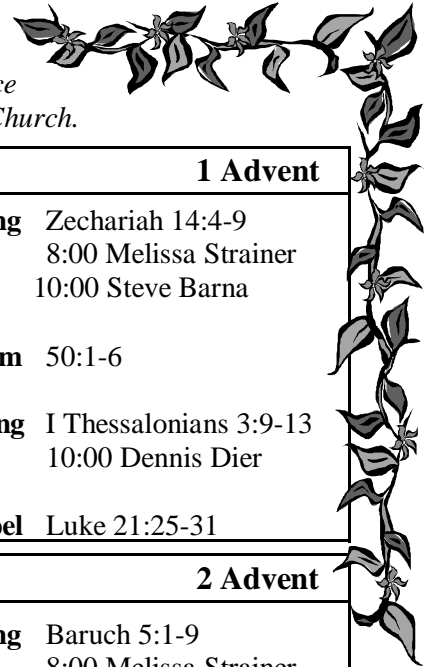
*"How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven."  
... We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!"*

(From *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, Phillips Brooks)



# 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.*

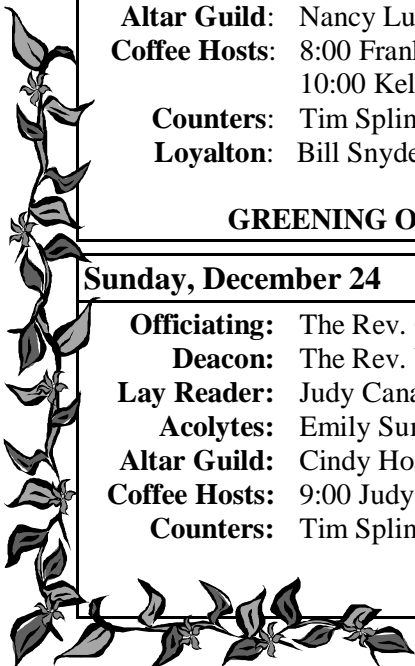


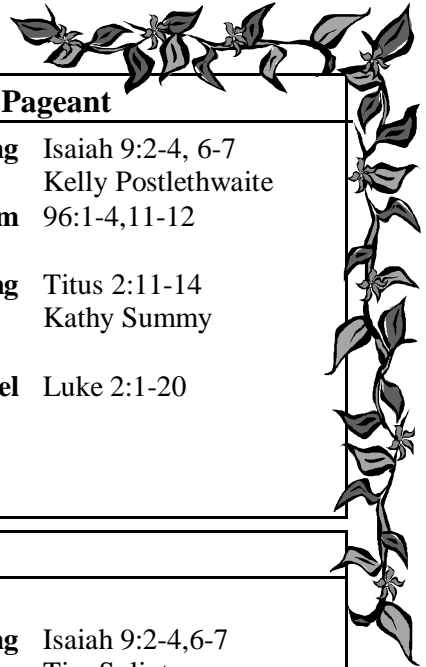
Sunday, December 3	8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	1 Advent
<b>Officiant:</b> The Rev. Carol S. Evans <b>Lay Reader:</b> Carolyn Englert <b>Greeters:</b> Fred & Nancy Lundgren <b>Acolyte:</b> Paige Thomas <b>Altar Guild:</b> Nancy Lundgren, Shirley Johnson & Nancy Ervin <b>Coffee Hosts:</b> 8:00 Pat Williams & Cindy Hoskins 10:00 Jim & Nancy Ervin <b>Counters:</b> Tim Splinter & Kathy Summy <b>Loyalton:</b> Maynard Evans	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b> Zechariah 14:4-9 8:00 Melissa Strainer 10:00 Steve Barna  <b>Psalm</b> 50:1-6  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b> I Thessalonians 3:9-13 10:00 Dennis Dier  <b>Gospel</b> Luke 21:25-31	

Sunday, December 10	8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	2 Advent
<b>Officiating:</b> The Rev. Carol S. Evans <b>Deacon:</b> The Rev. William D. Snyder <b>Lay Reader:</b> Bette Brooks <b>Greeters:</b> Jim & Nancy Ervin <b>Acolytes:</b> Jeanell Moore & Chelsea Postlethwaite <b>Altar Guild:</b> Nancy Lundgren, Shirley Johnson & Nancy Ervin <b>Coffee Hosts:</b> 8:00 The Golec Girls 10:00 John & Mary Jean McDonald <b>Counters:</b> Tim Splinter & Kathy Summy	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b> Baruch 5:1-9 8:00 Melissa Strainer 10:00 Paige Thomas  <b>Psalm</b> 126  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b> Philippians 1:1-11 10:00 John Machisko  <b>Gospel</b> Luke 3:1-6	

Sunday, December 17	8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	3 Advent
<b>Officiating:</b> The Rev. Carol S. Evans <b>Lay Reader:</b> Judy Canan <b>Greeters:</b> Betty Capriola & Bud Minnich <b>Acolytes:</b> Julie Canan & Eric Splinter <b>Altar Guild:</b> Nancy Lundgren, Shirley Johnson & Nancy Ervin <b>Coffee Hosts:</b> 8:00 Frank & Joan Seman 10:00 Kelly & Ron Postlethwaite <b>Counters:</b> Tim Splinter & Kathy Summy <b>Loyalton:</b> Bill Snyder  <b>GREENING OF THE CHURCH</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b> Zephaniah 3:14-20 8:00 Roberta O'Keefe 10:00 Blake Quay  <b>Psalm</b> 85:7-13  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b> Philippians 4:4-9 10:00 Carolyn Englert  <b>Gospel</b> Luke 3:7-18	

Sunday, December 24	9:00 AM Holy Eucharist	4 Advent
<b>Officiating:</b> The Rev. Carol S. Evans <b>Deacon:</b> The Rev. William D. Snyder <b>Lay Reader:</b> Judy Canan <b>Acolytes:</b> Emily Summy & Schylar Conway <b>Altar Guild:</b> Cindy Hoskins & Amy Neely <b>Coffee Hosts:</b> 9:00 Judy Canan & Kay Canan <b>Counters:</b> Tim Splinter & Kathy Summy	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b> Daniel 7:9-14 9:00 Melissa Strainer  <b>Psalm</b> 93  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b> Revelation 1:1-8 9:00 Judy Canan  <b>Gospel</b> John 18:33-37	



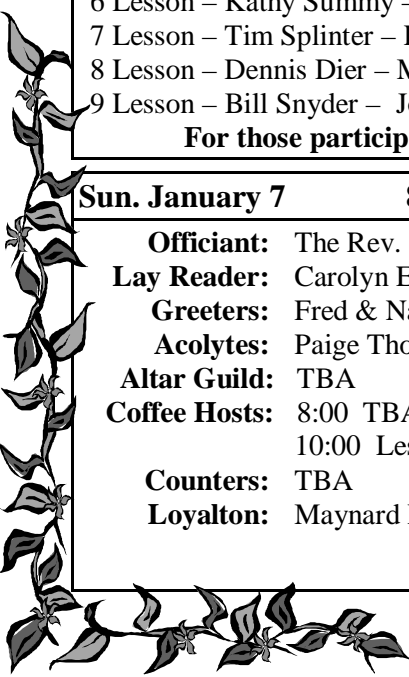


<b>Sunday, December 24</b>		<b>4:00 PM Family Service with Children's Pageant</b>	
<b>Officiating:</b> The Rev. Carols S. Evans		<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b> Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7	Kelly Postlethwaite
<b>Lay Reader:</b> Maynard Evans		<b>Psalm</b> 96:1-4,11-12	
<b>Greeters:</b> Chelsea Postlethwaite & Jeanell Moore		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b> Titus 2:11-14	Kathy Summy
<b>Acolytes:</b> CC-Julie Canan		<b>Gospel</b> Luke 2:1-20	
PC – Emily Summy			
1T– Eric Splinter & Samantha Stickle			
2T – Schyler Conway & Jenna Summy			
<b>Altar Guild:</b> Nancy Lundgren, Shirley Johnson & Nancy Ervin			
<b>Counters:</b> Tim Splinter & Kathy Summy			
<b>CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE</b>			

<b>Sun. December 24</b>		<b>10:30 PM HOLY EUCHARIST</b>	
<b>Officiating:</b> The Rev. Carol S. Evans		<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b> Isaiah 9:2-4,6-7	Tim Splinter
<b>Deacon:</b> The Rev. William Snyder		<b>Psalm</b> 96:1-4, 11-12	
<b>Lay Reader:</b> Bette Brooks		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b> Titus 2:11-14	Carolyn Englert
<b>Greeters:</b> John & Irene Machisko		<b>Gospel</b> Luke 2:1-20	
<b>Acolytes:</b> CC-Paige Thomas PC-Chelsea Postlethwaite			
T-Janell Moore & Jesse Moore			
<b>Altar Guild:</b> Nancy Lundgren, Shirley Johnson & Nancy Ervin			
<b>Counters:</b> Tim Splinter & Kathy Summy			
<b>10:30 – Carols sung by congregation &amp; choir</b>			
<b>11:00 – Choral Holy Eucharist</b>			

<b>Sun. December 31</b>		<b>10:00 AM ONLY – LESSONS &amp; CAROLS</b>	
<b>Readers:</b>		<b>Greeters:</b> Mary Jean & John McDonald	
1 Lesson – Emily Summy - Genesis 3		<b>Coffee Hosts:</b> Judy & Kay Canan	
2 Lesson – Bud Minnich – Genesis 22		<b>Acolyte:</b> Jenna Summy	
3 Lesson – Carolyn Englert – Isaiah 4			
4 Lesson – John Machisko – Isaiah 11			
5 Lesson – Kelly Postlethwaite – Luke 1			
6 Lesson – Kathy Summy – Luke 2			
7 Lesson – Tim Splinter – Luke 2			
8 Lesson – Dennis Dier – Matthew 2			
9 Lesson – Bill Snyder – John 1			
<b>For those participating in Lessons &amp; Carols, Judy Canan has large print copies available.</b>			

<b>Sun. January 7</b>		<b>8:00 AM &amp; 10:00 AM – HOLY EUCHARIST</b>		<b>1 CHRISTMAS</b>
<b>Officiant:</b> The Rev. Carol S. Evans		<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b> Isaiah 61:10—62:3	8:00 Melissa Strainer	
<b>Lay Reader:</b> Carolyn Englert			10:00 Paige Thomas	
<b>Greeters:</b> Fred & Nancy Lundgren		<b>Psalm</b> 147:13-21		
<b>Acolytes:</b> Paige Thomas & Jesse Moore		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b> Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7	10:00 Blake Quay	
<b>Altar Guild:</b> TBA		<b>Gospel</b> John 1:1-18		
<b>Coffee Hosts:</b> 8:00 TBA				
10:00 Leslie & Paige Thomas				
<b>Counters:</b> TBA				
<b>Loyalton:</b> Maynard Evans				





# Did You Know?...



We have a new addition to our church family. **Amy Seman** gave birth to **Aundrea Michelle Seman** of October 25th. She weighed in at seven pounds 13 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long. Amy brought her to the Fall Festival and she's beautiful with lots of dark hair. She was baptized here at the 8:00 AM service on November 26. Welcome Aundrea...

**Mike and Shirley Johnson** have a five year old granddaughter named **Elizabeth** (after the queen of course) who is quite an accomplished song writer and singer. Of course she gets her talent from her mother, **Susan**, who also sings and writes songs of faith and also performs all over the United States. Elizabeth has now been recorded on her own CD; it's wonderful. Shirley spent some time in Florida with Susan and Elizabeth while Susan attended to business...

Our sympathies go to **Elizabeth Webb and the Lundgren family** upon the death of **Barbara Lundgren**. Barbara died on October 24th and she was a life long member here at Grace and will be missed...

The faithful members of the Adult Bible Study completed their study on the Book of Ruth. Thanks to **Carolyn Englert** who facilitated this study group and to **Cory & Addrienne Conway, Bev Lewis-Mercury, Judy Canan, Bonnie and Blake Quay, Marsha and Bill Snyder, Rev. Carol** who participated. And we can't forget to thank **Goldie Shriver** for providing child care. Another class will begin after the first of the year...

**Caroline (Brooks) Shaver** is in Europe working and at the same time her sister **Beverly** is studying in Rome so the girls will be meeting in Rome to celebrate Thanksgiving. Do you suppose they'll have turkey???

**Fred and Chris Ahrens** are expecting a child in March. Fred's girls are excited about the new baby and we wish them all happiness...

**Nancy & Fred Lundgren** are going to have a very full house for Thanksgiving, about 19 people in all have decided

that Stow is the place to be this Thanksgiving. **Marsha and Bill Snyder** are headed for Minnesota to be with **Luke and Alex** and they are praying for good traveling weather. **Marcia, Tim, Eric & Kevin Splinter** are headed to New York to be with Marcia's family. And **Nydah Ellet** will be spending the holiday with her daughter ...

The Fall Festival was a real hit, thanks to all the hard work of the Fun-raising committee. Gracie's Café did very well selling soup and baked goods. And the soups were delicious, just ask **Bill Snyder** who sampled every one of them. Thanks to everyone who made items for the sale and who worked at the event...

We enjoyed having **The Rev. Kip Colegrove** preaching with us on November 5th while Carol was on vacation. Kip's wife is the new rector of Christ Church, Kent...

**Judy & Roger Watkins** and **Bill & Phyllis Shorts** are back in Florida after a long summer here in Ravenna...

**Addrienne Conway** took **Julie Canan, Nikki Stickle, and Emily Summy** to the Youth Conference at St. John's, Youngstown. They had a wonderful time. Nikkie worked at United Way stuffing envelopes, Addrienne worked at the Second Harvest Food Bank packing food to be sent to the food banks in Mahoning County, Emily cleaned toys at the Ronald McDonald House and Julie went home sick. Hope you're feeling better, Julie...

**Eric & Kevin Splinter**, along Den Leader **Tim Splinter** and 15 other Cub Scouts from Garrettsville's Pack 62, manned a Food Donation table at the Giant Eagle in Garrettsville to support Scouting for Food on Saturday the 11th. They collected enough food to fill a pantry closet at the Baptist Church in Garrettsville, the Pack's sponsor organization...

**Barbara Popiel** is very proud of her daughter **Jamie** who has been on the Dean's List and works and keeps her own apartment.

From Saturday Loaves and Fishes  
@ First Methodist Church

Dear Friends and SLF Helpers,

Please come—Please help—Let's make Jesus known this Christmas season. SLF is planning a Christmas meal and party on Dec. 23rd for all of our guests and helpers. We will have a holiday meal, games and Christmas Caroling.

Can you help us provide a small gift to each guest on that day? We are suggesting any of the following: \$5 gift cards (CVS, Giant Eagle, Walmart...), Coupons Books for fast food (McD's, BK, Arby's...), Socks, Gloves, Hats, Scarves, Throw blankets, Stamps and note cards, Candy, Special Coffees, Teas, Cocoa, Puzzle books or card decks, Lotions, toothpaste

and brushes, other toiletries...

Most of our guests are adults, but we have a few children and teens. You may also include Bibles, New Testaments, or Christmas Tracts. Please do not wrap the gifts.

Attendance each Sat. has been 50-70 guests, but we anticipate a larger group that day. Can you help provide for 5 to 10 or more of our guests?

You may drop off contributions at the First Methodist Church office weekdays (make sure it's marked for SLF) or at Saturday meals from 10-noon. Please have contributions in by Dec. 9th.

Blessings,  
Margaret Tussing for  
Saturday Loaves and Fishes

# On the Horizon

## **Saturday Dec. 2nd Garrettsville Craft Show Noon—4pm**

We will be participating in Garrettsville's Craft Show to sell more of the donated items from our own Fall Festival. Volunteers are needed to load up cars with tables, chairs and the remaining.

## **Saturday Dec. 2nd Youth Babysitting 10am—3pm**

The older youth will babysit at church from 10am to 3pm so parents can Christmas shop...or whatever... Please contact Kelly Postlethwaite if you are interested in this service.

## **Sunday Dec. 3rd & 10th Parable of Talents after services**

Once again the ECW will have a parable of talents after each Sunday service. If you have any hand crafted items of baked goods you would like to contribute, please see Marsha Snyder or Mary Jean McDonald.

## **Sunday Dec. 3rd OR 10th Christmas Caroling at Nursing Homes**

The Choir will again be going caroling at area nursing homes. The entire parish is welcome to join us. If you are interested, contact any Choir member or Mary Ann.

## **Saturday Dec. 9th Advent Quiet Day 9am—noon**

Take a pause for some quiet reflection in the middle of Advent. Program starts at 9am with a meditation read each hour. We'll end with Eucharist at 11:30 and leave quietly. Bagels, coffee and snacks will be offered.

## **Tuesday Dec. 12th Fun-draising / Parish Life Meeting 7pm**

The committee will meet to review 2006 and to start ideas and scheduling for 2007. Anyone with ideas is welcome.

## **Saturday Dec. 16th ECW Christmas Party 4pm**

This year's ECW party will be at Mary Jean and John McDonald's home. Please look for signup in the parish hall. Bring an unwrapped to for the Center of Hope and a snack to share.

## **Sunday Dec. 17th Greening of the Church and lunch**

We will green the church after the 10am service. Please join us for our holiday tradition and bring a covered dish for the luncheon after.

## **Sunday Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Services**

For this most awkward of Christmas Eve's we will have the following services:

9am 4th Sunday of Advent Service  
4pm Family Christmas Eve Service with Children's Pageant  
10:30pm Music and Caroling  
11pm Christmas Eve Service

### **Birthdays**

2nd Nydah Ellet  
7th Roberta O'Keefe  
11th Kay Canan  
12th Caroline Minnich  
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  
Betsy Russell



# *Christmas Flowers*

Contribution for Christmas Poinsettias  
Suggested Contribution is \$15 each and must be received by December 17th.  
Please return this form to the office ASAP.

---

Here is my contribution for \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias.

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

---

In Thanksgiving for: \_\_\_\_\_

---

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

---

# *Christmas Flowers*

Contribution for Christmas Poinsettias  
Suggested Contribution is \$15 each and must be received by December 17th.  
Please return this form to the office ASAP.

---

Here is my contribution for \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias.

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

---

In Thanksgiving for: \_\_\_\_\_

---

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_