



Grace Episcopal Church Honesdale, Pa.
Founded 1832

Grace Notes

of GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
The Rev'd Edward K. Erb, *rector*

827 Church Street
Honesdale, Pennsylvania 18431
(570) 253-2760

DECEMBER 2008

PARSON'S CORNER

Savior of the Nations, COME!

We're each looking for someone to save us -
from the economic debacle
from a devastating war
from employment insecurity
from family disappointment
from the test tomorrow,
or the report due,
from writing yet another Christmas sermon no one will listen to (=^)
from the debilitating illness that wracks our bodies,
from . . .

Advent - the four weeks prior to Christmas -
is a time of preparation, of hope, of expectation.
But it is really a time of diversion, denying, ignoring,
those things that truly bother us (to use a euphemism), what really digs to the heart of our being.
The days of December are filled with diverting activities -
shopping, decorating, parties, wrapping, mindless Christmas TV programs
(OK, I succumb to The Chipmunks' Christmas CD and *The Santa Clause* every year, too.)

But what happens in this time of entertainment, is that we push aside those issues of human existence which weigh heavily upon us.

Wait! These are the same issues which God decided to take upon himself when he took on human nature - all of human nature - from birth to un-wed parents, to growing up learning a carpenter's trade in a back-woods town, to defying-authority teenage acts of rebellion against his parents, leaving home to 'find himself' and wandering the country on foot.

Christ Jesus came to earth to take upon himself everything that we fear and know and love and hate and rejoice and worry over and...

And Christ himself became fully human. God with us. This is the promise, the hope of salvation. The expectation of this Advent season.

Even so, Lord Jesus, quickly come!

Fr. Erb

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

of the November 18th meeting

The church financials were discussed. The Consecration Sunday luncheon with Dan Charney was a success. We have many new pledging units as well as increases in our regular pledges. The total increase for next year is approximately 25% higher from this year. There was also much discussion about paying our current bills. It was decided to move the remaining moneys from our Reserve account into the General account.

Formation of a finance committee was discussed, the budget for 2009 needs to be completed. If you have a background in business and are interested in being on this committee, please see Fr. Ed or Jane Bunnell.

BJ gave an update on the triple net lease with our rectory tenants Citigroup. The lease has been revised but finalized and signed by Fr. Ed. The lease will be a five-year lease with the rent increasing each year. We would still be responsible for major repairs if they should arise but overall it is a favorable lease for the church.

Matt Corso will be rotating off Vestry this year. We discussed having a nominating committee to nominate new members for the upcoming year. We also need to nominate delegates for the annual convention. We can also have a youth member on the Vestry age 16 or above as written in our by-laws.

Fr. Ed discussed that he has been asked by the Commission on Ministry to have an intern for six months with the intent of teaching traditional Anglican liturgy and music. He explained to Vestry what this would entail and asked for vestry's permission. All members present were okay with this idea.

Fr. Ed gave an update on the property committee's projects. Currently they are working on replacing and repairing the Altar spotlights. They are also going to install electrical strips around the kitchen.

Jeanne discussed joining Melaluca which is an all natural company that carries various household products. She explained that the church would be able to buy all cleaning supplies necessary for church use and save money. Since we are a non-profit agency we would be exempt from the annual fee.

Our next meeting will be December 16th at 7pm.

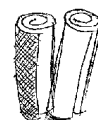
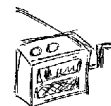
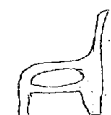
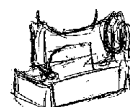
Paige Corso, clerk

The Twelve Days of . . . Kajo-Keji



"ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS..."

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| - A Solar Lantern | \$100 | - A Sewing Machine | \$150 |
| - A Water Jug | \$5 | - A Sturdy Table | \$75 |
| - A Wind-up Radio | \$22 | - A Soccer Ball | \$35 |
| - A Bicycle | \$115 | - A Jump Rope | \$15 |
| - A Yard of Fabric | \$5 | - A Plastic Chair | \$12 |
| - A Laying Hen, | \$15 | - A Basket Ball | \$30 |
- add a rooster for good measure



I'll bet a little girl could buy a jump rope, a teen could buy a soccer ball, a woman could buy a sewing machine or a bolt of fabric, a guy could buy a wind-up radio...

Write your check to:

The Diocese of Bethlehem
and send to the parish office or place in the offering plate.

Together we'll send all donations to Bishop Marshall to take with him to Kajo Keji during the 12 days of Christmas.

Bishop Marshall and Bishop Anthony Poggio thank you for your generosity and wish you and your family a Merry Christmas.

A NEW VENTURE in STEWARDSHIP



Grace Church has become a member of Melaleuca, The Wellness Company. A company whose founding mission statement is "Enhancing the lives of those we touch by helping people reach their goals." They define wellness as the ability to enjoy better physical wellness, environmental wellness, financial wellness, and personal wellness. They strive for wellness every day & stay more connected to Cleaner, Easier, more Wholesome natural solutions.

Grace Church in keeping in step with Consecration Sunday, Stewardship and tithing has embarked on a new & different way of raising money for our church. We promote good stewardship for our spiritual growth, but we also have to maintain the stewardship of our own body's, our families, and our environment.

Every product we sell should increase the wellness of the person who buys it and become a centerpiece of a healthier, more enjoyable life.

If all we had to do, was change where we shop for many of the items we use daily to help our parish gain financial growth. Why wouldn't we? We can do just that. Every parishioner in addition to Grace Church who becomes a member of the Melaleuca family will be able to tithe 7% of what you buy every month from the "new store" Melaleuca to our church. The profit of your purchases reverts back to Grace Church!

The products are all environmentally safe, chemical free. Making it a GREAT product for those with allergies. Those with young children who want to keep dangerous chemicals out of the house. Or pet owners who want to keep their pets in a chemical free environment. Remember children & pets spend a lot of time on the floor. Our families come in contact daily with the chemical in products that you use. No wonder there is an increase of medical problems, just think of all the products you use that have dangerous chemicals in them.

There will be more information to follow on how each of us can help our church grow financially. Anyone with questions about joining Melaleuca (which is just like joining Sam's club, except our church gets a 7% commission on the product we buy.)

Contact: Jeanne Roskoski @ 729-8810

Remember: Every ounce of effort you put in, and everything you accomplish, has a purpose.

more information on Melaleuca is available on their website: www.melaleuca.com

MINISTRY SCHEDULE for DECEMBER 2008

	Dec. 7 th	Dec. 14 th	Dec. 21 st	Dec. 24 th - 4:00	Dec. 24 th - 11:00	Dec. 28 th
<i>Acolyte</i>	B. Pursch, C. Carroll	C. Lathrop, H. Stephens	C. Sampson, E. Carroll	ALL AVAILABLE	ALL AVAILABLE	B. Pursch, K. Shupe
<i>Altar Guild</i>	E. Young J. Bunnell	K. Skinner J. Bunnell	J. Slate S. Wilding	J. Slate S. Wilding	S. Soden (Dec 25)	J. Slate S. Wilding S. Soden
<i>Chalicerist</i>	M. Brown G. Feldman	M. Brown G. Feldman	J. Roskoski V. Cheripko	S. Erb	V. Cheripko	J. Roskoski C. Lathrop
<i>Coffee Hour</i>	D. Pursch G. Feldman	J. Skinner J. Hoerter	E. Young D. Romano	-----	-----	D. Lewis S. Soden
<i>Counters</i>	E. Young L. Erdman	J. Roskoski R. Becker	S. Lathrop P. Mikulak	-----	-----	V. Cheripko N. Johannes
<i>Intercessor</i>	J. Bunnell	J. Roskoski	J. Slate			
<i>Lector</i>	D. Pursch	K. Skinner	M. Corso			<i>five readers</i>
<i>Ushers</i>	C. Stevens J. Stevens	P. Mikulak G. Mikulak	R. Sampson J. Sampson			D. Romano J. Merritt

If you cannot serve on a date you are scheduled,
please contact someone else on the list to switch -
then call the parish office (253-2760) so we can make the change, too.

THANK YOU for all your help!

CALLING ALL ACOLYTES:

ACOLYTE TRAINING SESSION - SATURDAY, Dec. 6 @ 10:00
for 'old' and new acolytes.
LET'S GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS !

The ALTAR GUILD's HOLIDAY DINNER will be Monday Dec. 1st at the home of Sally Soden.
Planning meeting and fellowship, not to mention good food!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

(Remember our Parish family in your Prayers)

O God, our times are in your hand:
Look with favor, we pray, on your
servant N. as he begins another year.
Grant that he may grow in wisdom and
grace, and strengthen his trust in your
goodness all the days of his life; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

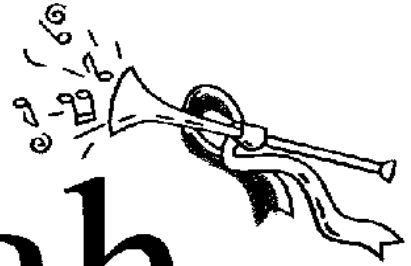
Dec. 4 - Paddy Sutton
Dec. 5 - Deborah Pursch
Dec. 8 - BJ Clark
Dec. 15 - Valray Cheripko
Dec. 20 - Julia Cheripko
Dec. 20 - Carl Roberts
Dec. 22 - Kimberly Skinner

Dec. 23 - Margaret Smith
Dec. 26 - Alexandra Johannes
Dec. 29 - Dorothy Gunuskey

The Delaware Valley Opera Company Presents:



Handel's



Messiah

Sing-a-Long

Saturday

December 6, 2008

1pm

3pm

First Presbyterian Church
815 Church Street
Hawley, PA 18428

Grace Episcopal Church
827 Church Street
Honesdale, PA 18431

Conducted by Jim Blanton

Accompanied by Father Ed Erb

Soloists:

Lisa LaBella — Soprano
Carol Hoehn-Diefenbach — Mezzo-Soprano
Ken Platt — Tenor
Eric Barsness — Bass

SING-ALONG or just come to **LISTEN & ENJOY**

The Children Prepare for Christmas

Each Sunday from now until Christmas, the Church School children will have Godly Play lessons focusing on Advent.



During the 10 a.m. Sunday sessions, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, and 21, the children will be learning songs and practicing for their part in the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service.

On Nov. 30 and Dec. 7, the children will also be making religious-symbol ornaments to adorn the Christmas tree in the parish hall. The tree must be up and decorated prior to Dec. 14.

It's going to be a busy time and we welcome all children from ages 3 to 11 to the 10 a.m. classes. In addition, older youth are welcomed to help!



ADOPT A WINDOW

Each year the windows of the Church are decorated by the Altar Guild. How 'bout this idea:

One family or individual 'adopts' a window to decorate. Basic parameters are a candle (provided) with greens and other decorations/ornaments (bows, flowers, snowflakes...)

If interested, see Sally Soden or Fr. Erb.

The Altar Guild will decorate the large rear window as an example. Use your creativity!



WINTER SOLSTICE CONCERT

by the Paul Winter (Jazz) Consort

Friday, December 19th

The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, New York City, is the site for a special annual event. The Paul Winter Consort, artist in residence at the Cathedral for 29 years have presented a special treat in December and June celebrating Creation - especially around the sun's solstice.

Tickets range from \$35 to \$75 (though you don't want the \$35 tix).

If interested in attending, see Fr. Erb. Plans are to car-pool and spend the day in the city (Fr. Erb has to see the 5th Avenue store windows!)



LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Sunday, Dec.21st 7:00

at BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Holy Days are not joyous for many people. For one reason or another, it is a “Blue, blue Christmas’ when loss or sadness reign. When the rest of the world seems to be happy and celebrating, those who are lonely and alone fall deeper and deeper into need of healing and comfort.



The Longest Night Service - on the night of the Winter Solstice - recognizes how dark life can seem. Special prayers, music and readings lend a voice to those who experience loneliness at this time of year. Individuals are also invited to come forward for private individual prayers with a member of the clergy. Encourage someone you know to come with you to offer our prayers before God, seeking God's comfort and assurance.

A Festival of Lessons & Carols for Christmas

11:00 AM Sunday, December 28th

Ninety years ago, in the midst of a World War, the chapel of King's College, Cambridge England was filled with the sound of 16 boys singing with the men of the University. Since 1928 this service of Lessons and Carols has been broadcast over the BBC throughout the world. It has also become one of the standard traditions of many, if not most, Episcopal Churches with trained choirs.

Sunday, Dec. 28th, at the 11:00 service our own Choir will lead us through this holiday feast beginning with the traditional procession to “Once in Royal David's City” and through five lessons and corresponding carols which trace the history of our redemption in the birth of Jesus Christ.

Read a full description of the history of this service at:

<http://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/chapel/ninelessons/2004/index.html>

listen live to King's College's annual service, Christmas Eve morning on 89.9 WVIA-FM



King's College Chapel, Cambridge

JOY
TO
THE
WORLD

SEND A MESSAGE OF HOPE AND THANKFULNESS

When doing your Christmas cards, send a special one to:

A Recovering American Soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20307-5001

Opening the Bible for the First Time - Again

Adult Forum, Sundays at 10:00, beginning December 7th.

Famous Quotes that were never in the Bible

So what's your favorite Bible story?

Jesus said What?!?!

What does Leviticus mean? What does Paul mean? What does, whatever, mean?

"Myth? Myth?!" "Yeth?"

(running gag in The Muppet Movie)

So what happened between Malachi and Matthew? Well, only about 300 years of important Jewish history.

King James is old news!

We could go on and on and on.

And maybe we will.

What do you want to learn about the Bible - God's Word?

Coffee, goodies, and interesting discussion - we promise!

Grace Notes



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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