



# The Grace Vine

March 2006

## Rector's Writ

*"This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to Him.."*

The Anglo-Saxon word *lencten* is the root of our word 'Lent.' It means the lengthening days of spring. At the Ash Wednesday service, we're invited to the "observance of a holy Lent, by self examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word." We are reminded by the symbolism of ashes that "we are dust and to dust we shall return." To some, it sounds rather demanding...even depressing. It's NOT considered the kind of service that brings in new converts to the faith. Yet, there's a part of us that KNOWS WE NEED TO DO what Lent not-so-gently nudges us to do. More than a few people have entered the Church--unfamiliar with this season of penitence--only to find Lent a necessary journey on the way to celebrating a meaningful and truly joyful Easter.

The tradition in the Church has been to give up something we enjoy. For some it's coffee or chocolate or sweets. Some give up meat or snacking between meals. These things seem minor when we consider that Pope Gregory the Great set the rule for Lenten fasting as one meal a day, with no meat, milk, cheese, or eggs. Any food considered "from the flesh" was not allowed. The Lenten fast was a matter of state law as well as church regulations in England. In 1570, you could be fined sixty shillings and spend three months in prison if you violated the Lenten fast. Although it was not upheld for many years, this law stayed on the books until 1863!

We do well to ask how we might observe a holy Lent. In recent years, the focus has been more in taking on some spiritual discipline rather than giving up something. It's a time not only to ask for God's mercy for our sins, but to show mercy and compassion as well. That might be done by contributing to the needs of the poor; by helping in outreach ministries. We may find the Spirit nudging us to forgive someone who has wronged or hurt us in the past. Certainly we're reminded that in receiving God's forgiveness we need to be forgiving. Whatever our Lenten discipline is, God's words are before us. In the beginning of Jesus' ministry (at his baptism) and just before the passion (at the Transfiguration), the voice of God spoke: "This is my Son, the Beloved. LISTEN to HIM."

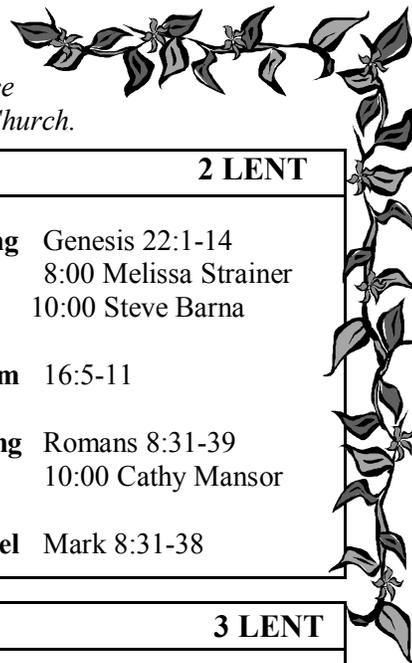
In this season of Lent, may we remember our need to LISTEN to CHRIST. In receiving mercy, may we be merciful. In being forgiven, may we be forgiving. In knowing the love of God in Christ Jesus--that sacrificial love that transforms, renews, and reconciles us to God and one another--may we abide in that love;

in thought, word, prayer, and deed.



# 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 12	8:00 & 10:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST	2 LENT
<b>Officiant:</b> The Rev. Carol S. Evans <b>Deacon:</b> The Rev. James Wichman <b>Lay Reader:</b> Bette Brooks <b>Greeters:</b> Betty Russell & Sandee West <b>Acolytes:</b> Eli Stover <b>Shepherd:</b> George Furrer & Leslie Thomas <b>Altar Guild:</b> Bette Brooks & Shirley Johnson <b>Coffee Hosts:</b> 8:00 Frank & Joan Seman 10:00 Kelly & Ron Postlethwaite <b>Counters:</b> Cory Conway & Pat Williams <b>Loyalton:</b> Judy Canan	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b> Genesis 22:1-14 8:00 Melissa Strainer 10:00 Steve Barna  <b>Psalm</b> 16:5-11  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b> Romans 8:31-39 10:00 Cathy Mansor  <b>Gospel</b> Mark 8:31-38	

Sun. March 19	8:00 & 10:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST	3 LENT
<b>Officiant:</b> The Rev. Carol S. Evans <b>Deacon:</b> The Rev. James Wichman <b>Lay Reader:</b> Judy Canan <b>Greeters:</b> John & Mary Jean McDonald <b>Acolytes:</b> Chelsea Postlethwaite & Janell Moore <b>Shepherd:</b> Jean Mercer & Judy Canan <b>Altar Guild:</b> Bette Brooks & Shirley Johnson <b>Coffee Hosts:</b> 8:00 Len & Jean Mercer 10:00 Leslie & Paige Thomas <b>Counters:</b> Cory Conway & Pat Williams <b>Loyalton:</b> Bill Snyder	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b> Exodus 20:1-17 8:00 Roberta O'Keefe 10:00 John Machisko  <b>Psalm</b> 19:7-14  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b> Romans 7:13-25 10:00 Paige Thomas  <b>Gospel</b> John 2:13-22	



## Birthdays

- 1st—Bette Brooks
- 3rd—Amelia Golec
- 6th—Sally Wolf Langan
- 9th—Kelly Ervin
- 14th—Amanda Brooks
- 14th—Beverly Brooks
- 22nd—George Furrer
- 22nd—Dutch Shriver
- 23rd—Barbara Lundgren
- 26th—Ken Boydell
- 26th—Emily Ervin
- 31st—Gwen Baker

# Congratulations!

*and many happy returns...*

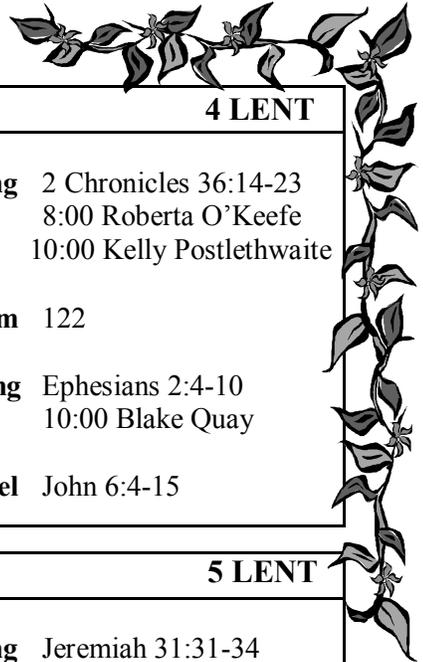
## Anniversaries

- 25th—Dennis & Sally Dier



## Baptisms

- 11th—Beth Dier
- 18th—Joan Seman
- 21st—Bill Shorts, Sr.
- 22nd—William Robert Collette
- 24th—Michael Williams
- 25th—Mary Jean McDonald
- 26th—Bernice McCauslin
- 31st—Kay Canan



**Sun. March 26**

**8:00 & 10:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST**

**4 LENT**

**Officiant:** The Rev. Carol S. Evans  
**Deacon:** The Rev. William Snyder  
**Lay Reader:** Maynard Evans  
**Greeters:** Jim & Nancy Ervin  
**Acolytes:** Julie Canan  
**Shepherd:** Roberta O'Keefe & Bill Snyder  
**Altar Guild:** Bette Brooks & Shirley Johnson  
**Coffee Hosts:** 8:00 George Furrer  
 10:00 Kay Canan & Bonnie Quay  
**Counters:** Cory Conway & Pat Williams  
**Loyalton:** Jim Wichman

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** 2 Chronicles 36:14-23  
 8:00 Roberta O'Keefe  
 10:00 Kelly Postlethwaite

**Psalm** 122

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** Ephesians 2:4-10  
 10:00 Blake Quay

**Gospel** John 6:4-15

**Sun. April 2**

**8:00 & 10:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST**

**5 LENT**

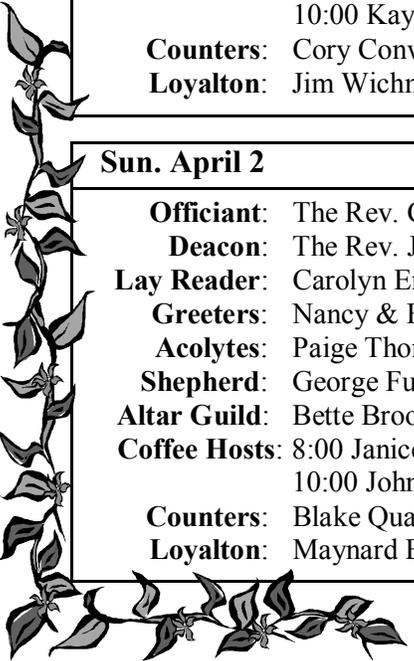
**Officiant:** The Rev. Carol S. Evans  
**Deacon:** The Rev. James Wichman  
**Lay Reader:** Carolyn Englert  
**Greeters:** Nancy & Fred Lundgren  
**Acolytes:** Paige Thomas  
**Shepherd:** George Furrer & Leslie Thomas  
**Altar Guild:** Bette Brooks & Shirley Johnson  
**Coffee Hosts:** 8:00 Janice Lallathin  
 10:00 John & Mary Jean McDonald  
**Counters:** Blake Quay & Frank Seman  
**Loyalton:** Maynard Evans

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** Jeremiah 31:31-34  
 8:00 Roberta O'Keefe  
 10:00 Kathy Summy

**Psalm** 51:11-16

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** Hebrews 5:(1-4)5-10  
 10:00 Tim Splinter

**Gospel** John 12:20-33



## Youth Retreat

March 18th  
 10am to 1 pm  
 Preschool through High School  
 Focus on Prayer



All are welcome and bring a friend!



Pizza will be served for lunch

Kathy Summy & Chris Stickle will take the preschool—2nd graders.

Carolyn Englert will take the 3rd—7th graders.

Marcia Splinter & Addrienne Conway will take the 8th—12th graders.

## Fiesta Dinner & Game Night

All ages are invited!  
 Saturday April 8th at 6:00



\$10 per person

The Youth group will watch the younger kids after dinner for a donation.

50/50 Raffle

Bring your games, your cards, your friends and neighbors...





# Did You Know?...



**Janice Lallathin** was so excited about passing her certification as a water arthritis instructor with a 96%. For many years now, Janice has been keeping herself fit by being a life time Weight Watchers member and power walker, along with water aerobic, and she recently enjoyed a fitness cruise. Janice also enjoys being with her “girls” and that keeps her busy...

We received an email from **Virginia Schultz** (our organist here for many years). She writes: “Greetings from Lower Northern Michigan.” Just read this month’s issue of the Grace Vine, so I know how everyone is – PDG (Pretty Darn Good)! I’m fine. The only complaint is that there’s too much mild weather (30’s) and not enough snow. A Steeler’s win on Sunday should make everything fine for as long as the glow lasts. I’ve been organist at St. Joseph’s Church in Onekama, seven miles down the road. Started during Holy Week two years ago. Miss you all and enjoy the news in the Grace Vine. As a good friend of mine once said, “You can never have the same thing twice.” The good part is it also applies to the unpleasant things. I’ll be happy to have “Grace Net.” Give my love to everyone. Love, Virginia...

**The Rector** almost had herself a dog—one came “visiting” after Sunday services and after seeing the condition of the poor thing, they fed him and kept it in a warm kitchen overnight. (**Kathy and Emily Summy** brought the dog a blanket, which the dog really liked.) It’s been a long time since animals have been coming around here; there for awhile you would have thought this church was an animal rescue center. Just ask those people who took the dogs and cats home with them from here.

We even had a ground hog someone dropped off to us once, which Fr. Brian took to the park and released. Thanks be to God!...

We are so proud of **Amanda Brooks**, a sophomore at Hendrix College in Conway, Ark. where she has accepted a three year internship at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church. She will be working directly for the Episcopal Diocese of Arkansas as the director of College Ministry. Amanda is also co-teaching a freshman orientation class and was inducted into Hendrix Totem, the honor society of Hendrix religion majors. Good work girl!!!...

**Marsha and Bill Snyder** took an overnight trip, on a Tuesday night, to Dayton to see their 7 year old granddaughter **Ellie** perform in her school talent show. Of course she was great, just ask Grandma and Grandpa. They’ll tell ya...

Vestry has been hard at work with **Alan James** from the diocese helping map out their plans for 2006...

We are glad to see **Dennis Dier** back home again, he spent almost a month in New York taking care of an ill brother and he may have to go back, but our prayers are with you Dennis...

**Marsha Snyder** wants to thank **Mary Ann Switz, Nydah Ellet, and Cathy Mansor** for getting bulletins out for the week she was home with the flu...

The adult group study went very well with the help and support of a lot of people. Thanks to everyone who participated...

If you like to sew, knit, crochet, or do any kind of needlework, join the Sit and Stitch group on every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from 2-4pm. Bring your own project and enjoy the company.

## What’s our Fun-draising Committee up to?

The fundraising committee met on February 13<sup>th</sup> and outlined an aggressive list of events for this year. As always, these require the support of the entire congregation. We will need help with organization, getting donations, advertising and set up as well as people on the day of the event. Please review the list below and contact the “lead person” for any events you wish to volunteer to help with; otherwise, we will be recruiting!

If you have any other ideas, please let one of us know. Or better yet, drop by the next FUNdraising meeting and tell us all then!

**April 8: Fiesta Game Night** – Kelly Postlethwaite

**May 13: Mother’s Day Flower Sale** – Chris Stickle

**May 20: Rummage Sale** at Splinters during Garrettsville’s “Garage Sale Weekend”  
– Marcia Splinter

**June 3: Guy’s Rummage Sale** – Blake Quay

**Sept 16: Balloon Affair** – parade, hot dog lunch and booth on Main St. – Kelly Postlethwaite

**Nov. 11: Fall Festival** – Roberta O’Keefe

# On the Horizon

**Saturday Mar. 18th**  
**10:00 am—1:00 pm**  
**Youth Retreat**

Open to ALL youth from Preschool through High School, bring yourself and your friends!

**Saturday Apr. 8th**  
**6:00 pm**  
**Fiesta Dinner & Game Night**

Everyone's invited. Bring your friends and your games. \$10.00 per person. Child care provided by the Youth Group for a donation.

**Saturday May 13th**  
**Mother's Day**  
**Flower Sale**

**Saturday May 20th**  
**7:00 am—4:00 pm**  
**Rummage Sale**

The FUNdraising committee will be running our rummage sale at the HUGE Garrettsville Garage Sale Day. We'll be using the Splinters LONG driveway.

**Saturday June 3rd**  
**Men's Garage Sale**

We're going to run a Garage Sale oriented to Men's stuff as well this year. Talk to Blake Quay about it.

**June 10th or 11th**  
**Youth Care Wash**

**July 16th-19th**  
**Youth Trip to New York**

The Youth group is considering and planning for a trip to New York which would include working at a soup kitchen and visit to the cathedral.

**Saturday Sept. 16th**  
**Balloon Affair Day**

We'll again be marching in the Parade and Running the Hotdog Lunch, but we will also be hosting a booth on Main Street.

**Sunday Oct. 29th**  
**Spaghetti Dinner**

**Saturday Nov. 11th**  
**Fall Festival**

**December**  
**Youth Gift Drive**

The Youth group will be collecting toys and gifts to be given to the Boys & Girls Clubs and the Center of Hope.

**Other Youth Events**

The Youth Group is also working on: Teddy Bears for the Fire Dept., a T-Shirt Sale, Ice Skating, a Lock-In, and a Movie Outing.

## *Lenten Soup Suppers*

*Wednesdays*  
*6:00 pm Soup Supper*  
*6:30 Program on Hunger*  
*7:00 Worship*



*Mar. 8th at St. Paul's*  
*Mar. 15th at Grace Church*  
*Mar. 22nd at St. Paul's*  
*Mar. 29th at Grace Church*  
*Apr. 5th at St. Paul's*

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

Or...  
**"YOU PUT THE MONEY WHERE ?!"**



By  
*Tim Splinter*

I got a request after the Annual Meeting for a follow-on article to the last few about the flow and organization of money in our Parish. The request was to map out all the various places money is put, the names we use for those places, how money flows in and out of them, etc. The title of this article probably should be "Things you SHOULD know about your church, but didn't really want to have to think about too much", but I'll try to keep it light and just overview things. Consider this a verbal map of how money moves within the Parish. For dollar figures, please refer to your copy of the annual report.

## What bank accounts do we use?

First and foremost is the **Operating Checkbook**. This is the basic account for most money, coming and going. If certain money or bills aren't mentioned elsewhere, this is where they come and go. Many things also pass through the Operating Checkbook without being part of our actual budgets, such as the special donations to 2¢-a-meal or Habitat for Humanity.

The **Beatty Checkbook** is next. All the money that is withdrawn from the Beatty Fund comes into this account. From here, checks are written to pay for things as decided by the Beatty Committee. The uses include: Portage County Outreach, Buildings & Grounds, Christian Education, Growth-Evangelism-Membership committee, and the Legacy project pledge for improvements at the Cathedral.

The past year, we were also forced to withdraw additional money to cover ordinary operating expenses. The largest item has been to pay most of the Diocesan Assessment.

The **Maintenance Reserve Fund** is a savings account used to set aside money for emergency repairs and replacements. It is also used to accumulate money for larger projects, such as the Rectory roof replacement.

The **Rector's Discretionary Fund** is operated in a checkbook of its own. The Rector's Fund can be used as needed by Carol. Typically it is used for such things as food for parish meetings, recognition gifts for parishioners, and whatever else needs to be handled but is outside the normal budget. Any money that comes in through the Mite Box is earmarked for assisting parishioners in need.

The **Jubilee Program** is the last checkbook. This money is used to help those in need in Portage County and works by referral from other county agencies and organizations only. The fund was begun with the money for our debt with the Diocese, which was forgiven during the Jubilee Year celebra-

tion, so long as the money went to outreach. The Program continues to be funded by the Beatty Endowment, ECW and Episcopal Community Services Foundation.

## How many ways does money come in and where does it get put?

The largest single income is **pledged and unpledged offerings**. (Unpledged offerings are any plate offerings that can be attached back to the giver, even if they didn't submit a pledge statement.) These go entirely into the Operating Checkbook for general use.

Any payment received for **Building Use** also goes to the Operating Checkbook. Currently we have Family and Community Services using the parish hall for the Seniors and Weight Watchers as regular users.

All of our **General Fun-draisers** also deposit to the Operating Checkbook. This does NOT include the ones run by ECW or the Youth group. They raise and use their own funds.

**Open plate offerings** (read that as 'cash') go the Operating Checkbook with several exceptions. On the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month, it goes to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. When the Bishop visits it goes to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund at the Diocese. From the Holy Week services it goes to the Diocese of Jerusalem.

Money placed in the **Mite Box** at the back of the church goes into the Rector's Discretionary Fund, earmarked for assisting parishioners in need.

Money placed in the **'Little White Church' for birthday's and anniversaries** also goes to the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

**Donations for Special Projects**, such as the organ or stained glass windows, can go several places, but the norm would be store it Maintenance Reserve until the project is ready to go forward.

**Memorial Donations** can also go many places. It depends on the purpose stated by the family.

That leaves the other special offerings that are taken, such as **Habitat for Humanity, 2¢-a-Meal, Christian Cupboard, UTO, etc.** These are passed through various checkbooks on their way back out to their destinations, but do not enter into our budgets. These are a large part of the 'Special In' and



‘Special Out’ categories you may have seen on our budget lists. ‘Special In and Out’ are money passing through the books for one reason or another so that we can write a check to the proper place.

---

### Where do we have money invested?

---

The big one is the **Beatty Endowment**. This large fund is invested with the Diocese’ Joint Investment Fund. The original money given from the Beatty estate is declared by our rules as untouchable principal. A small amount of the earnings are added to that declared amount each year, so that the principal is ever growing. A portion of what is left above principal is withdrawn each year for the uses listed above. The Vestry also has the ability to withdraw money from the Beatty Fund for special needs, as we needed this last year.

The **Grace Endowment Fund** is a small collection of individual gifts to Grace Church which is also invested with the Diocese’ Joint Investment Fund. Money in this endowment cannot be withdrawn by us and the Diocese calculates how much of the earnings of the fund to disburse to us each month. This endowment can be added to with additional gifts.

We also have two small accounts for special purposes, which continue to ride along. The **Marvin Memorial Fund** was started to pay for Prayer Books and Hymnals. It has not been added to recently. There is also a **Youth Scholarship Fund**, which also has not seen much activity in recent years.

---

### How is the outgoing money categorized and which pools of money pay for what?

---

The Beatty Fund annual withdrawal pays for: **Buildings & Grounds** work, **Evangelism** and what used to be called **Parish Life**, but is now part of the GEM committee, **Christian Education**, and **Community Outreach** through direct donations and through the **Jubilee Program**.

The Beatty Fund has also been tapped in the past for a few large projects, recently the Sanctuary Renovation, and for emergency operating money.

Maintenance Reserve has paid for such things as new appliances and emergency repairs and has been used to accumulate money for larger projects, such as the Rectory roof replacement.

The **Diocesan Assessment** is paid for from the Operating Checkbook, and just last year from the emergency money withdrawn from the Beatty Fund. The Diocesan Assessment is paid each month and is the parish’s ‘tithes’ to the Diocese, or approximately a tenth of what we take in. ‘What we take in’ includes all donations from parishioners, fundraisers, building use, and any interest and income from investments that are used for normal operations. Any investment earnings or other donations or fundraising that are used directly for community outreach are NOT included. If the Diocesan Assessment is not kept up to date, the parish loses voting privileges at convention.

**Everything else** is paid for from the Operating Checkbook. All this stuff along with the Diocesan Assessment make up the Annual Budget that the Vestry review monthly and which is presented during the Annual Meeting.

---

### What about some of the other groups around parish?

---

There are two groups within the parish which are financially independent. They raise their own funds and decide what to do with them. **ECW** and the **Youth Group** (not the Sunday School portion) have their own checkbooks. They have both made donations in the past to various parish projects and needs, but they do so at their own choice.

The **Altar Guild** also operates outside the normal church budget. They receive donations for flowers, candles, music, etc. They also collect donations for special services such as weddings and funerals. From this money, they decorate the Sanctuary, provide the wine and wafers, and have helped pay for extra musicians at special occasions.

**Gracie’s Back Door** also operates independently. They take material donations to be sold. They pay the state sales tax for what is sold. \$50 each month is deposited into the Maintenance Reserve Account. The remainder is donated to the Rector’s Discretionary Account, though they contributed to the Operating Budget last year to help cover the deficit.

There it is, the general road map of money here at Grace Church. Don’t worry, there is no test or pop quiz on this material. It may be more information than was requested and more than anyone not on Vestry really wanted, but it’s good to have reviewed it at least once.

