



The Grace Vine

January 2006

Rector's Writ

"I asked the person who stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me light that I may tread safely into the new year.' And that person said to me, 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That will be for you better than light and safer than a known way.'"

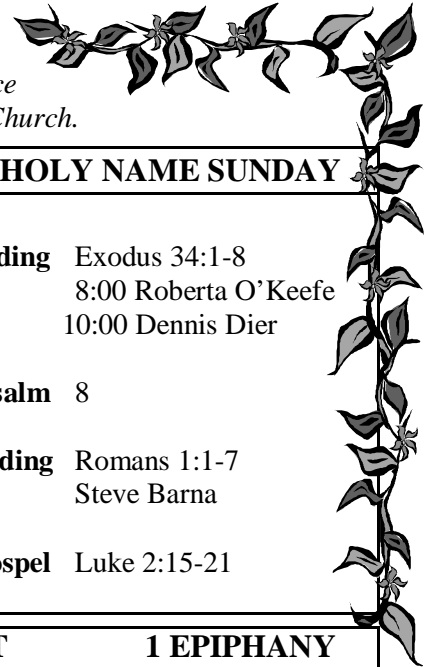
It seems we carry with us into the new year a mixed bag of hopefulness and memories; plans and regrets; commitment and indifference. We look back on what goals we've accomplished and what somehow was pushed aside, whether we chose that or whether the pushing was done by fate. This winter reflection causes us to look forward to determine what our priorities will be. Our determination needs to be based more on commitment than on the simple observation "I/we need to work on that." If we can identify what's important to our life and well being, we can make decisions to shape our lives in a way that **INSISTS** the Lord we love and the people we hold dear and the Gospel values we uphold do **NOT** get "pushed aside" in spite of all the demands on our time.

We often categorize our goals or priorities as spiritual, relational, material and such. Yet when we put loving God and one another (family and neighbor and enemy) and following the ways of Christ as priorities, this has a positive impact on every part of living, but especially our relationships and our spirituality. It brings about a sense of peace and a sincerity that leads us to God's truth. It's in recognizing God's truth—and the depth of his love for humanity—that we can accept the truth about ourselves. That truth is **NOT** that we are mere human beings; unwilling and unable to help ourselves or others. The truth is that **GOD LOVES US** in spite of any sense of hopelessness we might be inclined to believe after yet another resolve to change melts away to uncover the visible cracks in our framework of commitment. God loves us and in response to such love we are to love God and one another...humbly and with a sense of gratitude. Of all the resolutions we could make about making more time for family, losing weight, being on time, spending less and giving more, or any attempts to repair the chinks in our own armor; I suspect all things would be well if we could only manage to love God and our neighbor. In 2006 and each day of this new year may we remember that in Christ all things are made new.



Service and Lay Ministry Schedule

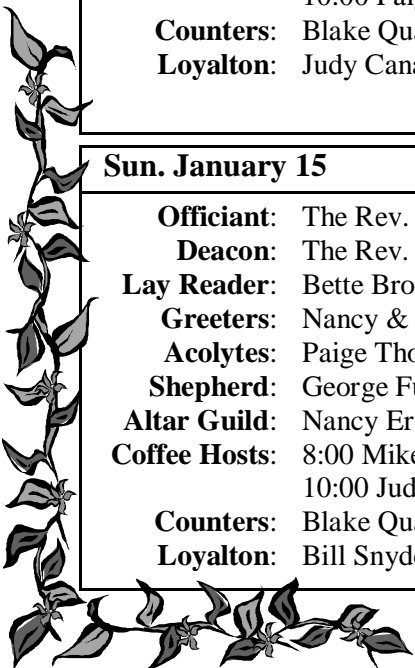
If you cannot serve when scheduled, please find a substitute and call the parish office with that person's name. Thank you for sharing in the liturgical ministry of Grace Church.

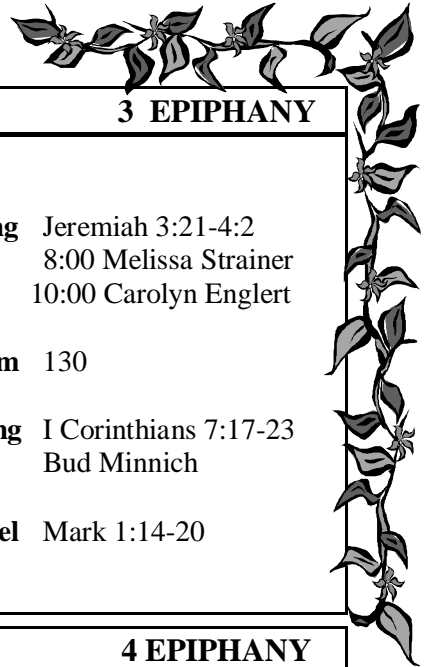


Sun. January 1	9:00 AM ONLY - MORNING PRAYER	HOLY NAME SUNDAY
Officiant: The Rev. James Wichman Deacon: none Lay Reader: Judy Canan Greeters: Nancy & Fred Lundgren Acolytes: Emily Summy Shepherd: Roberta O'Keefe & Leslie Thomas Altar Guild: Nancy Ervin and Shirley Johnson Coffee Hosts: 8:00 none 10:00 Kelly & Ron Postlethwaite Counters: Blake Quay & Nancy Lundgren Loyalton: Maynard Evans		1st Reading Exodus 34:1-8 8:00 Roberta O'Keefe 10:00 Dennis Dier Psalm 8 2nd Reading Romans 1:1-7 Steve Barna Gospel Luke 2:15-21

Sun. January 8	8:00 AM & 10:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST	1 EPIPHANY
Officiant: The Rev Carol S. Evans Deacon: The Rev. William Snyder Lay Reader: Carolyn Englert Greeters: John & Mary Jean McDonald Acolytes: Chelsea Postlethwaite Shepherd: Jean Mercer & Judy Canan Altar Guild: Nancy Ervin and Shirley Johnson Coffee Hosts: 8:00 George Furrer 10:00 Paige & Leslie Thomas Counters: Blake Quay & Nancy Lundgren Loyalton: Judy Canan		1st Reading Isaiah 42:1-9 8:00 Melissa Strainer 10:00 Paige Thomas Psalm 89:20-29 2nd Reading Acts 10:34-38 Tim Splinter Gospel Mark 1:7-11

Sun. January 15	8:00 AM & 10:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST	2 EPIPHANY
Officiant: The Rev. Carol S. Evans Deacon: The Rev. James Wichman Lay Reader: Bette Brooks Greeters: Nancy & Jim Ervin Acolytes: Paige Thomas & Eli Stover Shepherd: George Furrer & Leslie Thomas Altar Guild: Nancy Ervin and Shirley Johnson Coffee Hosts: 8:00 Mike & Shirley Johnson 10:00 Judy & Kay Canan Counters: Blake Quay & Nancy Lundgren Loyalton: Bill Snyder		1st Reading 1 Samuel 3:1-20 8:00 Roberta O'Keefe 10:00 Kathy Summy Psalm 63:1-8 2nd Reading I Corinthians 6:11b-20 Dennis Dier Gospel John 1:43-51





Sun. January 22		9:00 AM ONLY HOLY EUCHARIST		3 EPIPHANY	
Officiant: The Rev. Carol S. Evans Deacon: The Rev. James Wichman Lay Reader: Maynard Evans Greeters: Betty Russell & Sandee West Acolyte: Cory Postlethwaite Shepherd: Bill Snyder Altar Guild: Nancy Ervin and Shirley Johnson Coffee Hosts: None – COVERED DISH DINNER Counters: Blake Quay & Nancy Lundgren Loyalton: none			1st Reading Jeremiah 3:21-4:2 8:00 Melissa Strainer 10:00 Carolyn Englert Psalm 130 2nd Reading I Corinthians 7:17-23 Bud Minnich Gospel Mark 1:14-20		
<p>— ANNUAL MEETING —</p> <p>9 :00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST W/ COVERED DISH DINNER TO FOLLOW</p>					

Sun. January 29		8:00 AM & 10:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST		4 EPIPHANY	
Officiant: The Rev. Carol S. Evans Deacon: The Rev. William Snyder Lay Reader: Judy Canan Greeters: Bud Minnich & Betty Capriola Acolytes: PC-Julie Canan T– Schylar Conway & Jenna Summy Shepherd: Jean Mercer & Judy Canan Coffee Hosts: 8:00 Frank & Joan Seman 10:00 John & Mary Jean McDonald Altar Guild: Nancy Ervin and Shirley Johnson Counters: Blake Quay & Nancy Lundgren Loyalton: none			1st Reading Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Kelly Postlethwaite Psalm 111 2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 8:1b-13 Blake Quay Gospel Mark 1:21-28		

Sun. February 5		8:00 AM & 10:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST		5 EPIPHANY	
Officiant: The Rev. Carol S. Evans Deacon: The Rev. James Wicham Lay Reader: Carolyn Englert Greeters: Nancy & Fred Lundgren Acolyte: Chelsea Postlethwaite & Janell Moore Shepherd: George Furrer & Leslie Thomas Coffee Hosts: 8:00 Melissa & Lauren Strainer 10:00 Ron & Kelly Postlethwaite Altar Guild: TBA Counters: Tim Splinter & Dennis Dier Loyalton: Maynard Evans			1st Reading 2 Kings 4:8-37 8:00 Roberta O’Keefe 10:00 Dennis Dier Psalm 142 2nd Reading I Corinthians 9:16-23 Tim Splinter Gospel Mark 1:29-39		



Adult ‘Bible Study’ Series

Our next series of Wednesday night adult education/discussion sessions will begin on January 18th. This time we will be looking into C.S Lewis’ classic book ‘The Screwtape Letters’. Copies will be available in the church library. This series will end before Lent.

As before, dinner will be at 6pm with study following. Child care will be available after dinner as well.





Did You Know?...



...Many thanks to **Mary Ann Switz and the choir, Marsha Barna, Marsha Snyder, Nydah Ellet, Marcia Splinter, Cathy Mansor, Steve Barna, Ken Boydell, Gordon Thompson, and Tim Splinter** who presented to us a Choral Evensong on November 20th. This beautiful music was enjoyed by some members of the congregation and guests. A wonderful reception followed with the help of **Nancy Ervin** and her hospitality committee; **Mary Jean McDonald, Betty Capriola, Irene Machikso, Goldie Shriver, and Debbie Shorts**. It was a wonderful evening for everyone who attended... **Carolyn & Ken Englert** flew down to Texas to be with their daughter **Beki** and her family and the new baby; **Kensey Jo** born on November 19th... If you're interested in sewing, knitting, quilting, or learning how to do any of these things, please join us at the Sit and Stitch on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, we meet in the lounge... Many thanks to everyone who participated in the Parable of Talents (**Barb Popiel, Goldie Shriver, Carolyn Englert, Marcia Splinter, Judy Canan, Jean Mercer, Janice Lallathin, Irene Machisko, Shirley Johnson, Cindy Hoskins, Marsha Snyder, Kay Canan, Bonnie Quay, Kathy Summy**, and others) that took place the first three Sundays of Advent this year. We earned a total of \$619.75 in this efforts. We also want to thank our church members who took advantage of purchasing some wonderful handmade Christmas gift and baked goods for themselves and their loved ones... A great big (warm) thanks to **John McDonald** who sealed the church office windows and the windows in the hall to keep the cold air to a minimum. It's so much warmer!... Junior Warden, **Dennis Dier** has been busy trying to figure out the heating system in the church, and he's almost got it!!... We received a phone call from **Debbie and Bob Haag** wishing us all a Merry Christmas!!... **The Splinters** hosted the ECW Christmas party. Marcia made the mistake of saying, "I decorate for Christmas and no one comes." Sooo, we all came:

Mary Jean McDonald, Mechele Novak, Goldie Shriver, Roberta O'Keefe, Kay Canan, Julie Canan, Addrienne Conway, Chris Stickle, Betty Capriola, Nancy Ervin, Judy Canan, Sue Ahrens, The Rev. Carol Evans, Marsha Snyder, Carolyn Englert, and Bonnie Quay. We thank Marcia for the wonderful eggnog, and Carolyn Englert for the Christmas quizzes. And the Center of Hope thanked us for the 26 gifts that this group bought for the needy children of Portage County and thanks to **Bill Snyder** for delivering those gifts to the Center on the following Monday. And by the way **Tim Splinter** took their boys, **Eric** and **Kevin**, to a Chuck E. Cheese and shopping while the party went on. And any adult that has spent any time at a Chuck E. Cheese knows it can be a real challenge at times. So, thank you Tim!!... **Nancy and Fred Lundgren** are excited about the new granddaughter that will be born to son **Bill** and daughter-in-law **Paige** sometime in May... As if it's not cold enough here in Ohio, **Blake and Bonnie Quay** are headed to a resort in the upper parts of Michigan. Burr!... And speaking of Michigan, **Maynard Evans** couldn't wait to show us the picture of his beautiful grandchildren in their blue and gold outfits. But the scarlet and gray outfit that one year old **Kirsten Seman** was sporting the Sunday after the Michigan - Ohio State game was a real hit!!... **Mary Jean and John McDonald** are preparing for the arrival of daughter **Amy** and her family for their Christmas. **Steve Minnich** will be in from Colorado to visit with his parents, **Bud and Carrie**. And **Judy and Roger Watkins** are having their family join them at their Florida home. **Bill and Marsha Snyder** are preparing for their daughter **Jill** and her family for the holidays. That means all breakable items are being removed to higher and safer places, because one year old **Lilly** is very busy!! But they can't wait to see them!

Birthdays

4th—Emily Summy
5th—Corbin Baker
7th—Richard Sanek
10th—Patricia Williams
15th—Bruce Ahrens
26th—Helen White
26th—Courtney Riche
28th—Paige Paxton



Congratulations!

and many happy returns...



Anniversaries

11th—Fred & Nancy Lundgren
11th—Bud & Caroline Minnich
11th—Lisa & Mark Paxton
22nd—Leonard & Jean Mercer



Baptisms

2nd—Reba Cook
7th—Caroline Minnich
9th—Bill Summy

ANNUAL REPORTS

The following committee chairpersons are responsible for reports that have to be in the office by January 14th.

Acolytes - Addrienne Conway
Altar Guild - Nancy Lundgren
A.G. Finance - Marsha Snyder
Beatty Committee - Leslie Thomas
Choir - Mary Ann Switz
Christian Education - Addrienne Conway
Deacons - Jim Wichman & Bill Snyder
Discretionary Fund - Marsha Snyder
E.C.W. - Marsha Snyder
E.C.W. Finance - Mary Jean McDonald
Fund Raising - Addrienne Conway
Gracie's Back Door - Mary Jean McDonald/
Nancy Lundgren
Hospitality - Nancy Ervin
Jubilee - Lloyd O'Keefe
Junior Warden - Dennis Dier
Lay Reader/LEV/Lectors/Chalice Bearers -
The Rev. Carol Evans
Loyalton - Jim Wichman
Prayer Chair - Carolyn Englert
Rector's Report - The Rev. Carol Evans
Senior Warden - Nancy Lundgren
Treasurer - Fred Lundgren

Mission and Ministry Conference

Feb. 3-4

Cleveland Airport Marriott

“Living with Scripture”:
How Anglicans Interpret and Apply
the Word of God

The Rev. Howard Anderson Ph.D.
President and Warden of the
Cathedral College of Preachers,
Washington DC

The Scripture text that will hold the
Conference together is the one that
grounds Bishop Hollingsworth's vision
for our diocese:
Ephesians 4:1-8, 11-18.

Child care and activities will be available
for youth of any age.

More information is available from
the church office.