



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

NOVEMBER 2008

PARSON'S CORNER

“If 'thank you' was the only prayer we uttered, that would be enough.”

Meister Eckhart, 14th cent. Christian mystic

I often picture the traditional Japanese when it comes to giving thanks. The bow of respect given to someone upon meeting has deep symbolism in Japanese culture. The deeper the bow, the greater the respect shown. So it is when we bow our head in prayer, kneel down in humility, or prostrate ourselves (as priests do at ordination) in total surrender are Christian expressions of that same self-offering of respect.

When you offer someone a heartfelt thank you, you are really offering something of yourself - a piece of your heart. Showing gratitude comes from a heart of humility - lowering yourself in light of the grace - however small a token - has been granted. “You have graced me by giving me a gift” demonstrates that the other person has also lowered themselves to give you, honoring you with their gift. Gift-giving and thanksgiving are equally expressions of the humble spirit. Each action is an honoring of the other as someone important.

Here is an example in real life. When a salesclerk takes my money across the counter and hands me the bag with my goods and change, it is appropriate to say, “Thank you.” (After all, we have all been served by clerks who have obviously had a bad day and are taking it out on everyone!) But truthfully, ringing up my sales, packaging my goods and exchanging currency - that is their job. Like me preaching a sermon or visiting someone in the hospital. We are doing what is equal to our position - our profession - even our calling.

But when someone goes out of their way to direct me to the proper aisle, even helping me to choose the right item for my need - - - that to me is service above and beyond the call of their (probably) meagre pay-check. They have not only given their time-clock responsibility, they've given something of themselves. A relationship has been created if but for a one-time, 5-minute encounter. To me, that is grace. To me, that is the cause for true giving of thanks.

Giving a gift, offering thanks and creating relationship. That is that love thing that Jesus calls us to develop in our hearts and show forth to the world. It is also, as Meister Eckhart suggests, the greatest gift we can offer to God - our thankful hearts, deeply bowed, with respect and love.

"If 'thank you' was the only prayer we uttered, that would be enough."

Let Thank You be our Prayer to God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

Father Erb

GRACE RECEIVED + GRACE SHARED + GRACE ABOUND

2008 PARISH VESTRY

*Senior Warden
Clerk*

Jane Bunnell
Paige Corso

*Junior Warden
Treasurer*

Jeanne Roskoski
Nicole O'Connell

Valray Cheripko
Rachel Hedgelon

B. J. Clark
William Hoerter

Matthew Corso
Deborah Pursch

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Vestry Highlights
14 October 2008

The audit from 2007 has been completed. The audit came out well and copies were distributed to vestry members.

Bill Hoerter gave an update on the Golf Outing. This year was a success bringing in \$7216, which was 40% higher than last year. This money goes into the Grace Abounding Fund.

BJ Clark gave an update on the triple net lease for our tenants in the rectory. He stated they are still in negotiations and hopefully the lease will be finalized soon.

Plans for Dan Charney's visit on Consecration Sunday were discussed. Dan will be visiting twice. He will meet with the vestry on November 11th and then he will be at our service November 16th. A luncheon is being planned following the service on that Sunday the 16th for the congregation.

Jane Bunnell announced that it was decided at the ECW meeting that they will be donating \$125 each year for four years to the New Hope Campaign.

The building and grounds committee was discussed. They met and had a walk through the building to prioritize projects that are in need of completion. They have a workday planned for November 1st to winterize the building.

Sue Erb gave an update on Christian Education. She stated all activities are going very well. She also gave a reminder that Anne Kitch will be at the church on November 1st to discuss faith formation for children and families and different curriculums available.

Submitted by Paige Corso

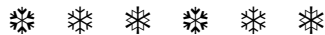
MINISTRY SCHEDULE

for November 2008

	Nov. 2 nd	Nov. 9 th	Nov. 16 th	Nov. 23 rd	Nov. 30 th
<i>Acolyte</i>	C. Lathrop	I. Pursch	C. Sampson	C. Lathrop	I. Pursch
<i>Altar Guild</i>	P. Stephens J. Slate	S. Soden S. Wilding	S. Soden S. Wilding	F. Mikulak E. Young	F. Mikulak E. Young
<i>Chalicer</i>	J. Roskoski V. Cheripko	J. Bunnell J. Slate	J. Bunnell J. Slate	C. Lathrop	C. Lathrop
<i>Coffee Hour</i>	V. Cheripko C. Smith	S. Erb N. Kuzminski	J. Merritt J. Slate	P. Mikulak G. Mikulak	D. Pursch R. Sampson
<i>Counters</i>	G. Lowden J. Roskoski	S. Lathrop V. Cheripko	S. Wilding V. Cheripko	J. Bunnell E. Young	P. Mikulak G. Mikulak
<i>Intercessor</i>	J. Bunnell	P. Corso	G. Feldman	C. Lathrop	S. Lathrop
<i>Lector</i>	D. Pursch	J. Bunnell	K. Skinner	G. Feldman	D. Pursch
<i>Ushers</i>	BJ Clark P. Mikulak	C. Stevens J. Stevens	R. Sampson J. Sampson	G. Mikulak J. Russo	J. Merritt BJ Clark

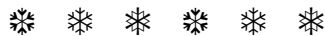
If you cannot serve on a date you are scheduled,
please contact someone else on the list to switch -
then call the parish office (253-2760) so we can make the change, too.

THANK YOU for all your help!



Licenses for special ministries are available each year from Advent to Advent -
Lay Reader (Lay Worship Leader)
Chalice-bearer (Eucharistic Minister)
Lay Eucharistic Minister

These ministries require a simple training (available from Fr. Erb) and license from the Bishop.
It is also a good time to become a Lector (reading the Scripture in worship), Acolyte or Altar Guild member
Are you interested in serving? See Fr. Erb for information.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS
(Remember our Parish family in your Prayers)

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor,
we pray, on your servants, as they begin another
year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace,
and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days
of their lives; through Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.

Nov. 1 - Nancy Kuzminski, Martin Hedgelon
Nov. 3 - Stephen Wilson
Nov. 10 - Gail Lowden
Nov. 13 - Rachael Hedgelon
Nov. 18 - Robin Sampson
Nov. 23 - Robin Becker
Nov. 30 - Greg Mikulak



RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, November 15th

9:00 - 2:00

Bring in your tired, your poor..
well, your used but not abused items.

Cleaning out the closet before heading south?
Making room in the attic for Christmas presents?
Can't fit into that wonderful sweater?

Bring them in for our Fall Rummage Sale,

Also, can you help set up on Friday? Help serve our customers on Saturday? Help pack up left-overs?
See Fr. Erb if you can donate some time.

TIME TO GET TO IT

God's House, like your house, needs to get ready for winter. Storm windows, clean up, leaf removal, the same things you do at your home will help the Church be energy efficient and beautiful for the coming holy days.



WORK DAY - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1st. We will begin at 9:00 and continue until, well, whenever. If you can't come on Saturday, come any day and offer an hour or two.

YOUTH HAPPENINGS in NOVEMBER

Sunday, Nov. 2 - Movie and a Pizza

Ewen McGregor, Billy Crudup, and others create a Fish Story.

Saturday, Nov. 8 - The Confirmation Class serves the Saturday Luncheon

(Thanks to John Garde for the wonderful spaghetti sauce!)

Sunday, Nov. 16 - Consecration Sunday - no meeting

Sunday, Nov. 23 - Fun & Fellowship - Bowling? Rock Climbing? You name it!

Sunday, Nov. 30th - Advent Wreath Making and lunch.



Sunday, Dec. 6th - What apes are climbing in your family tree?

No, I don't mean your brother!



Thanksgiving Together

Serving our annual Community Dinner beginning at 12:00 noon on

THANKSGIVING DAY

NO COST! NO RESERVATION!
TELL SOMEONE YOU KNOW! COME YOURSELF



“SO THAT NO ONE WILL SPEND THE HOLIDAY ALONE”

The Original Thanksgiving Dinner 🖱️

Come over to my house.

God

THANKSGIVING SERVICES:

HONESDALE MINISTERIUM COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE
Tuesday, November 25th
at 7:00 P.M.

hosted by the First Baptist Church

THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE of HOLY COMMUNION

at Grace Church

11:00 AM (just prior to the Thanksgiving Together Dinner)

The Great Prayer of the Holy Eucharist (early Greek word for Thanksgiving)

In our sharing of God's meal, we commune together in Thanksgiving,

as our forebears shared in fellowship with the Native Americans.



DOLLARS for DESSIN

Sunday, Nov. 9th 2-5 PM

The Uphill String Band present a special fund-raiser for the Dessin Shelter.

Square and Line Dancing

Soup, Soda & Snacks

Silent Auction

\$8.00 per person

\$15.00 per family



LIFT UP YOUR VOICE & SING

What would the Christmas season be without music? Maybe you can't devote all year to the Choir - but you just can't imagine not singing in December. Wednesday evenings, for an hour or so. That's all it takes.

AFRICAN TEAM MINISTRIES two weekends: Sat-Sun November 1-2, 8-9

Shop in the display of unique African items in the Church on the weekends of Nov1 through Nov.9 and help support our sisters and brothers in Africa.



Founded in 1984, ATM is an intermediary ministry between African and American churches of the Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Anglican denominations, we provide funds for orphan and refugee relief, missions and evangelism in East Africa. We currently have children registered for sponsorship in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and

Rwanda. Support is sent directly to each Bishop to provide school fees, tuition, books, and uniforms, ensuring that the children receive education and a measure of stability needed to rebuild their minds.

Visit the online store for more items at:
www.africanteamministries.org/scstore

SCOUT RECOGNITION

God & Family

Three Scouts from Cub Pack 105 (chartered by Grace Church) have completed their God & Family awards: Derek Stephen and Robert will be presented their religious emblems medals on Sunday, November 9th at the 11:00 service.



The Boy Scout devotes himself to God & Country. This is an extra achievement - one of the four levels of religious emblems - for these boys as they grow in their faith and dedication.

SUPPORT BOY SCOUT TROOP 1
ROAST BEEF DINNER
Sat. Nov. 8th from 4:30-7:00 at the Presbyterian Chapel

IT'S COMING :
CONSECRATION SUNDAY

November 16th

October 5, 2008 Meeting Decisions:

1. We unanimously voted to pledge \$125 a year for four (4) years to our Diocesan New Hope Campaign for a total of \$500.
2. The crafts from the African Team Ministries, Inc. will be sold in our parish on Nov. 2nd and 9th, 2008.
3. The plans for our Annual Harvest Home Supper have been finalized. The date for the fundraiser will be October 21, 2008.
4. Doris Lewis has volunteered to look into ways to help 'needy women' through Victim's Intervention and other agencies.

Thank You,
Jane Bunnell

A BIG THANK YOU !

goes out to Chris Lantsch of Honesdale for his gracious donation of a sofa and a loveseat for the Ladies Guild Room. We are grateful and they look fantastic. Not only did he deliver the new furniture, but he removed the old broken chairs!
Thank you, Chris!

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HARVEST HOME HAM DINNER netted the parish \$1,800! Thank you to all the peelers, mashers, carvers, table setters, decorators, servers and clean-up crew
And especially, Al Schwartz!!

Congregations that approach stewardship in a biblical manner do not view the money Christians give to their church merely to pay bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our finance committee has selected the New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. New Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During the service on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our parishioners to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world. Every parishioner who completes an Estimate of Giving card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We even urge everyone to attend who feels strongly opposed to completing a card. This is done in such a way that no one feels embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

There will be no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During the service our guest leader, Dan Charney, Diocesan Missioner for Stewardship, will conduct a brief period of inspiration and instruction, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and vestry members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, every effort is made to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday. *Note that there will be only one service that morning - at 9:00am.*

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in our Consecration Sunday events.

Jane Bunnell, *senior warden*

THE SEASON of ADVENT

Adventus - Coming

*A time of anticipation
 preparation
 expectancy
 hope*

*As darkness deepens over the earth,
we light an additional candle to mark the time
and prepare for the coming of our Savior Christ.*

Join with us for lunch on Sunday, November 30th as we make individual Advent Wreaths for the home. Greens wreath-forms and candles are provided. You bring decorations (pine cones, ribbons, etc.) and clippers.



Grace Notes

*GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
827 Church Street
Honesdale, Pennsylvania 18431*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NOVEMBER 2008

U.S. POSTAL
SERVICE
BULK RATE MAIL
PERMIT #827