



The Grace Vine

January 2008

Rector's Writ

Happy New Year! How would people respond if we wished them a Holy New Year? It's ironic how this secular holiday is squarely between two of our Principal Feasts, Christmas and The Epiphany. It's really not a bad time to take a look at the past year, a look ahead, a look within...and consider what we might want to take on as a resolution. However, there's another old method of observing the new year; one that we can add a spiritual approach to as well.

There's an old custom in Rome that on New Year's Eve people are to toss some-thing out of the window. No explanation for this custom was available, but it leads us to think what might be symbolized by such a simple, uncomplicated act. We could toss out past hurts...anger...disappointments... maybe even unhealthy habits. We could cast to the wind old fears, frustrations, and worries that keep us stuck in the past and block us from looking at circumstances or people or even ourselves in NEW ways.

It's worthwhile to think about what we need to toss out to let the winter wind and sun scatter and melt. We may also choose to consider: what do we need to TOSS and what do we need to EMBRACE to be the people GOD has created us to be, as individuals and as the Church? What builds up and what burdens the people who are the body of Christ? The Church community is to be continually concerned, continually practicing "building up" one another (not just Church members) and "bearing one another's burdens." It's not something to be practiced only at the holidays, or in the new year, or once Lent arrives. With God's help we will continue working on and improving that practice of loving God and our neighbor; in prayer, word, and deed...in the Church and in the world, in the new year and each day.

"God knows quite well how hard we find it to love Him more than anyone or anything else, and He won't be angry with us as long as we are trying. And he will help us."

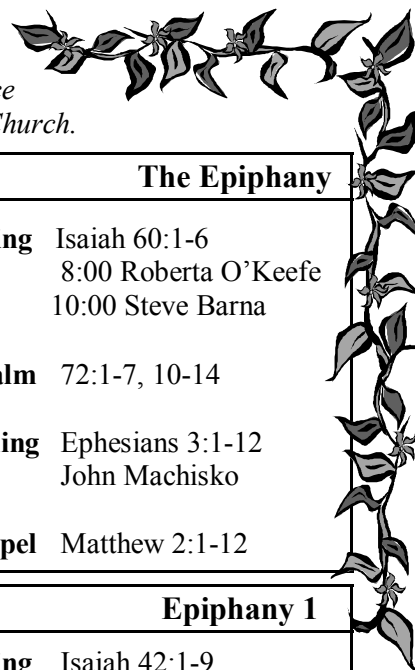
"If you continue to love Jesus, nothing much can go wrong with you, and I hope you may always do so." (C.S. Lewis; Letters to Children, p.52 and p. 111)

"God loves us; not because we are loveable but because He is love, not because he needs to receive but because He delights to give." (Letters of C.S. Lewis; undated, para. 1, p.231)



Service and Lay Ministry Schedule

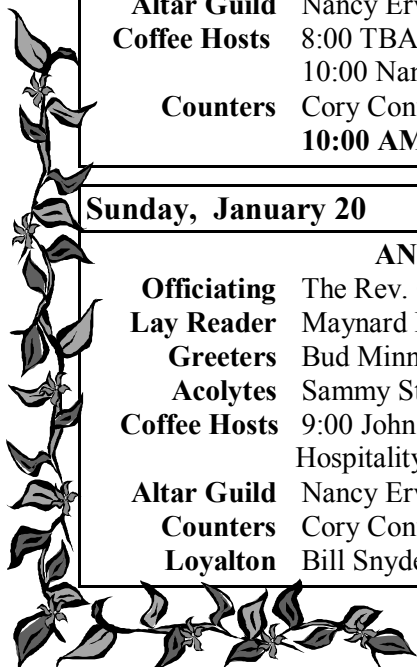
If you cannot serve when scheduled, please find a substitute and call the parish office with that person's name. Thank you for sharing in the liturgical ministry of Grace Church.



Sunday, January 6		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	The Epiphany
Officiating	The Rev. Carol S. Evans		1st Reading Isaiah 60:1-6
Lay Reader	Bette Brooks		8:00 Roberta O'Keefe
Greeters	John & Mary Jean McDonald		10:00 Steve Barna
Acolytes	Julie Canan & Phillip Crouse		
Altar Guild	Nancy Ervin, & Irene Machisko		Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Coffee Hosts	8:00 TBA		
	10:00 Judy & Kay Canan		2nd Reading Ephesians 3:1-12
Counters	Cory Conway & Bette Brooks		John Machisko
Loyalton	Maynard Evans		Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, January 13		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	Epiphany 1
Officiating	The Rev. Carol S. Evans		1st Reading Isaiah 42:1-9
Deacon	The Rev. William D. Snyder		Bud Minnich
Lay Reader	Carolyn Englert		
Greeters	Nancy & Fred Lundgren		Psalm 29
Acolytes	Schyler Conway & Eric Splinter		
Altar Guild	Nancy Ervin, & Irene Machisko		2nd Reading Acts 10:34-43
Coffee Hosts	8:00 TBA		Kathy Summy
	10:00 Nancy & Jim Ervin		
Counters	Cory Conway & Bette Brooks		Gospel Matthew 3:13-17
	10:00 AM Baptism of Emily Scibelli		

Sunday, January 20		9:00 AM Holy Eucharist	Epiphany 2
ANNUAL MEETING			1st Reading Isaiah 49:1-7
Officiating	The Rev. Carol S. Evans		Tim Splinter
Lay Reader	Maynard Evans		
Greeters	Bud Minnich & Leslie Thomas		Psalm 40:1-12
Acolytes	Sammy Stickle		
Coffee Hosts	9:00 John & Mary Jean McDonald & Hospitality Committee (covered dish lunch)		2nd Reading I Corinthians 1:1-9
Altar Guild	Nancy Ervin, & Irene Machisko		Cathy Mansor
Counters	Cory Conway & Bette Brooks		
Loyalton	Bill Snyder		Gospel John 1:29-42

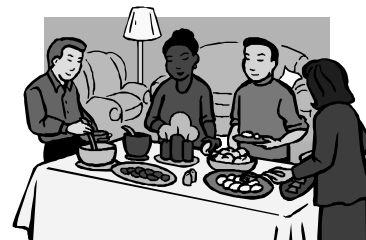


Annual Meeting

January 20th

9:00 am Eucharist (One service only)

Annual meeting in the parish hall immediately following the service. Pot luck lunch to follow. Please bring a dish to share.



Sunday, January 27

8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist

Epiphany 3

Officiating The Rev. Carol Evans
Deacon The Rev. William Snyder
Lay Reader Judy Canan
Greeters Nancy & Jim Ervin
Acolytes Emily Summy & Taylor Paxton
Altar Guild Nancy Ervin, & Irene Machisko
Coffee Hosts 8:00 TBA
 10:00 Nancy & Fred Lundgren
Counters Cory Conway & Bette Brooks

1st Reading Isaiah 9:1-4
 8:00 Roberta O'Keefe
 Gordon Thomas

Psalm 27:1, 5-13

2nd Reading I Corinthians 1:10-18
 Carolyn Englert

Gospel Matthew 4:12-23

Sunday, February 3

8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist

Epiphany 4

Officiating The Rev. Carol S. Evans
Lay Reader Bette Brooks
Greeters Judy & Kay Canan
Acolytes Julie Canan & Phillip Crouse
Altar Guild Nancy Ervin & Irene Machisko
Coffee Hosts 8:00 TBA
 10:00 Leslie & Paige Thomas
Counters John McDonald & Cathy Mansor
Loyalton Maynard Evans

1st Reading Exodus 24:12-18
 Roberta O'Keefe
 Judy Canan

Psalm 2

2nd Reading 2 Peter 1:16-21
 Tim Splinter

Gospel Matthew 17:1-9

Congratulations!

and many happy returns...



Birthdays

- 4—Emily Summy
- 5—Corbin Baker
- 7—Richard Sanek
- 10—Patricia Williams
- 11—Cora Pierce
- 15—Bruce Ahrens
- 26—Helen White
- 18—Amanda Ulbricht
- 26—Courtney Rich
- 28—Paige Paxton

Anniversaries

- 11th—Fred & Nancy Lundgren
- 11th—Bud & Caroline Minnich
- 22nd—Leonard & Jean Mercer



Baptisms

- 2—Reba Cook
- 7—Caroline Minnich
- 9—Bill Summy
- 18—Maggy Rich

MARDI GRAS

The Youth Group is putting on it's annual fundraiser:

The Pancake Supper

Sunday Feb. 3rd

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Menu will include:

Pancakes, sausage, potatoes

O'Brian, apple sauce

-and-

A low carb option egg bake.

Donations needed: sausage links, pancake mix (add water only), eggs, milk, mushrooms, frozen pepper and onion mix.

If you are interested in donating items please contact Chris Stickle (330.296.4874) email - bakinlady@sbcglobal.net.



Did You Know?...



Our youth group raised \$400 for the family from Safer Futures, Portage County's battered women's shelter. On December first they went shopping in Streetsboro and they delivered the goodies on the 10th in Kent. The kids had lots of fun spending the money and picking the best deals. Thank you to everyone for helping our children make their goals...

The Christmas pageant is well underway and everyone should enjoy the explanation of Christmas to the two scrooges. **Eric Splinter** will be playing Silent Night on the organ and it sounds wonderful so far...

Sammy Stickle and **Jenna Summy** went to the community theater tryouts for the new play "Annie Junior", along with 237 other people. Only 90 people were chosen and Sammy and Jenna were two of the lucky ones. The play will take place some time in April. Keep us informed---love to see it!...

Fred and Nancy Lundgren's granddaughter Suzanna was baptized here last month, the **Rev. Bill Lyle** had the honor of being the priest in charge (**Carol** was on vacation) which is just as well; **Bill Lundgren** and **Bill Lyle** have a connection that goes way back...

Bruce Ahrens surprised **Sue** on their 40th wedding anniversary, on Sunday, December 16th. Bruce had the altar flowers given to celebrate the occasion; both their children; **Fred his wife Chris and their children Kate, Emily, and Madison, their daughter Sonja (all the way from Massachusetts) and husband Don and their two children John and Morgan** were in church along with **Sue's mother, Ruth**; and of course Bruce was there. If that wasn't enough to get Sue's tears flowing (she is a crier, you know), Bruce had a reception in the parish hall for everyone---it was wonderful. And yes, Sue was surprised!...

Thanks to everyone who helped the E.C.W. sponsor families at Thanksgiving. It was nice to be able to be so generous to those who need a little help at that time of the year. And the E.C.W. also wants to thank all the bakers, **Pat Williams, Bette Brooks, Mary Jean McDonald, Marcia Splinter, Shirley**

Johnson, Kay & Judy Canan, Bev Louis Mercury, Irene Machisko, Nancy Ervin, Marsha Snyder, Carolyn Englert, Bonnie Quay and her sister.

Each of these busy bakers made twelve dozen cookies (that's right twelve dozen) for our first Christmas cookie sale. Thanks to **Carolyn Englert** for her organizational skills that helped things go so smoothly. The sale went very well, the final totals aren't in yet, but thanks to everyone for their help and support...

The **Conways** are finally in their new home, however, they don't have a kitchen sink as of yet and with the holiday fast approaching it should be real interesting at their house. "What are you going to make for dinner dear?" "Reservations!!"...

Families will be arriving in the area to be with loved ones; **Alice Boydell's daughter Ellen, her husband and their new baby Elliot** will be in town to visit, the **Minnich's sons David and Steve** will be in to see Mom and Dad and along with their niece **Cathy Potisuk, the Snyder's daughter Jill** will be up from Dayton with the girls **Ellie and Lilly; Cora Pierce's daughters Coralie and Maralie** will be home with their families, the **Splinters** will have **Tim's brother and sister in-law** after New Years and **his parents** for the holidays, which works out great for the choir - **Tim's father** (with his wonderful voice) will join us for Lessons and Carols; and **Cathy Mansor's daughter** will be joining the choir for the holiday season, helping out her mother, who is now the only alto in the choir, since **Nydah Ellet** is home and on the mend with a knee replacement. **Gordon Thompson** is back home in New Jersey with his parents **Steve and Laurie** and we wish them and every one a **Very Merry Christmas!**

Any information you would like to see in the Did You Know please give it to Tim Splinter or Marsha Snyder.

On the Horizon

**Saturday January 12th
Fellowship & Game Night
6:30pm**

Come on in for our monthly fun!
Bring your game, your cards, your
favorite snack, or just yourself!

**Sunday January 20th
Annual Meeting
10:30pm**

It's time for the Annual Parish
Meeting. There will be one service at
9am followed by the meeting and
luncheon. Bring a dish to share.

**Tuesday February 5th
Fun-draising Meeting
7pm**

**May 10th 2008
Flower Sale**

Thank You

To everyone in the parish who
contributed to the surprise reception
held in the parish hall and gave us
some "spending" money for our trip
to London and Paris, and to those
who wished us well, I just want to
say how much I appreciated your
love and support, not only in this
once in my life time experience, but
always. I find that the longer I live
the more important my friends are,
and I find my friends here at Grace
Church. Thanks again, not only did
we have a wonderful time, we didn't
forget you while we were away, we
made a toast to our friends at Grace
before a wonderful dinner at the
Eiffel Tower and that was very
special.

Thanks again,
Marsha Snyder

Thank you so very much for the
monetary gift that was presented to
me for the trip Marsha Snyder and I
took to London and Paris recently.
The cake at coffee hour was a
wonderful (and delicious) surprise
too. Your generosity and kindness
are so touching and your friendship
is, as always, appreciated. Grace
Church is certainly made of up a lot
of very special people!

Mary Ann Switz

**Sunday February 3rd
Mardi Gras
Pancake Dinner
4pm—6pm**

**May 17th 2008
Men's Garage Sale**

ANNUAL REPORTS

The following committee chairpersons are responsible for
reports that have to be in the office by January 6th.

The Rev. Carol Evans - Rector's Report, Eucharistic Minister,
Worship Leaders

Bette Brooks - Senior Warden's Report, Vision & Values

Cory Conway - Junior Warden's Report, Building & Grounds

Fred Lundgren - Treasurer's Report

Judy Canan - Assistant Treasurer's Report

Addrianne Conway - Acolyte, Christian Education, Youth Group
with statement, stewardship

Nancy Lundgren - Altar Guild, Gracie's Back Door

Mary Jean McDonald - Gracie's Back Door financial, E.W.C.
financial

Marsha Snyder - E.C.W., Altar Guild financial, Discretionary
financial

Leslie Thomas - Beatty committee

Mary Ann Switz - Choir

Nancy Ervin - Hospitality

Kathy Summy - Deanery

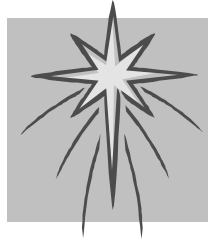
Marcia Splinter - Fundraising Committee

Lloyd O'Keefe - Jubilee Committee

Maynard Evans - Loyalton

Bill Snyder - Loyalton, Deacon

Carolyn Englert - Prayer Chain



**We Wish You a
Merry Christmas
and a
Holy New Year**