



# The Grace Vine

January 2007



## Rector's Reflections

In all we heard about the commercialism of Christmas, it would be interesting to see a list of the things that produce over one BILLION dollars in sales each year. Would you believe boxed chocolates would be on that list?! It's an all round acceptable gift. And after all, who can be grumpy when you're eating chocolates?

Our grandma would sometimes receive as many as three or four boxes of Russell Stover chocolates for Christmas. When Mom would take us to visit her in late January, when the holidays were past and everyone was weary of winter, Grandma would bring out her "stash" of chocolates and carefully open a box to share with all of us. It was something that put us in a happier mood, not just because it was really good candy, but because Grandma was sharing some of her favorite gifts with us kids...and that made us feel loved and special.

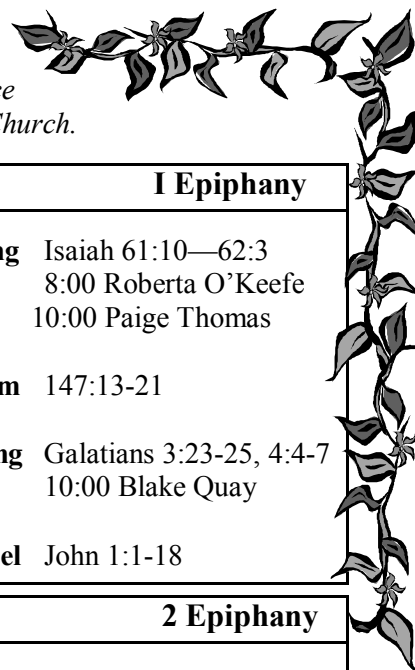
That's kind of what we're called to do with the Good News of God's love, too. Peace, love, grace, and forgiveness...these have a center that's not found in the best stores or the finest wrappings. God provides them to us in and through Jesus Christ. We receive such treasures, NOT because we deserve them, but because God loves us and gives us this gift of grace. In receiving that gift, we're to proclaim the Good News and share it with ALL PEOPLE.

We, like many churches, are working on growth, and that will be a focus in 2007. What we have to remember is that growth is not an aim or end goal in itself. Growth is a result of welcoming people into our Church family; helping and serving others, wherever they are on their spiritual journey; and sharing the goodness and grace God has given us. It results when we're available to God, so that—through us—others may be brought to Christ and to the Church. To Christ, so that new life, hope, and discipleship become a reality; to the Church so that we have the experience of worshiping God, sharing our gifts, and being part of the love, support, and fellowship we can offer one another in this life-long journey of faith. We'll be counting on your prayers, your gifts, and God's grace.



# 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.*

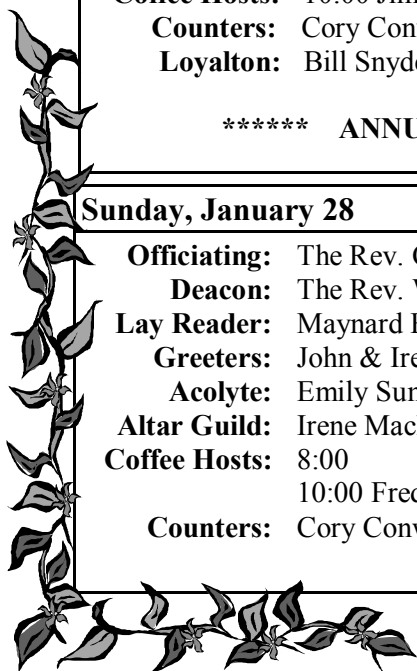


Sunday, January 7	8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	I Epiphany
<b>Officiant:</b> The Rev. Carol S. Evans <b>Lay Reader:</b> Carolyn Englert <b>Greeters:</b> Fred & Nancy Lundgren <b>Acolytes:</b> Paige Thomas & Jesse Moore <b>Altar Guild:</b> Nancy Ervin & Irene Machisko <b>Coffee Hosts:</b> 8:00 10:00 Leslie & Paige Thomas <b>Counters:</b> Cory Conway & TBA <b>Loyalton:</b> Maynard Evans	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b> Isaiah 61:10—62:3 8:00 Roberta O'Keefe 10:00 Paige Thomas  <b>Psalm</b> 147:13-21  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b> Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7 10:00 Blake Quay  <b>Gospel</b> John 1:1-18	

Sunday, January 14	8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	2 Epiphany
<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>Acolyte:</b> Schylar Conway <b>Altar Guild:</b> Nancy Ervin & Irene Machisko <b>Coffee Hosts:</b> 8:00 10:00 Ron & Kelly Postlethwaite <b>Counters:</b> Cory Conway & TBA	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b> Isaiah 62:1-5 8:00 Melissa Strainer 10:00 Steve Barna  <b>Psalm</b> 96:1-10  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b> I Corinthians 12:1-11 10:00 Kelly Postlethwaite  <b>Gospel</b> John 2:1-11	

Sunday, January 21	10:00 AM ONLY Holy Eucharist	3 Epiphany
<b>Officiating:</b> The Rev. Carol S. Evans <b>Lay Reader:</b> Judy Canan <b>Greeters:</b> John & Mary Jean McDonald <b>Acolyte:</b> Julie Canan <b>Altar Guild:</b> Nancy Ervin & Irene Machisko <b>Coffee Hosts:</b> 10:00 Jim & Nancy Ervin <b>Counters:</b> Cory Conway & TBA <b>Loyalton:</b> Bill Snyder  ***** ANNUAL MEETING *****	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b> Nehemiah 8:2-10 10:00 Kathy Summy  <b>Psalm</b> 113  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b> I Corinthians 12:12-27 10:00 Tim Splinter  <b>Gospel</b> Luke 4:14-21	

Sunday, January 28	8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	4 Epiphany
<b>Officiating:</b> The Rev. Carol S. Evans <b>Deacon:</b> The Rev. William D. Snyder <b>Lay Reader:</b> Maynard Evans <b>Greeters:</b> John & Irene Machisko <b>Acolyte:</b> Emily Summy & Eric Splinter <b>Altar Guild:</b> Irene Machisko & Nancy Ervin <b>Coffee Hosts:</b> 8:00 10:00 Fred & Nancy Lundgren <b>Counters:</b> Cory Conway & TBA	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b> Jeremiah 1:4-10 8:00 Melissa Strainer 10:00 John Machisko  <b>Psalm</b> 71:1-6,15-17  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b> Corinthians 14:12b-20 10:00 Cathy Mansor  <b>Gospel</b> Luke 4:21-32	



**Sunday, February 4**

**8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist**

**4 Epiphany**

**Officiating:** The Rev. Carols S. Evans  
**Lay Reader:** Carolyn Englert  
**Greeters:** Leslie & Paige Thomas  
**Acolyte:** Paige Thomas  
**Altar Guild:** TBA  
**Coffee Hosts:** 8:00  
10:00 John & Mary Jean McDonald  
**Counters:** Cory Conway & TBA  
**Loyalton:** Maynard Evans

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** Judges 6:11-24a  
8:00 Roberta O'Keefe  
10:00 Judy Canan  
**Psalm** 85:7-13  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
10:00 Cathy Mansor  
**Gospel** Luke 5:1-11

# On the Horizon

## Sunday Jan. 21st Annual Meeting 11am

Annual Meeting and Covered Dish Luncheon will be after 10am service which will be the only service. We encourage everyone to attend.

## Saturday Feb. 10th Game Night 6:30pm

Another open game night. Bring your cards, your board games, whatever and lets have some fun, maybe a snack to share.

Time to start planning again, now that the Big Holiday is over.

Get your schedule items in for the coming year!

## Preparing for Annual Meeting

The following people are responsible for Reports to be included in the Annual Report. Please have them in by Jan. 8th.

Rector—The Rev. Carol Evans  
Senior Warden—Tim Splinter  
Junior Warden—Dennis Dier  
Treasurer—Fred Lundgren  
Assistant Treasurer, Memorial Fund—Judy Canan  
Acolytes—Addrienne Conway  
Altar Guild—Nancy Lundgren  
Alter Guild Financial—Marsha Snyder  
Choir—Mary Ann Switz  
Christian Education—Addrienne Conway  
Deacon—Bill Snyder  
Deanery—Judy Canan  
Discretionary Fund—Marsha Snyder  
ECW—Marsha Snyder

ECW Financial—Mary Jean McDonald  
Eucharistic Ministers—Carol  
Fundraising / Parish Life—Marcia Splinter  
Gracie's Back Door—Nancy Lundgren  
Hospitality Committee—Nancy Ervin  
Jubilee Committee—Lloyd O'Keefe  
Beatty Committee—Judy Canan  
Lay Eucharistic Visitors/Lay Readers/Chalice Bearers/  
Lectors/Loyalton—Maynard Evans / Bill Snyder  
Prayer Chain—Carolyn Englerts  
Volunteers—Blake Quay  
Worship Committee—Bette Brooks  
Youth Group & Financial—Kelly Postlethwaite



# Did You Know?...



**Emily Summy** had her hair cut and gave the hair to “Locks of Love” which is for those children suffering from cancer and other diseases that affect hair loss. What a wonderful thing to do Emily...

We welcomed **Aundrea Seman** as a newly baptized member at Grace Church on November 26 at the 8:00 am service. There were more people at the 8:00 service than at the 10:00 on that Sunday. Aundrea is a popular and loved young lady...

UTO Fall ingathering was a huge success this year with 36 people participating and \$480.00 collected...

Thanks to **Marcia Splinter** and a very dedicated group of people like **John & Irene Machisko, Kathy Summy and Mary Jean McDonald** for taking our Parable of Talents items and crosses to Garrettsville Middle School for their Craft Sale...

Did you know the average low temperature in Iraq in January is 38 degrees? Our troops stationed there sure know it! And so between Pat Catan’s Craft Center and our Sit and Stitch group (+ 1) we knitted and/or crocheted “camo” scarves for our overseas troops. Pat Catan’s provided the yarn and we provided the time and talent. Thanks to **Carolyn Englert, Jean Lawrence, Bev Louis-Mercury, Marcia Splinter (our+1), Jean Mercer, and Marsha Snyder** for your efforts...

**Bette Brooks** is looking forward to having her girls home for Christmas, Beverly is back from Italy and can’t wait to go back...

**Betty Capriola** will be spending her Christmas holiday with her daughter in Georgia...

**Mary Jean and John McDonald** are looking for her to **Amy** and her family coming in from San Francisco...

**Bill and Marsha Snyder** our looking forward to **Jill** and her family coming in from Dayton...

**Steve and Marsha Barna** will be heading for Columbus to see their grandson...

**Marcia and Tim Splinter** will have Tim’s parents staying with them during the holidays and Tim’s father **John** will be joining the choir for Christmas Eve services and Lessons and Carols...

We are happy to report that **Cathy Mansor** is on the mend after breaking her leg in a fall at work. Her doctors are amazed at her recovery and we’re happy

to have her back in church and choir...

**Beth Dier** graduated from college last month, with a degree in Computer Science. Congratulations Beth!! Job well done...

Members of Grace Church went caroling at some of the area nursing homes. Those who lifted their voices in praise of our Lord and Savior were **Tim, Marcia, Eric, and Kevin Splinter, Ken and Alice Boydell, Sue Ahrens, Carolyn Englert, Cora Pierce, and Mary Ann Switz**. Thank you all for representing Grace Church so well...

The Sunday school kids made Christmas cards to be sent to a National Guard unit in Egypt. What a wonderful gift to give our overseas soldiers...

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Parable of Talents. And all though we could only have our “goodies” out for sale two Sundays, due to the fact that we greened the church on Advent 3 and Advent 4 was Christmas eve, we made \$489.73. Thanks to everyone who participated and purchased these hand crafted items...

The E.C.W. Christmas party, held at home of **Mary Jean McDonald**, with **Roberta O’Keefe, Bonnie Quay, Judy Canan, Sue Ahrens, Carolyn Englert, Bev Lewis-Mercury, Irene Machisko, Addrianne Conway, Kay Canan, and Marsha Snyder** in attendance. Carolyn Englert supplied our traditional Christmas quiz - to find out how much we really know (or don’t know) about the holiday. E.C.W. members and other church members bought toys that were delivered to the Center of Hope for the less fortunate children of Portage County. Thanks to everyone for being so generous this year!!...

Thanks to **Nancy Ervin** and her hospitality committee for the wonderful chili and hot dog lunch service after the greening of the church. And thanks to everyone who contributed chili...

**Sonja (Ahrens) Sherwood** and her family have moved to Massachusetts, the family is now back together after months of separation, and we wish them much happiness in their new home.

## Birthdays

4<sup>th</sup> Emily Summy  
5<sup>th</sup> Corbin Baker  
7<sup>th</sup> Richard Sanek  
10<sup>th</sup> Patricia Williams  
15<sup>th</sup> Bruce Ahrens  
28<sup>th</sup> Paige Paxton



# Congratulations!

*and many happy returns...*



## Anniversaries

11<sup>th</sup> Fred & Nancy Lundgren  
Bud & Caroline Minnich  
22<sup>nd</sup> Leonard & Jean Mercer



## Baptisms

2<sup>nd</sup> Reba Cook  
7<sup>th</sup> Caroline Minnich  
9<sup>th</sup> Bill Summy

Please bring Marsha Snyder any additions or corrections (and we know there are still some we need to catch up with), but please write them down and get them onto Marsha's Desk. Verbal reminders and notes quickly passed are too easily lost or forgotten.

# Pipings

from Mary Ann Switz

It is with some fear and trepidation that I sit down to write about the subject of . . . hymns. It seems there have been several comments lately about the hymns that we sing in our worship services. Why can't we ever sing . . .? Why aren't the hymns always familiar? Usually, if you are in conversation with other Episcopalians, you can bring up the subject of church music and have a quick difference of opinion. The subject of hymns and what we sing and why we sing them can really heat things up. I'd like to try to explain a bit.

The Episcopal Church is a liturgical church. This means that we observe a "Church Year" that begins with Advent, progressing through Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and all the weeks following Pentecost until we come around to Advent again. The biblical readings used in all liturgical churches are arranged in a 3-year cycle (A, B and C). We employ a set pattern of biblical readings and emphases on those readings for each worship service during each year. So what about the hymns, you ask.

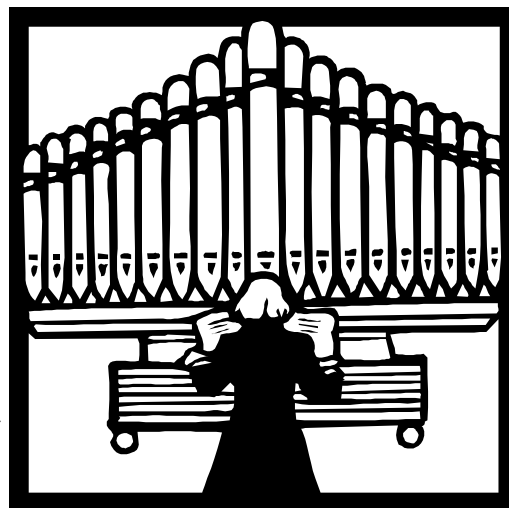
The hymns are normally selected specifically to emphasize the lessons for the day (or at least the theme for the day if it is very different from the actual lessons . . . for instance, on a national holiday). If you take a look through our hymnal, you will notice that it is ordered to generally follow the Church Year, which is, of course, why we always come back to the beginning of the hymnal at the start of Advent.

There is a handy book I use, among other resources, entitled "The Episcopal Church Musician's Handbook", as a general guide when selecting hymns. The first thing I do is read the lessons prescribed for the day (the same thing I do when planning the choir's anthems). Then I look to see which hymns are "suggested" in the Handbook. I am the first to admit that not all of the hymns in our hymnal are usable. In some cases the words are not quite applicable or theologically good; in other cases the melody or rhythm is too difficult, too high or too low in pitch, or even just plain uninteresting.

Then I look for the ones with the tunes that we are at least somewhat familiar with. Finally, but most importantly, I read through the words of the hymn I'm looking at to make sure it will "fit" the lessons. In some cases, there is just not a good combination of words and music that is specifically appropriate, so I will try to find a general hymn that will emphasize the tone or mood of the day. Hymns are religious songs meant to enhance our worship. While it might be comfortable to sing the old, familiar songs all the time, it would also take away the true purpose of the hymns for our services. Incidentally, the choir and organ music is also chosen to be appropriate to each service.

I guess you could sum things up by saying there are good reasons for the hymns we sing during each service. I hope this has helped a bit.

May God bless each and every one of you in this New Year as we join together in praising God through music.



# Your call to serve...

At this year's annual meeting Tim Splinter, Kathy Summy and Nancy Lundgren will be ending our Vestry terms. I want to call each and every person in the parish to consider running for vestry. The simple facts are that we NEED 3 new vestry members and that spouses can not serve at the same time per our By-Laws. That means we need a total of nine families willing to participate.

However, every year we desire to find MORE than 3 candidates to run so that there is actually an election! Selecting vestry members is not supposed to be an insiders club of hand picked members or chance group of the first three people we thought might say yes and did. However, it frequently comes down to the outgoing members calling around just to find the required 3 willing parishioners. We would like the spirit to be able to move us into selections through the entire parish truly voting, not just through those few of us trying to identify candidates. We would like to see as wide a variety of parishioners as possible too: 8:00, 10:00, men, women, young, old, experienced, and rookie.

I would also like to pass on my personal experience as testimony that vestry isn't nearly as difficult, scary, time consuming, or as heavy a responsibility as it might seem. You certainly don't need to be a deeply spiritual person or feel that you are solidly in touch with God to serve properly on vestry. Vestry is mostly about the simple business decisions, not spiritual guidance.

It is also a group of 9 people plus the Rector and the Secretary. There is LOTS of room for a person who simply listens, learns, comments occasionally and votes. (votes which are almost always unanimous by the time discussion is over anyway.)

Time wise, vestry is probably one of the easier committees to serve on: predictable meetings once a month for 2 to 3 hours, even skipping a month here or there during the summer, counting donations after service two months a year, not much to do between meetings unless you want it...All in all, it was far easier and less stressful than I ever anticipated. Certainly nothing to be shy or scared of, and believe me, I'm VERY shy about new situations.

Please seriously consider offering to run for vestry this year. Contact Carol or any of the out-going three vestry members. Please don't think that if you haven't been asked, we don't want you! When this comes up every year, it typically comes to the vestry guessing who might say yes...especially among those who haven't been on vestry before. Don't make us guess, search and pester.

Thank You. Tim Splinter, Outgoing Senior Warden

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## Notes from the Fun-draising Plus Committee

The Fun-draising Committee met in early December to review 2006 and start planning for 2007. We had several major events in 2006: our standard Flower Sale and Balloon Affair luncheon; the second Fall Festival; and some new ones – the Garrettsville Garage Sale, the Men's Garage Sale and the crosses for sale. All in all, it was a good year with approximately \$2,600 raised.

Looking forward to 2007, these are our tentative plans so far:

- Possibly a Pampered Chef fundraising party in early February
- Flower Sale on May 12<sup>th</sup> (day before Mothers Day)
- Balloon Affair Luncheon & Bake Sale. Also possibly some baskets or something to sell raffle tickets for.
- Instead of doing our own craft fair, we are looking into getting a table at the Maplewood Craft Fair ("In the Woods") in November. While we did make quite a bit of money from the Fall Festival, it was A LOT of work and most of the money came from church members.

We are looking for input on doing the Garrettsville Garage Sale again. On one hand, it was almost \$500 from mostly "non-church members". On the other hand, it was a lot of work and would there be enough donations to make it worthwhile? If you would be willing to work or if you know you would have donations, please talk to Marcia Splinter so we make a decision on this one.

On the "Parish Life" side of things, we have decided to have a Game Night on the 2nd Saturday of every month, starting in February. They will be simple events – bring your favorite game, some friends and possibly bring a snack to share.

If anyone has any other ideas for Fundraising or Parish Life, please talk to Marcia Splinter or stop in at the next meeting.