



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

APRIL 2009

PARSON'S CORNER

ROLLER-COASTER RIDE

Don't you just love them? They are a thrill! You enter the queue with anticipation. You've been on this ride before, but each time the excitement is still there. As soon as you are off, you can't wait to get back on again for another ride.

Palm Sunday -

high with shouts of acclamation;

Maundy Thursday joyous gathering of friends

ending in the dark tunnel of uncertainty and fear;

Good Friday's horror ride -

the world crashes to a halt;

Holy Saturday -

more fear and uncertainty of the future;

Easter Day -

coming out of the darkness into a wonderful surprise!

It is a roller-coaster of spiritual emotion. And all too often we decide for one reason or another not to take the ride. Maybe you just don't like roller-coasters. You've 'been there, done that.' Other activities (or entertainments!) pull you away. But this year, I would encourage you to come along with us on the ride of Holy Week observances.

The joy of Easter is so much more appreciated - and understood - if we have journeyed all the way with Christ.

Come along for the ride. Christ is standing at the queue waving, beckoning us to join him. And if it gets scary, he's right there to hold you hand!

Father Erb

STATE of the UNION - The ANNUAL PAROCHIAL REPORT

Each year, every parish in the Episcopal Church is required to present an official report to the Diocese and National Church. The Parochial Report gives the canonical ("by Church law") information of the "State of the Church." We report our finances (including specific questions of our parish giving to Mission & Outreach, and Theological Education - two areas we at Grace Church, as most parishes sadly, are shy on). There are also reports of the number of weddings, burials, baptisms, if we have Adult Education and so forth.

People often ask me, "How big is your parish?" Honestly, I have had no clue. Last March when the Parochial Report was filed, we made wild guesses. With the split from Christ Church, and the decline during our interim period, there were many names and no faces. With numerous communications, questionnaires, and probing, we think we now have a firm grasp of who we are. Though officially, it looks like our numbers have dropped slightly (though attendance is almost twice what it had been), cleaning of the files and adding new folk has given us a clear and truthful picture.

At Grace Church, as we speak, we have:

119 Active Members in Good Standing

(those who regularly worship here, whose baptism is recorded or transferred here,
and contribute to the spread of the Gospel)

16 of those are under the age of 16, with an additional group who have recently become active.

In addition, there were (as of Dec. 31st)

28 "Active Others" whose baptism is not recorded here, but are active in the life of the parish.

(Many of these and a few others since Jan. 1st will be received or confirmed by the Bishop in June.)

Where does that leave us? Honestly, in pretty good stead. They also ask our average weekend attendance. For all of 2008, the average attendance was 67. In the first few months of 2009, that average is already up to 74!

Isn't God Good?!

NEW "LEASE ON LIFE"

Dianne Romano, Doris Lewis. Does anyone really appreciate the difficult work they assumed as Co-Junior Wardens several years ago?

One of the (many and) greatest frustrations they endured was dealing with a foreign party in negotiations for the rental of our Rectory. New members of the parish may not realize the house which the Church owns next door, and has been rented out for over 20 years, is a major source of our income. (Sadly, this rector doesn't live there. Jane Bunnell can tell many tales of living there as a "clergy daughter.")

After two long years of negotiations, Dianne and Doris, the "Dynamic Duo" or "Lucy and Ethel" as they came to be known, can celebrate as we now have a new lease with CitiGroup for an extended lease which profits Grace Church in many ways. When their terms on Vestry were up, B.J. Clark, Bill Hoerter, and Father Erb took on the mantle of negotiations, with great appreciation to our attorney, Tony Waldron, and Loralyn Sereo of CitiGroup in NY. Our new lease has increased our rental income, given us more opportunity and responsibility for maintenance and provides for increases in the coming years.

Thank you! Dianne, Doris, B.J. and Bill for your hard work, and long-suffering patience!

HOUSE OF BISHOPS CALLS ECONOMIC CRISIS “AN INVITATION”

126 active and retired bishops met for the annual House of Bishops Lenten retreat March 13-18 at Kanuga Camp and Conference Center near Hendersonville NC. From that gathering, a pastoral letter was drafted for the Church

I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. – Philippians 4:11- 13

[from *Episcopal News Service*] The bishops' pastoral letter called the church to repentance for failure to address the sorry state of national and international economic and environmental crises.

The letter cited "unparalleled corporate greed and irresponsibility, predatory lending practices, and rampant consumerism (that) have amplified domestic and global economic justice" and raised a specter of fear in the United States and the world. It also took to task a tendency "to ignore the Gospel imperative of self-sacrifice and generosity, as we scramble for self-preservation in a culture of scarcity."

"We have too often been preoccupied as a Church with internal affairs and a narrow focus that has absorbed both our energy and interest and that of our Communion—to the exclusion of concern for the crisis of suffering both at home and abroad," the letter continued. Examples of that suffering included ongoing wars and human and natural disasters that destroy the land.

Bishops also chided the church for failures "to speak a compelling word of commitment to economic justice. We have often failed to speak truth to power, to name the greed and consumerism that has pervaded our culture, and we have too often allowed the culture to define us instead of being formed by Gospel values."

Despite the Episcopal Church's commitment to the eradication of extreme poverty through the millennium development goals, "we have ... often fallen short of the transformation to which God calls us," according to the letter.

The current crisis "presents us with opportunities to learn from our brothers and sisters in faith in other parts of the world who have long been bearers of hope in the midst of even greater economic calamity." The church can also learn from its "spiritual ancestors," the letter continued.

"We recognize in this crisis an invitation into a deeper simplicity, a tightening of the belt, an expanded Lenten fast, and a broader generosity," the bishops wrote.

Shaw, who is a member of the pastoral letter writing committee, said the letter reflects "the response of the church during a time like this and reminds people of what the church has to offer, what all of us [have] to offer people suffering around ... dioceses and churches."



The PARISH “DISCRETIONARY” FUND - In These Troubled Times

The first Sunday of each, all the “loose” offerings - dollar bills and coins - are deposited into the Discretionary Fund. Every wedding and funeral, ‘gifts’ to the priest go into the Discretionary Fund. Occasional gifts are deposited into the same account. Why? What is the Discretionary Fund?

It is a special means of helping those in need at the ‘discretion’ of the priest - which means both the priest’s judgement and in ‘discreet’ manner. Helping with food, rent, fuel, transportation, ‘scholarships’...

Many times, these payments are given to members of the community at large. And this is the mission of the Church. But there are many within our own family who could benefit from some aid.

It is difficult to ask for help. Especially from your own family. But that is what we are here for. Let us know if you have a special concern - for yourself, for a loved one, for someone you know.

It is discreet. It is a helping hand. It is the work of the Church. It is why we are here!

PROVINCE III DAUGHTERS OF THE KING ANNUAL ASSEMBLY AND RETREAT

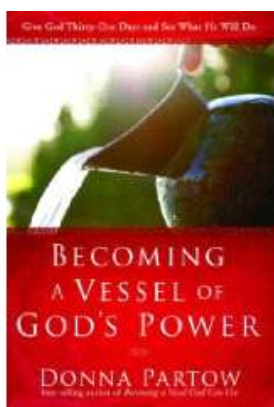


Hosted By
The DOK of The Diocese of Virginia

Retreat Theme: "BECOMING A VESSEL OF GOD'S POWER"

When: Friday, May 29 – Sunday, May 31, 2009

Where: The Fairview Park Marriott Hotel, Falls Church, VA



Donna Partow is a bestselling author and Christian motivational speaker with a compelling testimony of God's transforming power. She travels worldwide, sharing her life journey with disarming transparency and refreshing authenticity. In the process, she challenges pre-conceived notions about what it takes to be a vessel God can use. As Donna says, "I'm on the planet for one reason: to demonstrate that God has absolutely no standards—he'll take anybody in. If you are willing to turn your life over to God, no matter what a mess you've made, he will astound a watching world with what he can do!" A powerful speaker, Donna toured with Women of Virtue for three years, sharing the platform with many of America's most popular Christian communicators, including Barbara Johnson, Patsy Clairmont and Stormie Omartian.

Registration: \$160 (Sat. only, \$135) Includes cost of retreat supplies & meals for dinner on Friday (5:30-6:30 pm), 3 meals on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday.

See Jeanne Roskoski for more information, travel arrangements and Registration form.

LENTEN QUIET DAY

There will be a Lenten Quiet Day held at Good Shepherd and St. John's Episcopal Church on the corner of 5th and Catharine Streets in Milford, Pa., on Saturday, April 4, 2009. The service will be held from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM. We will be Praying the Way of the Cross with reflections from Saint Paul of the Cross. The service will be led by the Mary & Martha's Chapter of the Daughters of the King. Everyone is invited. Come and spend as much time as you wish.

Jeanne Roskoski, Joan DeAcetis, Carole Guzzi



**LOSE THOSE WINTER BLUES
CABIN FEVER CONCERT**

Featuring The Local Boys

Date: Sat. April 4th

Time: 7:00 to 10:00 PM

Place: The Grace Episcopal Parrish House

Free will Offering

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

for APRIL 2009

	PALM SUNDAY	GOOD FRIDAY	The GREAT VIGIL	EASTER DAY	19 April	26 April
<i>THURIFER</i>	---	---	---	C. Carroll	---	---
<i>CRUCIFER</i>	C. Carroll	T. Everett	T. Everett	E. Carroll	C. Lathrop	B. Pursch
<i>ACOLYTE</i>	CJ Shupe K. Shupe	---	CJ Shupe K. Shupe	J. Peer K. Peer	K. Peer H. Stephens	O. Johannes J. Peer
<i>ALTAR GUILD</i>	S. Soden S. Lathrop	S. Soden S. Lathrop	all available	S. Wilding J. Bunnell	S. Wilding J. Bunnell	F. Mikulak E. Young
<i>USHERS</i>	P. Mikulak G. Mikulak	C. Smith S. Erb	C. Carroll E. Carroll	C. Stevens J. Stevens	BJ Clark J. Merritt	C. Carroll E. Carroll
<i>LECTOR</i>	J. Bunnell	M. White	various readers	D. Pursch	G. Feldman	K. Skinner
<i>INTERCESSOR</i>	G. Feldman	---	---	---	---	---
<i>CHALICIST</i>	J. Roskoski M. White	---	M. White S. Erb	J. Bunnell M. White	J. Slate	C. Lathrop
<i>COUNTERS</i>	P. Mikulak K. Skinner	---	---	V. Cheripko R. Sampson E. Young	G. Mikulak L. Chavey	S. Wilding D. Romano
<i>COFFEE HOUR</i>	G. Feldman M. Ferrer	---	---	J. Merritt R. Becker	S. Erb N. Kuzminski	P. Mikulak J. Slate

THIS IS A BUSY MONTH - Extra duties for everyone!
 Help us make Grace Church a warm and hospitable place to worship for our guests and visitors.

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!



APRIL 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.

April 5 - Richard Korb; Suzanne Theobald
 April 11 - Colleen Caruso; Robert Lathrop; Dorothy Ridgeway
 April 17 - Marlene Brown
 April 20 - Stacy Mikulak
 April 26 - Father Erb
 April 29 - Paige Corso



HOLY WEEK

✝ THE HOLIEST WEEK OF THE YEAR ✝

Because it marks the anniversaries of some of the most important events in the Bible, the week before Easter is called “Holy” Week.

It was natural that Easter should become the most important day on the Christian calendar. For the first several centuries after Christ, Sunday (the day of Christ’s resurrection) was the only important day of the week, called “The Lord’s Day” (not the Sabbath!) The disciples and early followers of Jesus just couldn’t stop talking about the resurrection, the subject of every Sunday - the first day of Creation, the first day of God’s New Creation.

MAUNDY THURSDAY and GOOD FRIDAY didn’t become part of Christian worship until the fifth century. St. Helena, Emperor Constantine’s mother, a devout Christian, toured the sites of the Holy Land and encouraged pilgrims to retrace the steps of Jesus from his Triumphal Entry into the city of Jerusalem, to the Upper Room’s Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Way of the Cross to Calvary. These processions made deep and lasting impressions on European pilgrims and were carried back to their homelands to be observed in their cathedrals and parish churches when it was no longer safe to travel to Palestine. (The famous labyrinth at Chartres is the distance traveled in the Way of the Cross!)

The day on which the Lord’s Last Supper was remembered became Maundy Thursday, the name coming from the Latin *mandatum*, mandate: Jesus told his disciples that night, “This is my commandment, that you love one another.” This is Christ’s mandate to us!

Good Friday (from the old English, “God Friday”) commemorates first the Way of the Cross to Calvary, Christ’s Words on the Cross, the time of darkness when an earthquake shook the Temple, and the death and burial of Christ Jesus and his descent into Hell.

From 3:00 PM (the “ninth hour”) on Friday, through all of Saturday until Easter’s dawn, the earth suffered what could be called a Spiritual Eclipse, when our hearts are filled with darkness.

Yet Easter’s Dawn of Light and Life awaits! Our hope is reborn!

ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!
THE LORD IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

H O L Y W E E K
at
G R A C E C H U R C H

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 5th

The Blessing of the Palms
Christ's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem
& the Celebration of Holy Communion
at 8:00 & 10:45 AM in the Park

Weather permitting, the Blessing of the Palms will be outdoors at 10:45
with our friends from St. John's Lutheran Church.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 9th

6:00 PM The Agapé Meal
with the tradition of Foot-Washing observing the Last Supper
with the Watch in the Garden and the stripping of the Altar.

(a Sign-Up sheet for the dinner will be provided.)

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 10th

12:00 noon - The Community Good Friday Service
at First Baptist Church.
special music will be provided by the 1st Baptist Choir

7:00 PM - The Proper Liturgy for Good Friday
with the Adoration of the Cross
and music by the Choir of Grace Church

HOLY SATURDAY

APRIL 11th

8:00 PM - The Great Vigil of Easter
while we wait for the Resurrection of Christ,
with the Renewal of Baptismal Vows

EASTER DAY

APRIL 12th

The Festive Eucharist of the Resurrection
at 8:00 and 11:00 AM
with special activities for the Children among us.



WORK DAY SPRING CLEAN

Storm windows,
garden debris,
airing out,
scrubbing and polishing



SATURDAY, APRIL 4th
from 9:00 until noonish

Lunch provided

Come and prepare God's House for all the family and visitors!

YOUTH NEWS

two of our youth are heading for Christophany - the annual youth retreat. Offer them prayers for a meaningful and enjoyable time.

PALM SUNDAY

we take two Christmas Trees, strip them and fashion them into a Cross to adorn the outside of the Church and to use on Good Friday.

Lunch after Church

and bring your calendars:
we have these things to plan...

A "ROCKY" TIME AHEAD:

ROCK CLIMBING at CAMP WATONKA

When you're hanging 40 feet up on a wall,
how do you spell "Trust"? (B-E-L-A-Y!)

"ROCK & ROLL" Fund-raiser

Can you spend 24 hours in a rocking chair or wheel chair?
Sponsors will bet that you can't. But I know you can.

Help raise money for fun events and activities – for you and your friends!



The
UNITED
THANK
OFFERING
SPRING
IN-GATHERING

UNITED THANK OFFERING TIME

Spring has arrived! It will soon be United Thank Offering time - UTO.

Daily thanksgiving coins dropped into Blue Boxes will provide for many needy children and parishes all around the world. Sunday, May 3rd will be our In-Gathering at Grace Episcopal Church. If you need a "Blue Box", look for them in the Parish Hall.

Thank You,
Joan Merritt

*MARK YOUR CALENDARS
WITH THESE MUSICAL OFFERINGS*

EASTER FANFARE

3:00 pm Sunday, April 19th

The Annual Concert of the Honesdale area Church Choirs.
at Central United Methodist Church
individual anthems by each choir
festival massed choir selections, augmented by brass!

ORGAN ALLELUIAS !

3:00 pm Sunday, April 26th

Our Second Annual observance of
PHYLLIS KORB CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY

Father Erb will present a program of Organ Celebration
Donations to benefit the Organ Fund
in honor of our retired organist of many years

CORDS & STRINGS

3:00 pm Saturday, May 2

A Recital of Music for Voice and Piano
Ken Platt, baritone
Fr. Erb, piano

Ken Platt, who uses his voice primarily now to preach,
studied classical voice and sang professionally in college
selections by Handel, Beethoven, Wolff, Vaughan Williams and others

Donations benefit the Organ Fund

I WISH YOU ENOUGH.....

anonymous

I wish you enough pain so that even the smallest of joys in life may appear bigger.

I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.

I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.

I wish you enough hellos to get you through the final good-bye.

I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright no matter how gray the day may appear.

I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun even more.

I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive and everlasting.

They say, it takes a minute to find a special person,
an hour to appreciate them,
a day to love them;
but an entire life to forget them.

Grace Notes

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
827 Church Street
Honesdale, Pennsylvania 18431

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

APRIL 2009