



The Grace Vine

November 2021

Rector's Writ

As soon as some people see the word stewardship, that's cause for them to groan, skip this writ, and see what else is in the Grace Vine. There was an article some time ago that mentioned how the average household receives over two hundred appeals per year for funds. Those appeals represent a wide variety of needs, many very worthwhile: children's hospitals, any number of diseases, wounded veterans, food for the poor to name only a few. They're all good causes, and it's likely that many of our members give to help provide what's needed.

Stewardship, however is more than giving to support a cause. It's giving for a reason—a spiritual reason and response. It's giving of our time, talents, and money in gratitude for all that God gives us. It's recognizing all we have comes from God: faith, family, health. What we have on our tables, in our wallets, and under our roofs...that comes from God, too. Relationships, family, and friends; the love, care, and kindness given from the heart of those dear to us...that comes from God, too. We gather as faithful, grateful people to offer God our worship, prayers, praise, and thanksgiving. We gather as not-so-perfect people to receive God's forgiveness. We need to know we belong to this family of God, not because we earn or deserve it, but because God in Christ opens the gate for us to enter the kingdom and has a place for each of us at the Table.

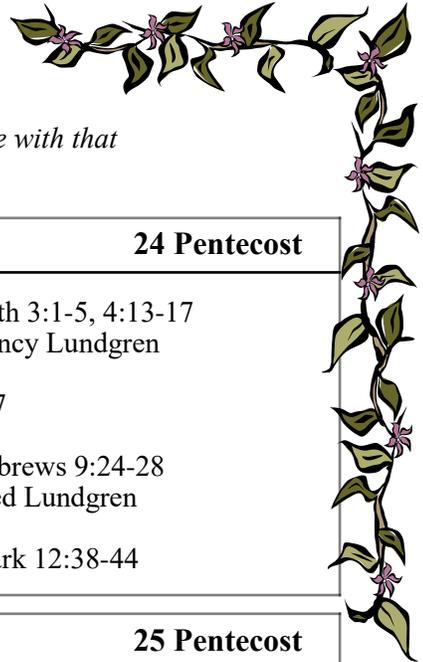
Our Grace Church family gives, not out of a sense of obligation, but knowing it's an opportunity, one of many ways to let God know we're grateful. May we continually be grateful for all God's blessings and goodness. May we be grateful for all the ways Jesus leads us all to serve, give, pray, and be a blessing to one another; to our Lord's glory and praise. Amen.

Carol+



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, November 7		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	24 Pentecost
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans		1st Reading Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17 Nancy Lundgren
Worship Leader	8am Sally Dier 10am Carolyn Englert		Psalm 127
Greeters	Fred & Nancy Lundgren		2nd Reading Hebrews 9:24-28 Fred Lundgren
Organist	Tim Lewicki		Gospel Mark 12:38-44
Video	Doug Holzschuh		
Altar Guild	Nancy Lundgren & Sally Dier		
Coffee Hosts	8am Joan & Frank Seman 10am Marsha Snyder		
Counters	Laurie Barney & Cathy Potisuk		

Sunday, November 14		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	25 Pentecost
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans		1st Reading 1 Samuel 1:4-20 Tim Splinter
Deacon	10am The Rev. William Snyder		Psalm The Song of Hannah (1 Samuel 2:1-10)
Worship Leader	8am Sally Dier 10am Nancy Lundgren		2nd Reading Hebrews 10:11-25 Karen Krofta
Greeters	Jeff & Lisa Marsh		Gospel Mark 13:1-8
Organist	Tim Lewicki		
Video	Doug Holzschuh		
Altar Guild	Nancy Lundgren & Sally Dier		
Coffee Hosts	8am Mike & Shirley Johnson 10am Nancy & Jim Ervin		
Counters	Laurie Barney & Cathy Potisuk		

Sunday, November 21		8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	Thanksgiving
Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Evans		1st Reading Joel 2:21-27 Martha Croll
Worship Leader	8am Sally Dier 10am Carolyn Englert		Psalm 126
Greeters	Nancy & Jim Ervin		2nd Reading 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Jeff Croll
Organist	Tim Lewicki		Gospel Matthew 6:25-33
Video	Doug Holzschuh		
Altar Guild	Nancy Lundgren & Sally Dier		
Coffee Hosts	8am Bill Snyder 10am Doris W, Gail R, Carol M		
Counters	Laurie Barney & Cathy Potisuk		



Bible Study

Wednesdays
7:00 P.M.

On ZOOM – Please call Carolyn Englert if you're interested in joining the conversation.



Breakfast Club

November 18th 8:00 AM
Cracker Barrel—Rootstown

Everyone is invited to join the group! We order off the menu and pay for our own meals.

Sunday, November 28

8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist

1 Advent

Celebrant The Rev. Carol Evans
Deacon 10am The Rev. William Snyder
Worship 8am Sally Dier
Leader 10am Nancy Lundgren
Greeters Jeff & Lisa Marsh
Organist Tim Lewicki
Video Doug Holzschuh
Altar Guild Nancy Lundgren & Sally Dier
Coffee Hosts 8am TBA
 10am Cindy Ward & Cathy Potisuk
Counters Laurie Barney & Cathy Potisuk

1st Reading Jeremiah 33:14-16
 Carol Marotta

Psalm 25:1-9

2nd Reading 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
 Carolyn Englert

Gospel Luke 21:25-36

Sunday, December 5

8:00 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist

2 Advent

Celebrant The Rev. Carol Evans
Worship 8am Sally Dier
Leader 10am Carolyn Englert
Greeters Fred & Nancy Lundgren
Organist Tim Lewicki
Video Doug Holzschuh
Altar Guild Nancy Lundgren & Sally Dier
Coffee Hosts 8am Joan & Frank Seman
 10am Mary Jean & John McDonald
Counters Carol Marotta & Phillip Crouse

1st Reading Baruch 5:1-9
 Nancy Lundgren

Psalm 16 The Song of Zachariah
 (Luke 1:68-79)

2nd Reading Phillipians 1:3-11
 Fred Lundgren

Gospel Luke 3:1-6

Stewardship Ingathering & Prayer Over Pledges November 21st

We'll soon be sending out stewardship letters and pledge cards for 2022. We thank you for your faithful, ongoing support of God's church at Grace. We ask you to continue to pray, serve, and give to support the worship, ministries, and outreach of Grace Church. May we give with hearts grateful for all God gives us. We'll ask that pledges be returned, and we plan to offer them at the Altar with prayer and thanks on Sunday, November 21st at 8am & 10am. Thanks to each of you for your giving, service, and prayers, and all you do to support Grace Church.





Did You Know?...



Thanksgiving is upon us, and we certainly have a lot to be thankful for. One of the many things we are thankful for is our church didn't suffer any deaths due to the pandemic and very few have been seriously ill. I know we aren't over this yet, but we are still trying to keep social distancing, sanitizing, wearing masks, and only the wafer is served at Eucharist. But we are trying to get back to "normal" with coffee hour fellowship as well as gatherings of the Breakfast Club, the Sit & Stitch ladies, and the Poker Boys. And the choir is back where they belong (in the choir loft), and we can still make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all five of us. Our organist **Tim Lewicki** became ill just before church one Sunday morning and after sending the poor man home, the powers to be made the decision to continue the service as usual and it was amazing how well we all sounded without the organ. Now, don't misunderstand me; we do so much better with Tim at the organ; I'm just saying we didn't do a bad job of it. But, in all fairness our choir director, **Martha Croll**, did choose hymns that were familiar to all of us. She also got us started on the right note, and that helps! That's another reason we're thankful...

The Poker Boys met last month for the first time in more than a year; **Tony Mercury, Jeff Croll, Jeff Marsh, Maynard Evans, and Bill Snyder** enjoyed an evening of fun, laughs, food, and games. Word is out that Maynard was the big winner, but we all know that Grace Church is the real winner because this group gives most of their winnings to the church. Years ago, the "boys" used to play from 6pm until 11pm but since the boys aren't boys any more the game was over by 9:30...

Rev. Carol offered the "Blessing of the Pets" to our parishioners after church on October 3rd. **Kathy Summy** brought both of her dogs **Topper and Bentley**; **Sally, Dennis, and Beth Dier** brought Beth's Italian greyhound **Mario Andretti**; and later in the week **Cathy Potisuk** had her beloved cat **Max** blessed. **Shirley and Mike Johnson** helped with set up, and Shirley photographed the event...

We recently had some out-of-town guests visiting with family members. **Mary Jean & John McDonald's daughter Amy** came for a visit from California and Amy even joined the Sit & Stitch group. **George Furrer's son Tom** and his wife were in from Connecticut for a visit with the family. **Sally & Dennis Dier** were visited by Sally's great-nephew **Kyle Herrian** and his wife **Lindsey** who were just married the week before, and they came from New York. It was wonderful that they all joined us here at Grace...

Nancy & Jim Ervin's granddaughter Emily Ervin is a very good basketball player. She played in middle

school and high school, and she's been on several travel teams that played in many different parts of the country. Emily's a senior at Stow High School, with excellent grades, and now colleges are interested in recruiting her. They know a good thing when they see it. She's planning to attend Siena College in Addrian, Michigan, where she will be studying nursing. Nancy and Jim, along with Emily's parents, **Mike & Amy Ervin** are so proud and happy for her. And we are, too. Congratulations, Emily! (Knowing she'll only be three hours away when college starts is a bonus!) ...

Cherry and John Monegan were so excited that granddaughter **Kassidy** was able to take the trip of a lifetime. She enjoyed a tour of Europe, traveling to Spain, Italy, Greece, Germany, Belgium, France, and Switzerland; to only mention a few. She enjoyed all the sights but especially enjoyed the gondola ride up the Matterhorn and a visit with a cardinal at the Vatican. Kassidy fell in love with all those wonderful places. Grandma Cherry took the trip along with her via her computer, and I think she enjoyed it just as much as Kassidy did.

Tim and Marcia Splinter went to Bradley University in Peoria, IL to see son **Kevin's** club baseball team play. They were joined by Tim's brother **Dan's** family as well and got a B&B for the weekend. The baseball team won both games on Saturday, but Sunday was washed out completely. Still they had a good time and got to watch some baseball again!

Making your Pledges and Donations Electronically

With times continuing to be troubled and many continuing to choose not to attend services in person, please know that there is a way to make your pledges and donations to the church electronically.

The diocese website includes a page to take donations to be passed to a specified parish. You can make one-time donations or weekly or monthly repeating pledges.

Goto dohio.org/designate-a-gift-to-your-parish

Make sure to select "Ravenna—Grace Church" in the Designate My Gift box.

Thank You! Thank You!

Our thanks and appreciation to all those who serve and help out at Grace Church in so many ways, including:

- **Nancy Lundgren & Sally Dier** for the work they're doing in Gracie's Back Door, putting new items out and cleaning those items that are already on display.
- **Barb Popiel** for all the time she's spent getting bids for drain cleaning and being here when Roto Rooter came to clean them. She's also spent time getting bids on the masonry projects that need to be done around the church.
- **Vestry** for coming up with interesting ways to let us help the less fortunate for the holidays.
- **John McDonald** for replacing the light fixture in the downstairs hall, being on site when Roto Rooter was here and being available whenever we call (especially when we can't get the heat to work!)
- **Mike Johnson & John McDonald** for all the trimming, cutting & landscape work; power washing; and general tidying up the church & rectory grounds. They had their boots on and did a LOT of work in spite of our Fall Clean-Up Day being rescheduled due to rain & 40 degree weather. They removed a truckload (plus) of branches, bushes, old landscape ties, etc. and Mike got rid of all that.
- **Coffee hour hosts** for providing not only great goodies but hospitality to enjoy with our fellowship each week. (and thanks to those willing to serve when we have to ask for hosts).
- **Doug Holzschuh** for live streaming and recording services for our members at home to access.
- **Marcia Splinter** for being a great treasurer and keeping the bills paid.
- Our faithful members who continue to support the church with your pledges.
- All those who pray for our Grace Church family and for Grace Church.

Birthdays

1st Amy Neely
3rd Julie Canan
4th Gail Richards
8th Stephanie Amiruzzaman
17th Sarah Beth Audet
18th Judy Watkins
29th Eric Marotta



Congratulations!

and many happy returns...



Anniversaries

3rd John & Mary Jean McDonald
11th Jack & Joanne Sarver

Baptisms

2nd Sally Dier
5th Luke Kearsey
Shala Kearsey
John Monegan
6th Eleanor Blank
17th Dani Dier
21st Frank Seman



The Bulletin Board

Gracie's Back Door

Many, I'm sure are wondering why Nancy & Sally made the decision to close Gracie's Back Door after only two weeks open. They did not feel that the area was adequately safe for the guests or them.

There is no way to get proper ventilation into the area.

There is no way to socially distance effectively.

No way to sanitize the area through the day or week to week.

Not everyone comes in with a mask on.

There is no way to tell if people are fully vaccinated.

Sally has a compromised immune system.

Both women are of the age to be more vulnerable to COVID.

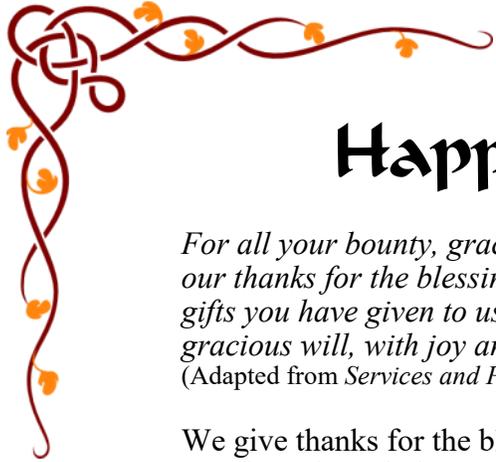
Nancy and Sally will be working in Gracie's at times to continue to clean and take in donations looking forward to the time Gracie's will reopen permanently. Until then they will try to keep you updated as to any changes.

Sit & Stitch

Nov. 9th & 23rd, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

The Sit and Stitch group will meet in the multi-purpose room (next to the church office) on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. We hope to see you there. Please bring your sewing project (or just come and enjoy the fellowship, like some of us do) and wear a mask and keep social distancing.





Happy Thanksgiving!!

For all your bounty, gracious Lord, we praise and thank you. ...Receive, O Lord, our thanks for the blessings you continually bestow upon us. We offer to you the gifts you have given to us: and we pray that they may be used to carry out your gracious will, with joy and thanksgiving, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
(Adapted from *Services and Prayers for Country Use* by Paul Welsby)

We give thanks for the blessings of our Grace Church family; for all that our members do and give to God's glory and to building up God's people. May you and those you love be blessed abundantly with God's goodness, love, protection, and kind provision.



Appeal for Holiday Outreach & Giving

The holidays are just around the corner and there is always the need to help those less fortunate. The Vestry encourages members to make donations through Grace Church to help those in need. We hope our members will be generous and support some of the options our Vestry suggests. These are projects our parish traditionally supports.

The Center of Hope If you'd like to donate to the Center of Hope for food and turkeys for the holiday, please make your check to Grace Church, note "turkey" in the memo, and put it in the offering plate or mail to the church office (250 W. Cedar Ave., Ravenna OH 44266). Donations are due by November 5th.

They are in need of food items for Thanksgiving such as:

BOXED STUFFING
GREEN BEANS
JIF CORN BREAD MIX
CANNED CARNATION MILK

BOXED MASHED POTATOES
FRIED CANNED ONIONS
CANNED LIBBYS PUMPKIN
YAMS/SWEET POTATOES

Socks/Underwear/gloves/scarves/hats for all ages. Donations are due by November 28th, so we can deliver them in time for Christmas. There will be a container in the Parish Hall for these items.

The Vestry has decided to adopt two church members that are in need this holiday season. We are asking for monetary donations to assist with this project. Our goal is \$1,500 (\$750 each family) If you would like to help please make your check out to Grace Episcopal and mark "Adopt" in the memo. Please place in the collection plate or mail to the church office by December 12th. (250 W. Cedar Ave. Ravenna, OH 44266).

It would be especially nice if anyone in the holiday spirit is moved to match funds given by our donors.

Whatever you can give will be greatly appreciated.

Please pray how you might help with these Outreach requests, as we all know the need is plentiful.

Thank You,
Grace Church Vestry

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.*

Southern author Eudora Welty wrote that Southerners not only listen **to** the story; we listen **for** the story, a skill born of playing quietly under the bushes that surrounded the porch, listening to the adult conversation in the cool of the evening (before air conditioning!), hoping the adults would forget we were there. I get a similar sense of listening **for** the story each November when I see our list of friends and family who have entered God's nearer presence. What are the stories of faith here? What are the lessons we have learned from these saints who lived among us? Below is a story of one of my saints.

William A. Dees, Jr.

June 10, 1920—January 9, 2006

I first met Bill Dees in the doorway of my classroom in Goldsboro, NC. It was early in the 1969-1970 school year; I was a very new teacher and was finally getting my class of freshman civics students to trust me and each other and to discuss the lessons. Goldsboro City Schools had integrated the faculty the year before and this year, students were mixed as well—all students grades 9-12 were at the formerly white high school and all students grades 6-8 were at the formerly Black high school building. It was a tense time, but my classes were making progress. Suddenly the discussion stopped cold and a student surreptitiously pointed to the door. There, in the open doorway, stood my principal and Mr. Dees, chairman of the school board. Mr. Dees grinned, greeted me warmly, told the students he really liked what he'd heard, then turned and left.

Bill graduated from Goldsboro High School in 1938 and from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1941 with a bachelor's degree in political science. He immediately joined the Navy and served as a member of the bomb disposal squad in the southwest Pacific. He came home after the war and graduated from Carolina again in 1948 with his law degree, returning to Goldsboro and joining his dad's law firm. At this point he stepped up and continued his family's tradition of public service. He served on the Goldsboro Board of Aldermen and was appointed to the N. C. Board of Higher Education. He was appointed to the Goldsboro City Board of Education and served as its chairman during the turbulent period of integration. After being elected to the Board of Trustees of the NC Consolidated University in 1969, he was elected to the first Board of Governors for the newly organized 16-campus University System and served as its first chairman. In 1990 he received the University Award, the highest honor awarded to a college or university trustee. He served on the Board of Governors of the NC Bar Association. In addition, he was active in his church where he served as an elder, superintendent of the Sunday School, and as an adult Sunday School teacher.

However commendable these accomplishments, I admire this man for his moral courage. The integration of the Goldsboro City Schools was accomplished under his leadership as Board chairman. The preparations were lengthy and involved much community engagement, often vocal and hostile. When the two-year plan was unveiled, many did not expect it to succeed. And yes, some teachers resigned. However, the difficult moves were accomplished without violence and without demonstrations, but with a focus on the well-being of all—students, school personnel, the community. When asked later why he took this very unpopular action, his response is telling: "It was the right thing to do."



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

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The Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church
Phillip Crouse (2021)
Phillip Rich (2022)
Carol Marotta (2022)
Cathy Potisuk (2022)
Barb Popiel (2023)
Michelle McLaughlin (2023)
Laurie Barney (2023)

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