



The Grace Vine

January 2016

Rector's Writ

It feels strange to be typing 2016. Even though the Church marks a new year with the first Sunday of Advent, the week between Christmas and New Year's seems always a good time for remembering the past year and reflecting on the year ahead. It seems important to recognize that in the good we've done and in the challenges we face as a Church family, we stand before each trusting that our hope and strength is rooted in our Lord's goodness, grace, and power at work among us. With God, we see and name the challenges that lie ahead: our need to grow in membership and in the Spirit; our need to increase giving and decrease the budget deficit; our need to continually build fellowship within God's church and to reach out to others in service. Our worship, service, and fellowship are to be centered on Christ's teachings: love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and love our neighbors as we love ourselves. It's that simple. It's that complicated. It's done by God's grace and our willingness to be faithful.

Following are some prayers to offer for the growth and well being of Grace Church and for living faithfully in 2016. God's blessings and peace to you and yours. Carol +

O God, our Heavenly Father, make the door of Grace Church wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship, and a heavenly Father's care; and narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride, and hatred. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling-block to children, nor to straying feet; but rugged and strong enough to turn back the tempter's power. O Heavenly Father, make the door of Grace Church a gateway to your eternal Kingdom. Bless every member and worker in our parish. May all that we do be to your honor and glory, the upbuilding of this church of yours, and the extension of your Kingdom. May we continue to be yours forever and daily increase in your Holy Spirit of love and service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen. (adapted; attrib. to Bishop Thomas Ken)

Lord, give us grace to do what we can, that thou mayest empower us to do what thou wilt. (Daily Prayer, ed. E. Milner-White and G. Briggs)

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (Collect from Proper 23, BCP p. 234)

Those things, good Lord, that we pray for, give us thy grace to labor for. (Sir Thomas More)

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (Collect from Proper 14, BCP p. 232)

O Lord, never allow us to think that we can stand by ourselves, and not need thee. (John Donne)

O Lord, forgive what I have been, sanctify what I am; and order what I shall be. (Anonymous)

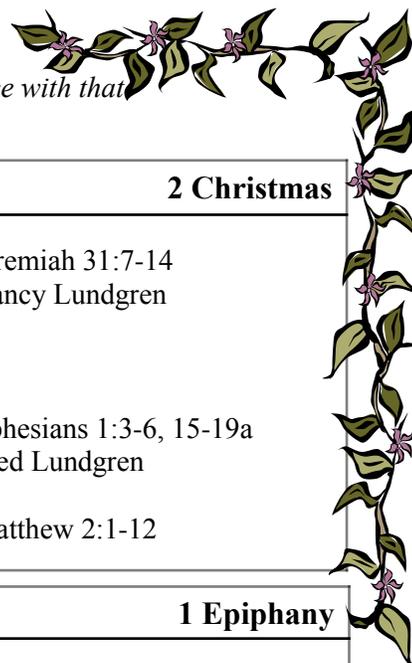
O God, help us not to despise what we do not understand. (William Penn)

O God, help us to be masters of ourselves that we may be servants of others. (Sir Alec Paterson)



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.

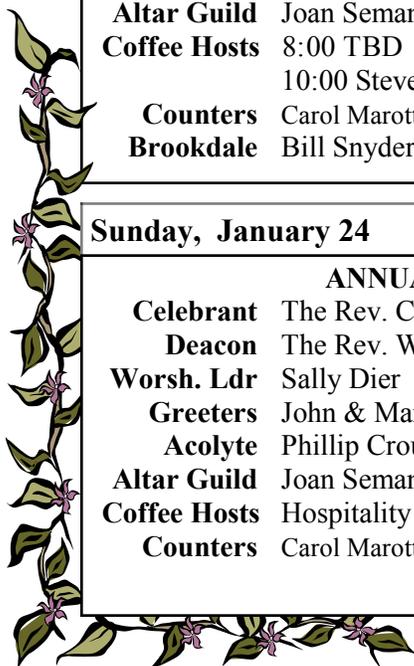


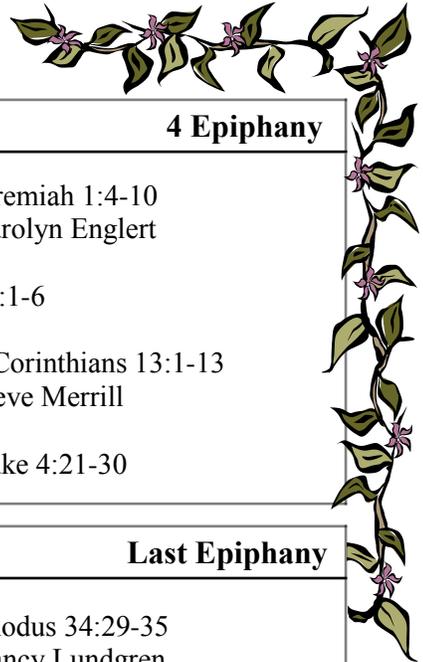
Sunday, January 3		8:00 & 10:00 AM Morning Prayer		2 Christmas	
Celebrant	The Rev. William Snyder	1st Reading	Jeremiah 31:7-14		
Worship	8:00 Bette Brooks		Nancy Lundgren		
Leader	10:00 Carolyn Englert	Psalm	84		
Greeters	Nancy & Fred Lundgren	2nd Reading	Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a		
Acolyte	David Miller		Fred Lundgren		
Altar Guild	Joan Seman & Shirley Johnson	Gospel	Matthew 2:1-12		
Coffee Hosts	8:00 Joan & Frank Seman 10:00 Lisa, Taylor, & Paige Paxton				
Counters	Carol Marotta & Carolyn Englert/Fred Lundgren				
Brookdale	Kathy Summy				

Sunday, January 10		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist		1 Epiphany	
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Isaiah 43:1-7		
Deacon	The Rev. William Snyder		Martha Croll		
Worship	8:00 Sally Dier	Psalm	29		
Leader	10:00 Steve Merrill	2nd Reading	Acts 8:14-17		
Greeters	Lisa & Jeff Marsh		Jeff Croll		
Acolyte	Eric Splinter	Gospel	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22		
Altar Guild	Joan Seman & Shirley Johnson				
Coffee Hosts	8:00 TBD 10:00 John & Mary Jean McDonald				
Counters	Carol Marotta & Carolyn Englert/Fred Lundgren				

Sunday, January 17		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist		2 Epiphany	
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Isaiah 62:1-5		
Worship	8:00 Bette Brooks		Kathy Summy		
Leader	10:00 Nancy Lundgren	Psalm	36:5-10		
Greeters	David Miller & Alex Wroblewski	2nd Reading	1 Corinthians 12:1-11		
Acolyte	Jenna Summy		Tim Splinter		
Altar Guild	Joan Seman & Shirley Johnson	Gospel	John 2:1-11		
Coffee Hosts	8:00 TBD 10:00 Steve & Susan Merrill				
Counters	Carol Marotta & Carolyn Englert/Fred Lundgren				
Brookdale	Bill Snyder				

Sunday, January 24		9:00 AM Holy Eucharist		3 Epiphany	
ANNUAL MEETING					
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10		
Deacon	The Rev. William Snyder		Martha Croll		
Worsh. Ldr	Sally Dier	Psalm	19		
Greeters	John & Mary Jean McDonald	2nd Reading	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a		
Acolyte	Phillip Crouse		Jeff Croll		
Altar Guild	Joan Seman & Shirley Johnson	Gospel	Luke 4:14-21		
Coffee Hosts	Hospitality Committee				
Counters	Carol Marotta & Carolyn Englert/Fred Lundgren				



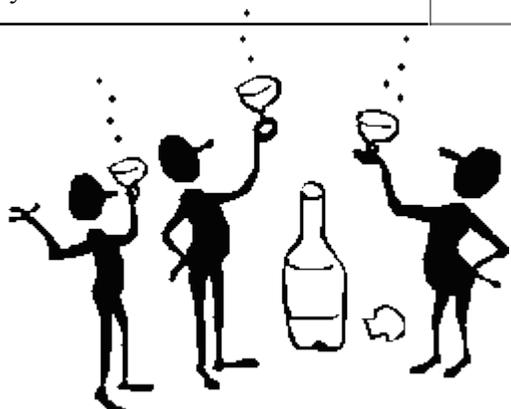


Sunday, January 31 **8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist** **4 Epiphany**

Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Carolyn Englert
Deacon	The Rev. William Snyder	Psalm	71:1-6
Worship	8:00 TBD	2nd Reading	1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Steve Merrill
Leader	10:00 Steve Merrill	Gospel	Luke 4:21-30
Greeters	Nancy & Jim Ervin		
Acolyte	Kevin Splinter		
Altar Guild	Joan Seman & Shirley Johnson		
Coffee Hosts	8:00 TBD 10:00 Cindy Ward & Nancy Ervin		
Counters	Carol Marotta & Carolyn Englert/Fred Lundgren		

Sunday, February 7 **8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist** **Last Epiphany**

Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans	1st Reading	Exodus 34:29-35 Nancy Lundgren
Worship	8:00 Bette Brooks	Psalm	99
Leader	10:00 Carolyn Englert	2nd Reading	2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2 Fred Lundgren
Greeters	Nancy & Fred Lundgren	Gospel	Luke 9:28-43a
Acolyte	Jeff Marsh		
Altar Guild	TBD		
Coffee Hosts	8:00 Joan & Frank Seman 10:00 John & Mary Jean McDonald		
Counters	Kay Canan & Fred Lundgren		
Emeritus	Kathy Summy		



Birthdays

- 4th Emily Summy
- 10th Pat Williams
- 15th Bruce Ahrens
- 28th Paige Paxton
- 30th Jake Stover
- Bud Hughes

Congratulations!

and many happy returns...

Baptisms

- 9th Bill Summy



Anniversaries

- 11th Fred & Nancy Lundgren
- 21st Leslie & Larry Thomas
- 28th Mike & Shirley Johnson
- 31st Carl & Rachelle Seiter



Did You Know?...



December has always proved to be a busy month, and this year was no exception. We purchased new drapes for the parish hall and had the carpets cleaned. We had a visit and pancake breakfast with St. Nicholas. We've had Confirmation classes and a visit from Bishop Hollingsworth. Our ever busy ECW group and volunteers baked and sold Christmas cookies. They asked for donations of underwear and socks for the County Clothing Center and children's books for Lillian Valley School in Idaho. We enjoyed the Greening of the Church and a luncheon of chili and hot dogs that followed; an Advent Quiet Day on the first Saturday on the month, and preparing for a beautiful Christmas Eve service by the choir; flowers to be ordered and the church looking beautiful with lots of candles, flowers and greenery thanks to the Altar Guild. WOW!...

A visit from St. Nicholas (**Steve Merrill**)--complete with a pancake breakfast enjoyed by around 40 people between the 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. service--and a craft for the children after the 10:00 a.m. service was offered by **Kay Canan and Sally Dier**. St. Nicholas had his picture taken with all the children (the youngest 2 1/2 month **Joji Lewicki** and the eldest 18 year old **Jenna Summy**). St. Nicholas preached at both the 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. service. The children were asked to come and sit in the front pews where St. Nick explained all about his history and had questions for them concerning Santa Claus. He handed out gold coins and candy canes and explained their origin and spoke to the congregation about importance of St. Nicholas in the history of the Christian church...

On December 13th **Bishop Mark Hollingsworth Jr.** made his visitation to Grace Church and confirmed **Jane Gear-Jozsa and Charles Parsons**. We welcome Jane and Charles to our Grace Church family. A covered dish luncheon followed the Confirmation service. Bishop Hollingsworth had a wonderful sermon, and we all enjoyed his time with us. Many thanks to Nancy Ervin and her Hospitality Committee for all their work and to the members of the church who so generously brought in food to the luncheon. Bishop Hollingsworth met with the vestry following the lunch. All in all it was a wonderful day...

Nancy Ervin organized the hot dog and chili lunch that follows the Greening of the Church. Thanks to Nancy, **Bud Hughes and Jeff Marsh** for supplying the chili and **Judy Canan** for supplying the hot dogs and buns, and **Mary Jean McDonald, Cindy Ward, and Carol Marotta** supplied the cakes for dessert...

The E.C.W. sold Christmas cookie again this year and thanks to everyone who baked, sold, packed, and distributed cookies. We especially thank **Carolyn Englert** who once again spear-headed this project...

Thanks to **Mary Jean McDonald** who brought the underwear and socks project to our attention and helped us to be generous to the County Clothing Center and support their outreach to the children during these cold winter months...

Kudos to **Kay Canan** for finding curtains for the parish hall

at the right price and right size and pinch pleated (pinch pleated, lined curtains are *not* easy to find). Kay, and daughter **Julie Canan, Sally Dier, Nancy Lundgren, and Phillip Crouse** worked until after 2:00 p.m. on that Sunday and got all those curtains unpacked, ironed, and hung. **John McDonald** and Kay got the curtains in the hallway mounted. They look great!...

Our Junior Warden **Fred Lundgren** and his wife **Nancy** spent most of the day here at church when the parish hall carpet was cleaned. Nancy said that called for a lunch; which Fred was happy to take her up on that offer...

The E.C.W. is collecting children's books for the Lillian Valley School (grades 1-5); this is not only for Christmas, but will be on going throughout the year...

Getting ready for Christmas Eve service is a lot of work for our altar guild, especially **Nancy Lundgren and Cindy Hoskins** who have been on altar for two months. The choir and our organist have been busy with carols and hymns for the 10:30/11:00 service...

Sue & Bruce Ahrens spent Thanksgiving in Minnesota visiting with Sue's brother and his family. Sue reported that it used to take them a day to get up there and now it's two. Yes Sue--we all get it; it's not that Minnesota is getting further away from us -- or is it!! Hmm...

On Sunday, December 6th we had a visit from a few people we hadn't seen for a while. It was wonderful having **Betty Ziska and her daughter Becky** here. Betty had just celebrated her 90th birthday and although she was invited to come for a visit we didn't know if that was possible. **Carol Marotta** found just the right picture of Betty "in the day" with some of her choir members and she and **Nancy Ervin** presented it to Betty during the service. It was wonderful seeing her and she still looks wonderful. **Larry Harper** has moved back to the area and his daughter **Linda and grandson Jake** brought him to church. We hope to see more of them...

John McDonald is busy selling the Christmas trees he's been taking care of all year. They are beautiful trees and he has several varieties to choose from. Think about getting a tree from John next year...

Marcia & Tim Splinter have earned bragging rights for their sons Eric and Kevin. James A. Garfield School offered some of their students the opportunity to participate in a nationwide challenge of problem solving and logic. Eric's class had the highest average in Ohio in the senior division with Eric leading the way and Kevin individually came in first in Ohio in the junior division. Congratulations to both boys and to Mom and Dad. It's a blessing to have good brains in the family...

Carolyn Englert, Mary Jean McDonald, Marsha Snyder, Marcia Splinter, and Kevin Splinter along with friends enjoyed an evening at Christ Church, Warren where **Tim Splinter** was part of a "Medieval Celebration of Christmastyme," a Christmas celebration complete with great

Annual Parish Meeting

January 24th, 9:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist—Covered Dish Luncheon to Follow the Meeting

We will have one Holy Communion service at 9am, followed by Grace's Annual Parish Meeting on January 25th, 2015. We will elect 3 new members to Vestry; one new member to the Beatty Committee; hear reports; and present the 2015 proposed budget for approval. The meeting will be followed by a covered dish lunch and time for fellowship. Please plan to attend.

The following people are responsible for reports:

Rector's Report – Rev. Carol Evans
Senior Warden's Report – Frank Seman
Junior Warden's Report – Fred Lundgren
Treasurer's Report – Marcia Splinter
Deacon's Report – Bill Snyder
Altar Guild - Nancy Lundgren
Altar Guild Financial - Marsha Snyder
Brookdale – Kathy Summy & Bill Snyder
Acolytes – Tim Splinter
Christian Education – Sue Ahrens/Chris Stickle
Adult Christian Education – Carolyn Englert
Choir – Martha Croll
Youth Group - Chris Stickle

Gracie's Back Door - Nancy Lundgren/Sally Dier
Prayer Chain – Carolyn Englert
ECW – Marsha Snyder
ECW financial Report - Mary Jean McDonald
Discretionary Fund – Marsha Snyder
Hospitality Committee – Nancy Ervin
Mary Helen Beatty Com. – Roberta O'Keefe
150th Anniversary Committee - Barb Popiel
Card Ministry - Shirley Johnson
Memorial Fund - Marsha Snyder
Loaves & Fishes—Chris Stickle
Visibility Committee—Kay Canan / Sally Dier
Fund Raising—Kay Canan / Sally Dier

song and music, food, fun, and fanfare. Tim has joined the group Tapestries of Ohio, singing tenor for this occasion, and their medieval merry-making was a wonderful event to behold...

Eric Splinter and **Jenna Summy** are back at it in their local musicals. Eric will be playing Jimmy Smith in his High School production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and Jenna will be playing Grace in the Ravenna production of *Honk*. Break a leg both of you!

Dani Dier got a new car for Christmas. Well, not exactly for Christmas. She hit a deer and therefore her car had to be replaced. **John and Mary Jean McDonald's** car also met up with a deer. They don't know yet if it'll be totaled or repaired. Not a fun time to replace or repair cars, but we hope it doesn't dampen the Christmas spirit in any of these good folks...

On a more pleasant note, people who plan to come home for Christmas (at the time of this writing) include: **Mary Jean & John McDonald** look forward for daughter **Amy** and her family to arrive from California. **Nancy & Fred Lundgren** eagerly expect their son, **Bill**, and his daughters here from Texas. **Marsha & Bill Snyder's** daughter, **Jill**, and granddaughters will visit from Miamisburg, Ohio. **Bette Brooks** is looking forward to all the girls being home sometime during the Christmas season: **Laurel, Amanda, Beverly, and Caroline** and her family. **Sue and Bruce Ahrens** will enjoy a visit from daughter, **Sonja** and her family. And **Shirley & Mike Johnson** are headed for California to be with their daughter, **Susan**, and her family.

Acolytes Schedule

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

2/14—Jenna

2/21—David

2/28—Eric

3/6—Phil

Tim@splinterfactions.net

Marcia@splinterfactions.net

330-527-2084

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.*

Canaire

January 28

Canaire was born late in the 5th Century AD in the south of Ireland; we aren't sure of either the exact date or location. As an adult, she lived as a hermit in a cell she had built near Bantry Bay. One night, while praying, she saw in a vision all the churches of Ireland. It appeared to her that a tower of fire rose up from each side of the churches. The highest of the towers, and the straightest toward heaven, rose from Inis Cathaig, the island now known as Scattery Island. This is where the great monk Senan lived. Senan was one of the many great Irish religious leaders and was a friend of the great Aidan before Aidan moved to Lindisfarne on Iona. Convinced that Inis Cathaig was to be her place of resurrection, she set out to travel there using only the tower of fire from her vision that continued to blaze both day and night as her guide..

Senan met her but told her to go to her sister who lived on the island east of Inis Cathaig and become her guest. "That is not why I have come," she replied, "but to find hospitality with you on this island." Senan insisted that only men were allowed on the island, even as visitors. Canaire responded, "Christ came to redeem women no less than to redeem men. No less did he suffer for the sake of women than for the sake of men. No less than men, women enter into the heavenly kingdom. Why, then, should you not allow women to live on this place?"

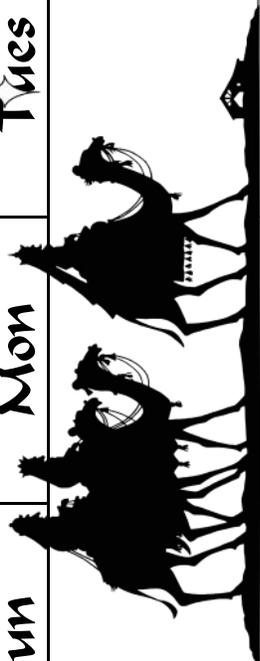
In response to her stubbornness, Senan gave her what she asked for: the Eucharist from his hand and a place for her to lie down. The moment she received the Sacrament for the first time from Senan's hand, she was taken into heaven. This was believed to have occurred in 530 AD.

It is entirely possible that Canaire was the first Irish feminist! She certainly had a positive effect on Senan, for early legends say that Aidan of Lindisfarne (his disciple) was a significant mentor for both men and women in the religious communities.

Today, the site of Canaire's grave is partially submerged; however, it can still be seen in the waters off Scattery Island and is marked with a simple flag.

Prayer in honor of Canaire: *Teach us to follow in Your steps across the icy waters of prejudice and fear to the perfect communion of God's Kingdom. Amen.*

January The Grace Vine 2016

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
 <p>3 Christmas 2 •8am Morn. Prayer •9am Coffee •10am Morn. Prayer •11:15 Coffee</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>•10-2 Gracie's Back Door</p>	<p>7</p> <p>•7pm Choir</p>	<p>1</p> <p>New Year's Day</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>10 First Epiphany •8am HE •9am Coffee •9:4-5 Ch Ed •10am HE •11:15 Coffee</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>•1-3pm Sit & Stitch</p>	<p>13</p> <p>•10-2 Gracie's Back Door</p>	<p>14</p> <p>•7pm Choir</p>	<p>15</p> <p>•8am-3:30pm Portage Learning Center in Parish Hall</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 2 Epiphany •8am HE •9am Coffee •9:4-5 Ch Ed •10am HE •11:15 Coffee</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Martin Luther King Day Office Closed</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>•10-2 Gracie's Back Door</p>	<p>21</p> <p>•8am Retired Men's Breakfast •7pm Choir</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 3 Epiphany Annual Meeting 9am HE 10:15 Annual Meeting and Covered Dish Lunch</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Office Closed until Jan. 4th</p>	<p>26</p> <p>•1-3pm Sit & Stitch •7pm Vestry</p>	<p>27</p> <p>•10-2 Gracie's Back Door</p>	<p>28</p> <p>•7pm Choir</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 4 Epiphany •8am HE •9am Coffee •10am Lessons and Carols •11:15 Coffee</p>						



The Grace Vine

Grace Episcopal Church
250 W. Cedar St.
Ravenna OH 44266

Grace Episcopal Church of Ravenna

The Rev. Carol Evans—Rector
The Rev. William Snyder
Marsha Snyder—Secretary
Tim Lewicki—Organist
Martha Croll—Choirmaster

Phone: 330-296-3443
Web Site: www.gracecra.org
Email: revcarol@gracecra.org

The Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church
Fred Lundgren (2015)
Steve Merrill (2015)
Frank Seman (2015)
Barb Popiel (2016)
Michele Novak (2016)
Carol Marotta (2016)
Kay Canan (2017)
Bette Brooks (2017)
Carolyn Engler (2017)

Get your Grace Vine electronically!

The Grace Vine is now available as an Adobe Acrobat PDF file on the church web site. If you would like, you can start retrieving it from there, rather than having a paper copy at the back of the church or in the mail. You would receive an email notifying you when the issue ready and linking to it so you don't get a huge email in your inbox.

If you would like to take advantage of this, send me an email at grwebmaster@gracecra.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.