



The Grace Vine

December 2012

Rector's Writ

We're hearing a lot about 'black Friday' sales and record shopping purchases through the internet this year. The Advent theme of preparation is not aimed at parties, shopping, and whittling down those gift lists, but that seems to be the worldly focus of news bites and information. How easy it is to get distracted by the ways of the world. We have to somehow keep focused on God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit; focused on the spiritual while living and being 'in the world.'

Part of that spiritual focus is embracing the symbolism that surrounds us in Advent. The evergreens represent God's unending love and the new life given us in Christ Jesus. The Advent wreath is symbolic of God's eternal nature and presence with us; a reminder there is no beginning and no end to God's goodness, love, and mercy. It also symbolizes the light of Christ, the Son of God bringing light into the world to dispel darkness and lead us on the right path. His light shines in and through believers so that we, too--imperfect as we are--may be channels for his love to be made known to others.

The stories of Advent and Christmas are filled with God calling and using ordinary but faithful people to carry out his plan and purpose. We hear the familiar story of a young unmarried girl and her unassuming husband-to-be; a holy baby born in a manger; angels bringing good news of great joy not to palaces and kings but to shepherds in the field. Our Lord has a wonderful way of choosing humble people who with trust and obedience do their part to honor his will. Peace, love, and joy are not just good wishes for Christmas, they're God's gifts to receive in our hearts and to share with his people everywhere.

A peaceful Advent and joyful Christmas blessings to you and yours.

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, December 2		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	I Advent
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Jeremiah 33:14-16 Fred Lundgren
Lay Reader	8:00 Bette Brooks 10:00 Carolyn Englert	Psalm	25:1-9
Greeters	Nancy & Fred Lundgren	2nd Reading	1Thessalonians 3:9-13 Nancy Lundgren
Acolyte	Eric Splinter	Gospel	Luke 21:25-36
Altar Guild	Nancy Lundgren, Sandy Ulbricht, Cindy Hoskins & Nancy Ervin		
Coffee Hosts	8:00 Frank & Joan Seman 10:00 Lisa, Taylor & Paige Paxton		
Counters	John McDonald & Cathy Mansor		
Sunday, December 9		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	2 Advent
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Baruch 5:1-9 Tim Splinter
Lay Reader	8:00 The Rev. William Snyder 10:00 Roberta O'Keefe	Canticle 4	Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:68-79)
Greeters	Steve & Susan Merrill	2nd Reading	Philippians 1:3-11 Kathy Summy
Acolyte	Cathy Mansor	Gospel	Luke 3:1-6
Altar Guild	Nancy Lundgren, Sandy Ulbricht Cindy Hoskins & Nancy Ervin		
Coffee Hosts	8:00 Rick Lashley & Debbie Shorts 10:00 John & Mary Jean McDonald		
Counters	Fred Lundgren & Reba Cook		
Sunday, December 16		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	3 Advent
GREENING OF THE CHURCH		1st Reading	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Maynard Evans
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	Canticle	9 The First Song of Isaiah (Isaiah 12:2-6)
Lay Reader	8:00 Bette Brooks 10:00 Carolyn Englert	2nd Reading	Philippians 4:4-7 Cathy Mansor
Greeters	John & Mary Jean McDonald	Gospel	Luke 3:7-18
Acolyte	Kevin Splinter		
Altar Guild	Nancy Lundgren, Sandy Ulbricht Cindy Hoskins & Nancy Ervin		
Coffee Hosts	8:00 TBA 10:00 Hospitality Committee—chili lunch		
Counters	Fred Lundgren & Reba Cook		
Emeritus	Bill Snyder		
Sunday, December 23		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	4 Advent
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Micah 5:2-5a Jeff Croll
Lay Reader	8:00 Bill Snyder 10:00 Nancy Lundgren	Canticle 3:	The Song of Mary (Luke 1:46-55)
Greeters	Nancy & Jim Ervin	2nd Reading	Hebrews 10:5-10 Martha Croll
Acolyte	Jeff Marsh	Gospel	Luke 1:39-55
Altar Guild	Nancy Lundgren, Cindy Hoskins, Nancy Ervin & Sandy Ulbricht		
Coffee Hosts	8:00 10:00 Chris Stickle & Loretta Reigelman		
Counters	Fred Lundgren & Reba Cook		



Monday, December 24 7:00 PM Family Service with Holy Eucharist Christmas Eve

Celebrant The Rev. Carol Evans Lay Reader Nancy Lundgren Greeters Fred Lundgren & Lisa Paxton Acolyte All youth that are available Altar Guild N. Lundgren, S. Ulbricht & C Hoskins Counters Fred Lundgren & Reba Cook	1st Reading Isaiah 9:2-7 Fred Lundgren Psalm 96 2nd Reading Titus 2:11-14 Nancy Lundgren Gospel Luke 21:25-36
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Monday, December 24 10:30 PM Carols and Festive Holy Eucharist Christmas Eve

Celebrant The Rev. Carol Evans Deacon The Rev. William Snyder Lay Reader Carolyn Englert Greeters Nancy & Jim Ervin Acolyte Eric and Kevin Splinter Altar Guild N, Lundgren, S. Ulbricht & C. Hoskins Counters Fred Lundgren & Reba Cook	1st Reading Isaiah 9:2-7 Maynard Evans Psalm 96 2nd Reading Titus 2:11-14 Cathy Mansor Gospel Luke 21:25-36
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Sunday, December 30 8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Lessons & Carols

Officiating The Rev. Carol Evans Greeters Irene & John Machisko Acolyte Eric Splinter Altar Guild N. Lundgren, C. Hoskins & S. Ulbricht Coffee Hosts 8:00 10:00 Nancy & Jim Ervin Counters Fred Lundgren & Reba Cook	1st Reading Isaiah 61:10—62:3 Psalm 147 2nd Reading Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 Gospel John 1:1-18 Lesson & Carols readers will be scheduled at a later date.
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Sunday, January 6 8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 1 Epiphany

Officiating The Rev. Carol Evans Lay Reader 8:00 Bette Brooks 10:00 Carolyn Englert Greeters David Miller & Alexandra Wroblewski Acolytes Cathy Mansor Altar Guild Shirley Johnson & Debbie Shorts Coffee Hosts 8:00 Joan & Frank Seman 10:00 Irene & John Machisko Counters TBA	1st Reading Isaiah 43:1-7 Nancy Lundgren Psalm 29 2nd Reading Acts 8:14-17 Fred Lundgren Gospel Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
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All youth of Acolyte age, please let the Splinters know if you will be available or not for the 7pm Christmas Eve Service.



Did You Know?...



John & Irene Machisko have left for a 10 day cruise in the Caribbean this month and after the cruise the rest of their vacation will be spent with their son John and his family in Florida. Sounds like a wonderful time will be spent by everyone. (We won't see them until after Christmas!!)...

Marcia & Tim Splinter's home was featured in Garrettsville's Christmas Walk this year. They had their home opened for two weekends and over 1600 people came through the doors to view their lovely home. The week after that they were to head for Florida and Disney World for a well deserved vacation. BUT, son Kevin received a concussion while wrestling and the trip was put on hold for a later date. So, it was off to grandma's for Thanksgiving in New York state...

I don't know if you know it or not ,but there is a small and faithful core group that are still enjoying Game Night. On November 10th, **Sue Ahrens** hosted the group and served a very nice dinner. And on December 1st, **Judy Canan** hosted Game Night a served dinner as well, and I'm sure she had some help by daughter-in-law **Kay**...

Jenna Summy and Sammy Stickle just finished the Ravenna High School marching band, and immediately after that was over Jenna began to play the bass steel drum in the steel drum band. She's the smallest person playing the largest drums. Jenna is still mastering the clarinet, and in the beginning stages of learning the trombone. The challenge will be if she can reach the 7th position---is her arm long enough?...

It was really nice having **Irene & Johnnie Machisko** host coffee hour; especially when Irene bakes pumpkin pies and brownies. And they were wonderful. Thanks Irene!!...

Bill & Marsha Snyder headed for Minnesota for Thanksgiving. They were excited to see their grandsons two year old **Noah** and four year old **Oliver**. Just at that cute and busy stage of life and very busy. ..

Judy Canan was thrilled to have her family home for the holiday. There were about 17 people there and the best part is that son **David** took care of the cooking...

Reba Cook spent Thanksgiving Day in New York City. She joined her son **Rod** and his wife and family. They got to see the Macy's Parade; shopped, went to shows, had some nice meals, did a lot of walking and made frequent stops at Starbucks; and had a really good time...

Chrissy Stickle had a houseful and hosted a Thanksgiving feast for her family...

Jim Ervin is enjoying his new job at Burger King. He works for a few hours in the morning, doing some maintenance work. But, he's already known as "trouble" – not too much of a surprise...

Nancy & Fred Lundgren were excited when their son **Bill** and his daughters flew in from Texas to be with the family for the holiday which they enjoyed with daughter **Lisa** and her girls and grandma **Elizabeth**...

Midge Myers, Reba Cook, & Fred Lundgren represented

Grace Church at the Diocesan Convention. along with **Rev. Carol and Deacon Bill**. There was a lot of discussion about the proposed conference center. But, the convention wasn't too intense...

If you did or didn't hear about the school lock down at Willard school here in Ravenna, you might be surprised to hear that our own **Chris Stickle** was involved. Two men were in an altercation on the school grounds and one of them was trying to get into the school. But Chris was at the only unlocked door school and there was no way she was letting anyone get into the building. But the police arrived and took the two away...

Reba Cook was coming home late one night and ran into a Canadian goose that was walking across the road; which did extensive damage to her car. She may need to talk with her insurance agent. I don't know if you know it or not but Reba owns an insurance agency...

Goldie Shriver and Mechele Novak have been spending a lot of time at Longmeadow Nursing home with **Dutch**. And Mechele says she's really enjoyed the time spent with her dad...

Kathy Summy and her mother spent time at Cedar Hills with Kathy's mother's quilt group who used the conference center for their weekend retreat...

Deacon Bill Snyder gave two good sermons while **Rev. Carol** was away. One sermon he tried to explain why "halleluiah" wasn't used after the final blessing, but **Judy Canan** wasn't having it. That's our girl!!...

We got new front doors for the church. Thanks to junior warden **Reba Cook, John McDonald and Sue Ahrens** for all work, time and effort on this project...

Thank you to those who contributed to the Fall UTO ingathering. Twenty-four participants gave a total of \$259.00. Thank you again...

Did you know that it's been 10 years since **Fr. Lloyd O'Keefe** began the Retired Men's breakfast at the Brimfield Steak house...

Did you know that **Bill Snyder** has been a deacon for 20 years – even he couldn't believe it...



ECW

The Episcopal Church Women are collecting children's underwear and socks for the County Clothing Center during the holiday season. Please bring these items to the church for the December 16th distribution.



Items for Safer Futures (a battered women's shelter) will be collected on an on-going basis. Bring your items and place them in the basket in the narthex.

Ten Commandments for Christmas

1. *Thou shall remember to keep Christ in Christmas*
2. *Thou shalt pause in they business to consider the magnitude of God's gift of Christ to humankind.*
3. *Thou shall remember that Mary and Joseph found no room in the Inn, and remembering, given Christ the chief room in thy heart.*
4. *Thou shall participate joyfully in the Christmas activities of thy church.*
5. *Thou shalt be of generous heart in answering the appeals of the needy at Christmas time.*
6. *Thou shalt take time to plan for the happiness of those outside thine own circle of family and friends.*
7. *Thou shalt enjoy, in unhurried calm, the priceless heritage of Christmas carols and great Christmas art.*
8. *Thou shalt give of thyself in all they gifts, giving not for duty, reciprocity, or personal satisfaction, but for the simply joy of sharing.*
9. *Thou shalt remember, with patience and understanding, all those who serve thee – the sales people, the postal and delivery people, the newscarrriers and all others who bear the physical burden of the holiday season.*
10. *Thou shalt teach they children the true meaning of Christmas, of the Prince of Peace who came to show us way to righteousness and happiness.*

Congratulations!

and many happy returns...

Birthdays

- 2nd Nydah Ellet
- 7th Roberta O'Keefe
- 11th Kay Canan
- 16th Shirley Johnson
Tim Scibelli
- 21st Bud Minnich
Beth Dier



Anniversaries

- 17th Bruce & Sue Ahrens
Steve & Susan Merrill
- 22nd Jim & Amy Neely
Amanda & Michael Ondrejko
- 27th Rev. Lloyd & Roberta O'Keefe

Baptisms

- 3rd Rev. Carol Evans
- 13th Mike Johnson
- 22nd Michael Canan
- 23rd Mechele Novak



The Bulletin Board

Acolytes Schedule

Check these dates now so we can make any changes before we publish next month:

1/13— Kevin Splinter

1/20— Jeff Marsh

1/27— Eirc Splinter

2/3— Cathy Mansor

Tim@splinterfactions.net

Marcia@splinterfactions.net

330-527-2084

COOKIE SALE PICKUP

The cookies will be boxed on Saturday, December 15th, and distributed on Sunday, December 16th.

Thank You! Thank You!

- Sue Ahrens & Judy Canan for hosting the Game Night.
- *Sue Ahrens, Fred Lundgren, & Joan Seman who will have completed their term on Vestry at the end of the year. Good job!*
- Our Senior Warden, Cathy Mansor, for heading up the Stewardship campaign.
- *Everyone who "held down the fort" while Rev. Carol spent much needed time in Missouri with her mother and family. Some of those include Senior Warden, Cathy Mansor; Junior Warden, Reba Cook; Deacon Bill Snyder; and Secretary Marsha Snyder.*
- John McDonald for changing the clock around the church and the timers on the thermostats.
- *All the women who offered to bake cookies for the ECW Christmas Cookie sale and especially Carolyn Englert who once again organized this effort. And to those who ordered cookies.*
- Everyone who contributed to the fall ingathering of the United Thank Offering. Twenty four people participated and that's about 10 more than contributed last spring.
- *Deacon Bill for the wonderful sermons while Rev. Carol was away.*
- Fred Lundgren for explaining the "special offerings" that are collected the second Sunday of the month.
- *To everyone who contributed to Safer Futures.*
- We give thanks for the beautiful new front doors and to those who contributed to them.
- *To John McDonald, Reba Cook and Sue Ahrens for all their work getting the new front doors installed and looking beautiful.*

Please call the office or email us a note if you know of any volunteers we need to thank for work, donations, or other good deeds.

News from Gracie's Backdoor

Coming Attractions

December 2012: We continue to get new Christmas items in on a regular basis for decorating and entertaining during the holiday season. We additionally have many wonderful gift items ideal for all of the people on your holiday gift list. We hope to see you at Gracie's if only to check us out and admire the many lovely items.

January 2013: DOLLS, DOLLS and more DOLLS will be here for that special gal in your life. Young or just young at heart, few can resist these lovely DOLLS. Come view the collection and enjoy. Also coming in January. FLOWERS. Don't let the January blues get you down, come pick out an arrangement or make your own from the many lovely flower we have. Let them make you happy until the real thing start show their heads. We will also have decorations for Valentines' Day.

February 2013: St. Patrick's Day decorations will be out for you, some really cute pieces are here, come see them while they last. Easter and Spring decorations galore, check out Gracie's before you go anywhere else, you may be surprised what you find. East is March 31st, early this year, so shop early we will love seeing you here.

A Needy Family at Christmas

Gracie's has adopted a family for Christmas and would like your help.

16 yr. old girl – adult size 6-7 pants and medium tops

13 yr. old boy – boys size 16 pants and medium adult shirts

3 yr. old boy – child size 4 clothing and appropriate toys

Any other gifts besides clothing would also be gratefully appreciated, such as gift cards for food from Giant Eagle or Walmart.

Gracie's is in need of the following items:

- trash bags
- dish detergent
- paper towels
- window cleaner
- plate stands
- hand cleanser
- paper shopping bags
- bottle brush
- scrubbies
- roll of price stickers
- price tags with string
- solid room fresheners
- broom w/dust pan
- bagless vacuum

If you're cleaning out don't throw anything out – remember Gracie's.

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.*

**William Lloyd Garrison
Maria Stewart**

December 17

William Lloyd Garrison is the better known of the two prophetic witnesses honored by the church on December 17; however, both exercised immense influence on the movement for the end of slavery in the years leading up to the Civil War.

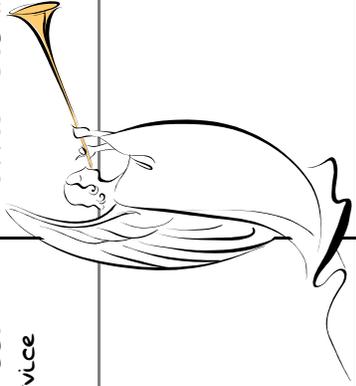
William Lloyd Garrison (December 13, 1805-May 24, 1879) was a prominent American abolitionist, journalist, and social reformer. Editor of the radical abolitionist newspaper *The Liberator*, he called for the immediate abolition of slavery. Born to Canadian immigrant parents, he joined the Abolition movement when he was 25. The following year (1831) he founded the New England Anti-Slavery Society and within a year took the society to the national level. He approached emancipation from a position of non-violence and passive resistance and attracted a vocal following. However, his position was not always a popular one, even in the North. Police in Boston saved him from lynching and the state of Georgia put a price on his head. After the abolition of slavery following the Civil War, Garrison dedicated himself to other reform movements, especially temperance and women's suffrage. He died in New York in 1879.

Maria Miller Stewart (1803-December 17, 1879) was the daughter of free African American parents. Orphaned at the age of five, she was sent to live with a minister and his family. Until she was 15, she was a servant in their home. When she turned 20, she began to attend Sabbath School where she developed a lifelong affinity for religious work. On August 10, 1826, Maria married James W. Stewart, an independent shipping agent; however, James died only 3 years later and the executors of her husband's estate cheated Maria out of a considerable inheritance. She began to speak publicly in opposition to slavery and to write opinion pieces that were published in *The Liberator*. Although known for her militancy, she did not advocate violence to achieve emancipation. In 1835, she moved from Boston to New York and then to Baltimore and Washington, DC, teaching and continuing to write. While in Washington, she became head matron of the Freedmen's Hospital and Asylum, the medical school of Howard University. There is disagreement about her date of death; most sources point to December 17, 1879, the day noted in the Liturgical Calendar of the Episcopal Church.

Prayer:

God, in whose service alone is perfect freedom: We thank you for your prophets William Lloyd Garrison and Maria Stewart, who testified that we are made not by the color of our skin but by the principle formed in our soul. Fill us, like them, with the hope and determination to break every chain of enslavement, that bondage and ignorance may melt like wax before flames, and we may build that community of justice and love which is founded on Jesus Christ our cornerstone; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

December The Grace Vine 2012

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
2 Advent 1 •8am HEZ •9am Coffee •9:45 Ch. Ed. •10am HEZ •11am Coffee	3	4	5 •10-2 Gracie's Back Door	6 •7:00 Choir Practice	7	8
9 Advent 2 •8am HEZ •9am Coffee •9:45 Ch. Ed. •10am HEZ •11am Coffee	10	11 •12:00-3:00 Sit & Stitch at Judy Canan's	12 •10-2 Gracie's Back Door •5:30pm Healing Service w/ HE	13 •7:00 Choir Practice	14	15
16 Advent 3 •8am HEZ •9am Coffee •9:45 Ch. Ed. •10am HEZ •11am Hang Greens	17	18 •7pm Vestry Meeting	19 •10-2 Gracie's Back Door	20 •8am Men's Breakfast •7:00 Choir Practice	21 •10-2 County Clothing Center	22
23 Advent 4 •8am HEZ •9am Coffee •9:45 Ch. Ed. •10am HEZ •11am Coffee	24 Christmas Eve 7pm Family Service 10:30 Carols 11pm Festive Service	25 •7pm Vestry Meeting Office Closed 	26 Office Closed	27 •7:00 Choir Practice...maybe Office Closed	28 Office Closed	29
30 Christmas 1 •8am HEZ •9am Coffee •10am Lessons & Carols •11am Coffee	31					

The Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church
 Fred Lundgren (2012)
 Sue Ahrens (2012)
 Joan Seman (2012)
 Cathy Mansor (2013)
 Jeff Marsh (2013)
 Barb Popiel (2013)
 Reba Cook (2014)
 John McDonald (2014)
 Midge Myers (2014)

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If you would like to take advantage of this, send me an email at grwebmaster@graceravenna.org. Please consider carefully, however. We would rather make the paper copy and have it read than save the paper and postage and have it go unread. Thank you.



The Grace Vine

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