

The Grace Vine

March 2005

Rector's Writ

Our Lenten journey is one that may involve taking on some spiritual discipline or giving up something we enjoy. We do these things as a reminder of Christ being "led by the Spirit" into the wilderness for 40 days of temptation and fasting. Lent may be a good time for us to set aside a time for silence in the midst of our all-too-busy lives.

Henry Nouwen, a priest and writer who has entered into God's nearer presence, wrote about the value of silence; not filling our lives and our prayer with words of our own, but with a willingness to LISTEN to God. We need to listen closely to God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit, before we know what TRUE words to speak. He wrote:

"... the silence from which the word comes forth is not emptiness and absence, but fullness and presence; not the human silence of embarrassment, shame, or guilt, but the divine silence in which love rests secure."

In reading that early into our Lenten journey, I couldn't help but think of the Great Vigil of Easter. In this Saturday evening service, we celebrate that lovely yet quiet promise of hope, resurrection, and redemption. It seems to be the reminder of all that is celebrated at Easter BEFORE the formal and joyous celebration begins.

The Easter Vigil includes the service of light where the Paschal Candle is lit and brought in among us. It represents Christ bringing light into the darkness by his suffering, death, and resurrection thereby bringing redemption... and hope... to all humanity. Just hear, if you will, some of the words:

"This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life. ... How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord. How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and man is reconciled to God."

Read these words again and let them sink into your heart.

This is, after all, what Easter is all about.

Thanks be to God.

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. March 6—8:00am & 10:00am Holy Eucharist—4th Lent	
<p>Officiant: The Rev. Carol Evans Deacon: The Rev. William Snyder Lay Reader: Judy Canan Greeters: Bonnie Quay & Debbie Shorts Acolytes: Paige Thomas & Katie Ahrens Shephard: 8:00 Roberta O'Keefe, 10:00 Stephanie Higgins Alter Guild: Nancy Lundgren & Bette Brooks Coffee Hosts: Bud Minnich & Jim Ervin Counters: Tim Splinter & Dennis Dier Loyalton: Maynard Evans</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(8am Roberta O'Keefe) 1st Reading 1 Samuel 16:1-13 Steve Barna Psalm 23 2nd Reading Ephesians 5:1-14 Tim Splinter Gospel John 9:1-38</p>
Sun. March 13—8:00am & 10:00am Holy Eucharist—5th Lent	
<p>Officiant: The Rev. Carol Evans Deacon: The Rev. William Snyder Lay Reader: Bette Brooks Greeters: Sandee West & Betty Russell Acolytes: Emily Neely Shephard: 8:00 Lloyd O'Keefe, 10:00 Stephanie Higgins Alter Guild: Nancy Lundgren & Bette Brooks Coffee Hosts: Nancy & Fred Lundgren Counters: Tim Splinter & Dennis Dier Loyalton: Judy Canan</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">1st Reading Ezekiel 37:1-14 Blake Quay Psalm 130 2nd Reading Romans 6:16-23 Laura Price Gospel John 11:1-44</p>
Sun. March 20—8:00am & 10:00am Holy Eucharist—Palm Sunday	
<p>Officiant: The Rev. Carol Evans Deacon: The Rev. William Snyder Lay Reader: Maynard Evans Greeters: Jim Ervin & Bud Minnich Acolytes: Emily Summy 1C, Katie Ahrens 2C, Chelsea Postlethwaite T, Cory Postlethwaite T Shephard: 8:00 Jean Mercer, 10:00 Judy Canan Alter Guild: Nancy Lundgren & Bette Brooks Coffee Hosts: John & Mary Jean McDonald Counters: Tim Splinter & Dennis Dier Loyalton: Carolyn Englert</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(Melissa Strainer 8:00) 1st Reading Isaiah 45:21-25 Bud Minnich Psalm 22:1-11 2nd Reading Philippians 2:5-11 Paige Thomas Gospel Matthew 26:36-27:66</p>
Thurs. March 24—7:00pm—Maundy Thursday	
<p>Officiant: The Rev. Carol Evans Deacon: The Rev. William Snyder Lay Reader: Carolyn Englert Greeters: Fred & Nancy Lundgren Acolytes: Emily Summy Alter Guild: Nancy Lundgren & Bette Brooks Counters: Tim Splinter & Dennis Dier</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">1st Reading Exodus 12:1-14a Psalm 78:14-20, 23-25 2nd Reading Corinthians 11:23-32 Gospel John 13:1-15</p>

Fri. March 25—7:00pm Good Friday—Way of the Cross—7:30 Liturgy

Officiant: The Rev. Carol Evans
Deacon: The Rev. William Snyder
Greeters: Judy Canan & TBD
Acolytes: Emily Neely
Alter Guild: Nancy Lundgren & Bette Brooks
Counters: Tim Splinter & Dennis Deir

1st Reading Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Psalm 22:1-11
2nd Reading Hebrews 10:1-25
Gospel John 18:1-19:37

Sat. March 26—7:00pm The Great Vigil

Officiant: The Rev. Carol Evans
Deacon: The Rev. William Snyder
Lay Reader: Judy Canan
Acolytes: Julie Canan
Alter Guild: Nancy Lundgren & Bette Brooks
Counters: Tim Splinter & Dennis Deir

Sun. March 27—8:00am & 10:00am Easter Festive Holy Eucharist

Officiant: The Rev. Carol Evans
Deacon: The Rev. William Snyder & Rev. Jim Wichman
Lay Reader: Bette Brooks
Greeters: John & Mary Jean McDonald
Acolytes: Emily Neely 1C, Paige Thomas 2C, Julie Canan T, Emily Summy T, Ricky Sanek Th.
Shephard: 8:00 George Furrer, 10:00 Leslie Thomas
Alter Guild: Nancy Lundgren & Bette Brooks
Coffee Hosts: Ron & Kelly Postlethwaite
Counters: Tim Splinter & Dennis Dier
Loyalton: Bill Snyder

1st Reading Acts 10:34-43
 Kathy Summy
Psalm 118:14-17,22-24
2nd Reading Colossians 3:1-4
 Blake Quay
Gospel John 20:1-18

Sun. April 3—8:00am & 10:00am Holy Eucharist—2nd Easter

Officiant: The Rev. Carol Evans
Deacon: The Rev. William Snyder
Lay Reader: Judy Canan
Greeters: Sandee West & Betty Russell
Acolytes: Julie Canan & Katie Ahrens
Shephard: 8:00 Roberta O'Keefe, 10:00 Stephanie Higgins
Alter Guild: Linda Gaboury & TBD
Coffee Hosts: Leslie & Colin Thomas
Counters: Addrienne Conway & Pat Williams
Loyalton: Maynard Evans

(8am Roberta O'Keefe)
1st Reading Acts 2:14a,22-32
 Steve Barna
Psalm 118:19-24
2nd Reading 1 Peter 1:3-9
 Tim Splinter
Gospel John 20:19-31

Did You Know!

By Marsha Snyder

...about 57 people attend the 140th Annual Meeting of Grace Church, Ravenna. During this meeting, the following people were elected to Vestry; **Dennis Dier, Blake Quay, and Pat Williams. Barb Popiel** is the newly elected member of the Beatty Committee. Congratulations to all these folks. **Rev. Carol** did a wonderful job conducting the meeting and everything ran smoothly--well almost everything. Out going Vestry members, **Dean Hugebeck, Roberta O'Keefe and Carolyn Englert** were recognized and thanked for their dedication and hard work. Treasurer, **Fred Lundgren** was recognized for all he does on a daily and weekly basis. **Nancy Lundgren** was quick to say they were still married after the Annual Meeting financial reports and Parochial report. We gave the OK on a deficit budget and trust that with God's help we'll make it another year. Many thanks to **Nancy Ervin** and her **hospitality committee** for the covered dish dinner that following this meeting...at the Vestry meeting that followed the Annual meeting the following people were elected officers: **Nancy Lundgren, Senior Warden; Dennis Dier, Junior Warden; and Kathy Summy, Clerk.** Sooo, if you have any questions or answers, these are the people to see...the **Fun'draising Committee** has some great ideas for dinners, the Balloon A Fair, plant sales, and a game night are just a few of the thing we'll have an opportunity in which to participate...the **G.E.M. Committee** (Growth, Evangelism, Membership) are working hard to make a difference in this church and community. ... our new Junior Warden, **Dennis Dier** "hit the road running". Dennis was in the church the day after his election and he and **Fred Lundgren** changed about 36 light bulbs in the building including the blinking light in the office (that was greatly appreciated). Then, as luck would have it, the boiler in the Christian Ed wing went out and after some trouble shooting Dennis had it up and running with some help from **Ron Postlethwaite** who just happen to have the much needed part, we finally got heat in that part of the building. This all happened when the outside temperature was reading 15°...**Carolyn Englert, Ron Postlethwaite, and Kathy Summy** talked about having a Bible study on Wednesdays before Lent. After much discussion, books were ordered and the plans were finalized. With **Carolyn Englert, Ron Postlethwaite and Bill Snyder** facilitating;

the five week program had about 14 adults and 7 children who took part in this new venture. It was well attended and very rewarding to everyone there, even though the weather didn't cooperate on most of these days. Dinner was served at 6:00 p.m. Bible study began at 7:00 p.m. with some lively discussion and a time for fellowship. We must add that this couldn't have happened without the help from **Goldie Shriver** who watched the children in the nursery which allowed the adults to get down to the business at hand. Plans are being made to continue this study group after Lent. It will run for four or five weeks only, depending on the source of study, and everyone is invited to participate. Be looking for the announcements... Just a reminder---Bible study with **Fr. Lloyd O'Keefe** is still taking place every Thursday from 1:30-2:30, we would love to have you join us. You don't have to have been there from the beginning, you "can jump in" at anything time and still get something out of this very interesting study with conversation-especially with Fr. Lloyd, whose a wonderful teacher...the Youth Group did a great job with this year's Mardi Gras. Many thanks to **Kay Canan, Addrienne Conway, Kathy Summy and her parents, Lisa Paxton, Marcia & Tim Splinter and Kelly & Ron Postlethwaite and Rev. Carol** for all their hard work. Most of the children of this parish helped in one way or another and those included: **Julie Canan, Paige & Colin Thomas, Paige & Taylor Paxton, Emily & Jenna Summy, Jesse & Jeanell Moore, Emily & Katie Ahrens, Cory & Chelsea Postlethwaite, Skylar Conway, Eric Splinter.** And once again this year **Carolyn Englert** was our gypsy "fortune teller" extraordinaire. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard on this event.

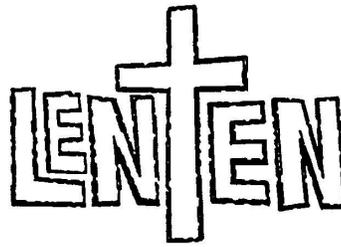
An update on our servicemen who have returned home from Iraq--**Duane Jolly** returned home in November and **Steve Ahrens**, nephew of **Sue and Bruce Ahrens**, returned home on February 11. Thanks be to God! They both expressed thanks to the congregation for prayers and the cards they received at Christmas...**Addrienne Conway and Kathy Summy's Girl Scout group** sent boxes of Girl Scout cookies to many soldiers in Iraq. Good job girls!

Soup Suppers

Our series of suppers and short programs with St. Paul's Lutheran Church continue on Wednesdays in Lent. Each evening includes Supper, a short program and brief worship. The theme of the programs is Proclaiming the Story, an evangelism Bible study.

6:00 pm—Simple Soup Supper
6:30pm—Program
7:15pm - 7:30pm—Worship

March 2nd at St Paul's
March 9th at Grace
March 16th at St Paul's
March 23rd at Grace



SCHEDULE

Holy Week Services

Wednesday: 6:00pm Healing Service
with Holy Eucharist

Thursday: 7:00pm Maundy Thursday
Service with Holy Eucharist

Friday: 7:00pm Way of the Cross
7:30pm Good Friday Liturgy

Saturday: 7:00pm The Great Vigil

Sunday: 8:00am Holy Eucharist
10:00am Festive Holy Eucharist

Congratulations!

and many happy returns!

Birthdays

1st—Bette Brooks
3rd—Amelia Golec
6th—Sally Wolf Langan
14th—Amanda Brooks
14th—Beverly Brooks
22nd—George Furrer
22nd—Dutch Shriver
23rd—Barbara Lundgren
26th—Ken Boydell
31st—Gwen Baker

Baptisms

11th—Beth Dier
21st—Bill Shorts, Sr.
22nd—William Robert Collette
24th—Michael Williams
25th—Mary Jean McDonald
26th—Bernice McCauslin
31st—Kay Canan

Anniversaries

25th—Dennis & Sally Dier

Things You Always Wanted to Know About Your Church But Were Afraid to Ask

Or...

“JUST WHAT ARE THOSE BASKETS ANYWAY!”

*By
Tim Splinter*

It came to the attention of the Vestry that there are some traditions, customs and objects here at Grace that aren't so obvious to figure out. Many of you who didn't grow up at Grace (or perhaps not even Episcopalian) know exactly what I'm talking about...

“What is the Beatty Fund?”

“What is ECW?”

“Why is the closing prayer from the Irish Book of Common Prayer?”

We'll be trying to explain a few of these things in coming months, but one group of related issues rose to the top...

“Just what are all those baskets on the communion rail for, and that cute little church?” you ask.

This issue has become even more important and mysterious because even those of us who know what they are for have lost our rhythm for using them. So let's begin.

The baskets and the little church are for special purpose offerings. They are placed on the communion rail on the 2nd Sunday of each month for people to make their donations.

“OK.” you say. “When am I supposed to put money in them?”

Ah...this has become a little confused of late. When we moved the announcements to the end of the service, our collective rhythm got broken.

The idea is still that we use them during the peace and the offertory. The collection baskets should be put up at the beginning of the peace. You can come forward during the peace, during the offertory anthem or hymn, or following immediately behind the ushers when they take the collection forward during the doxology.

“OK.” you say again. “So just what are they for?”

“The Little White Church” – Birthday and Anniversary Donations is the proper name for this one. The idea is to make a donation for your birthday and your wedding anniversary. The donations go into the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

2¢ a Meal – The idea behind this one is to put aside 2¢ at every meal and bring it in on the second Sunday. The donations are divided evenly between the Center of Hope's free meal program and the Diocesan Hunger Task Force. This used to be collected in a tin bucket, but the bucket rusted.

Christian Cupboard – This is a non-perishable food pro-

gram that began here at Grace under the Lyle's and used to be run in the church. It is currently housed in the Center of Hope and gives food supplies to the needy.

Habitat for Humanity – This one is pretty self-explanatory. It used to be collected in a wooden toolbox, but this and the rusted bucket for 2¢-a-meal were replaced with easier to handle baskets.

There are two other things that relate to these, so I'll quickly add them too.

The Mite Box – This is the small box on the back wall of the church by the Baptismal Font. Money put in here is put in the Rector's Discretionary Fund, earmarked to help parishioners in need.

Also, any unidentified cash that is placed in the offering on the 1st Sunday of the month is put in the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

To tie up the last loose end then...

“What is the Rector's Discretionary Fund?”

This is money set aside for our Rector to use. As mentioned above, the Mite Box money is earmarked to be used to help parishioners of Grace. Some money from other budget categories is also placed here to be used to buy food for gatherings, meetings, and receptions as needed. The rest the Rector is free to use as needed. This could include assisting people in need, buying small thank you gifts, and so on...

If you've got some other question rattling around in your mind unasked, by all means, ask away! Ask any Vestry member, Rev. Carol, Bill Snyder, Marsha Snyder...drop an anonymous note in the collection plate if you don't want to ask directly. We'll do what we can to get an answer for you here.

Our services, our prayer book, our church building, and our church vocabulary are filled with symbolism, abbreviations, and rarely used items. We have countless traditions, both from the national church and those homegrown. We need to bring light to, and keep meaning in, all these things by making sure that we know, remember and share what is in and behind each such shadowed place.

Thoughts, Notes, and More

An Update from the Fun-d-Raising Committee

Here we are with a new year and a new budget; however we have again approved a "Faith Budget." Last year we made it, this year we will also, if we have the help of every member.

The Fun-d-raising committee is meeting to come up with ideas to help us offset a \$10,000 deficit. That will, at the same time, promote fellowship, bring the community through our doors, get our name out in the community and help others.

Here are some projects we are going to consider:

- May 7th - Mother's Day plant sale - contact person, Addrienne Conway 330-298-1182
- May 21st - Mexican Fiesta and Game night for adults only - contact person Kelly Postlethwaite 330-801-0344
- July - Craft sale for people interested in selling homemade crafts or home based business item - contact person Sue Ahrens 330-296-6872
- September 17th - Balloon-A-Fair hot dog lunch - contact person Roberta O'Keefe 330-673-2058.
- October and November - Bishop's Blend Coffee sale - contact person Addrienne Conway

If anyone would like to help with these or knows someone to contact to help, please let us know. The next meeting is March 3rd at 7:00p.m.

SPIRITUAL GARDENING

First

Plant four rows of peas

Presence,

Promptness,

Preparedness

Perseverance

Second

Plant three rows of squash

Squash gossip

Squash criticism

Squash indifference

Third

Plant five rows of lettuce

Let us be faithful to duty

Let us be loyal and unselfish

Let us be true to our obligations

Let us obey rules and regulations

Let us love one another

Finally, no garden is complete without turnips

Turn up at meetings

Turn up with a smile

Turn up with determination

and make everything count for something good and worthwhile

-Sue Hook in Hythe Parish,
Kent, England

This item was brought in by Nancy Lundgren as the Devotion for one of the Vestry Meetings. It seemed worth passing on...

*Our Grace Church Family remembers with
love, warmth and fondness the
life and friendship of*

Mary Lou Boydell

*We stand with Ken, Ann, Susan, Janet
and all of Mary Lou's family. She was an
enormous part of our church and we are
much diminished without her.*

*We thank God for her presence in our
church and lives. We move ahead calmly
assured that she is now with the Lord.*

March

The Grace Vine

2005

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2 •10-2 Gracie's Back Door •Lent Soup Supper 6pm @ Grace	3 •1:30-2:30 Bible Study •Fun-draising committee 7pm •7:30-9:00 Choir Practice	4	5
6 4 Lent •8am HE •9:15 Choir •9:45 Ch. Ed. •10am HE •3-6:30pm	7	8	9 •10-2 Gracie's Back Door •Lent Soup Supper 6pm @ St. Paul's	10 •1:30-2:30 Bible Study •7:30-9:00 Choir Practice	11	12
13 5 Lent •8am HE •9:15 Choir •9:45 Ch. Ed. •10am HE •11:15 Coffee Hour	14	15 •7pm Vestry Meeting	16 •10-2 Gracie's Back Door •6pm Lenten Soup Supper at Grace	17 •8am Retired Men's Breakfast •1:30-2:30 Bible Study •7:30-9:00 Choir Practice	18 •10-2 County Clothing Center	19
20 Palm Sunday •8am HE •9:15 Choir •9:45 Ch. Ed. •10am HE •11:15 Coffee Hour	21	22	23 •10-2 Gracie's Back Door •6pm Healing Service & Eucharist	24 •1:30-2:30 Bible Study •7pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist	25 •7pm Way of the Cross •7:30pm Good Friday Liturgy	26 •7pm Great Easter Vigil
27 Easter Day •8am HE •9:15 Choir •9:45 Ch. Ed. •10am HE •11:15 Coffee Hour	28	29	30 •10-2 Gracie's Back Door	31 •1:30-2:30 Bible Study		