



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 2009

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## PARSON'S CORNER

*"IT'S A MARVELOUS TIME OF YEAR"*

So an old Christmas song proclaims. It is. As I mentioned in last month's installment, this is a season of wonder. In November each year we look at the great beyond of heaven, from remembering at the feast of All Saints those who have already gone into God's kingdom, to the last week when we proclaim Christ as that King of Heaven as the saints and angels sing the entire month in our remembrance.

January the bills for Christmas will come. Post-holiday depression, cabin-fever, and the daily anxiety of snow-removal and safety in traveling. (Plus the school children joy of a Snow Day!) But in December we are transported into another world. An anachronistic world of the 1950s "Christmas Story" or the 1850s Dickens "A Christmas Carol" or the ancient story of Amahl.

I am one of those, as my family will tell you, who lives in a different world. Meaning, I suppose that I have no sense of reality. And the problem with that is...?!? Someone marveled at my Palm Pilot the other day (I didn't tell them it was three years old!) when I pulled it out to mark down an date, sending it to my Outlook program to signal an alarm for the appointment. Yet my heart is really in the Victorian Christmas (Well, there's a surprise to anyone who truly knows me!)

A grey stone Church sitting on Central Park, as the snow falls. The rich colors from the stained glass warming the cold whiteness of the world around us, the hints of choir carols and organ strains creating a ribbon of memory in our hearts. God is good. What a "Wonderful Life" in this "Winter Wonderland."

The reality of life - the cares and bills and wishes and desires and concerns - heat, food, the desire to fulfill loved ones desires and our own - they are there. Covered over in white, clean, perfect snow. But they are still there lying underneath.

If only for a few moments we can forget them. If only for a few moments we can settle into the warmth of a child's laughter, a fire's glow, an oven's delight. In the gift of a child. The presence of a God. The joy of angelic chorus, the laughter of children, the \_\_\_\_\_ Well, you fill in the blank.

It is a marvelous time of year, when we are drawn outside ourselves into a magical, mystical, spiritual realm. An existence when God comes from heaven, and humans can transport themselves into heaven. The angels sing, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth."

What a wonderful time it is! "God bless us: every one."

*Father Erb*

AND NOW IS THE TIME OF YEAR...

For Lay Ministries in the Church to come forth.

The Bishop issues licenses for certain lay ministries in the Church:

Lay Worship Leader (for Morning and Evening Prayer, etc.)

Eucharistic Minister (Chalice-Bearer)

Lay Eucharistic Visitor (to the sick and shut ins)

as well as:

Preacher

Catechist (to teach the Confirmands and 'converts')

It is also a good time to consider being on the roster as:

an Usher / Greeter

a member of the Altar Guild

an Acolyte

a "Counter" or "Teller" for Sunday offerings

Lector

even Coffee Hour host.

Particularly at 8:00 Sundays we would welcome a Reader/Intercessor/Chalistic. Oh, how we miss Barbara Filipowski and Michelle White!

All you need to do is see me. Young and old alike. Fr.Ed

## VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

NOVEMBER 2009

from Vestry Clerk, Paige Corso

- The African Team Ministries raised \$533 this year which is up from last year!
- Bishop Paul has confirmed he will be here April 25th for the 11 am service, there will be no 8am service that day.
- We will have a Kris Kringle Cookie sale December 12th from 9am - 12pm, members are asked to bake cookies. We will also have a Christmas ornament and decoration sale.
- The Christmas Eve services will be held at 4pm and 11pm. The children's pageant will be at the 4pm service and the children are writing it on their own this year!
- Maria has been handling the choir directing since Bob Lathop has resigned. It was noted that she is doing a great job!
- The Bishop's provision to same sex unions was reviewed and discussed. Vestry voted to accept this provision for Grace Church.
- Rectory projects are in process and near completion. Projects that are being done include repairing the driveway, painting the exterior and repairing the computer room ceiling.
- Emily Martin is a young pianist who will be holding a piano recital in the church the Saturday following Thanksgiving. This concert will benefit the church.
- Fr. Ed asked for feedback from the previous Sunday's morning prayer service. It was decided to hold a morning prayer service on the months that have five weeks.
- Consecration Sunday pledges to date were reviewed.

# KRIS KRINGLE'S



**The Baking is Done for You!**



**9 a.m. to Noon**

*(or while supplies last)*

**Saturday, Dec. 12, 2009**



**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
PARISH HOUSE**

**827 Church St., Honesdale**



*Proceeds benefit programs & outreach of the Church*

“KRIS KRINGLE’S COOKIES” are in the Oven!

Christmas Cookies and Goodies, Saturday, December 12, from 9 a.m. to noon, in the Parish House. When baking your cookies, make some extra and bring them to the Church.

Drop the goodies off in the church kitchen by Dec. 11. Label the kinds and mark them as being for the cookie sale. We will sell them by take-out containers. Customers can mix and match to get a good variety! Tell your friends to come and buy all the goodies!

And when you pull out your Christmas decorations, bring good quality unwanted items. You know what we mean. All the extras which we keep buying. We all have too much in our attics, don't we? Donate them to a good cause: A holiday flea market. Any hand-made crafts from your own workshop? Bring them, too.

For information, see Sue Erb or Kenny Skinner.

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## WHAT DO YOU GET FOR THAT ONE PERSON . . . ?

Here are some ideas for alternative Christmas gifts:

- ★ Create a tape or CD recording of poetry and songs for relatives whom you don't see often or an elderly person in your community who is home-bound.
- ★ Set a \$5 limit on family gifts and see how creative everyone can be with the \$5.
- ★ Create a hand-made coupon book offering your time to family members--neck massages, cooking, raking leaves, 10 minutes of conversation.
- ★ Exchange hand-written and hand-decorated prayer cards.
- ★ Give a flock of chickens or other animals purchased at Heifer International.

## ANOTHER GIFT IDEA - “a SHARE-CHECK”

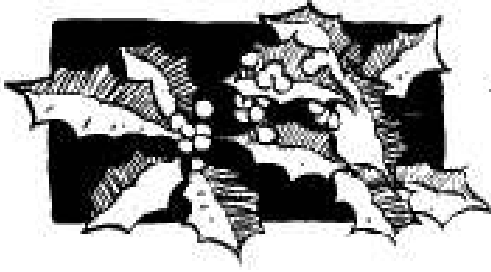
How do you get away from the “saturation point” of toys and gadgets for children and youth - and adults - for Christmas presents? Nathan Dungan, of the Episcopal Network for Stewardship and founder of ShareSaveSpend ([www.sharesavespend.com](http://www.sharesavespend.com)) tells this story:

Trudy and Sam tried to get away from the “It's all about me” syndrom of American society, especially with their grandchildren. Dungan relates:

“In addition to one gift, each grandchild also received a “share check.” Here's how it worked. The share check was a \$25 check from Trudy and Sam with everything filled in except the “Pay to The Order Of.” That line was intentionally left blank. The goal was for each grandchild to give the money away to a charitable cause they were passionate about.

The best part – it worked! ... The only requirement of Trudy and Sam: the grandkids have to tell them what they did with the money.”

*from NetWorking newsletter*



## “Deck the Church”

~ with Christmas Poinsettias ~

A wonderful way to honor a loved one is in giving a poinsettia in memory or thanksgiving for Christmas. See Kim Skinner at church, or contact her at [kimberloo@socantel.net](mailto:kimberloo@socantel.net) or phone 798-2170 by December 15th. Please consider a donation of \$10.00 per plant. It also makes the church festive during the Christmas season, and will bless a shut-in as we share them after Christmas.

## “Deck the Church,” part deux

On Sunday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> we will enjoy fellowship and food and fun as we “Green the Church” for Christmas after the 11:00 service.

“Coffee Hour” will be brought into the Church, and so will the greens, candles, Creche and Christmas tree. We’ll sing carols, hang the greens, and enjoy holiday snacks.

Looking for families or individuals to “sponsor” a window. Bring greens and family decorations to adorn the windows of the Church. The Altar Guild provides the candle, you do the rest. Make it a special expression of your family.

God Willing and the People Assenting

The Rt. Rev’d Paul V. Marshall  
will ordain

Dr. MICHELLE WHITE  
into the Sacred Order of Deacons

at 7:00 in the evening  
on the feast of St. Thomas  
21 December 2009

at St. Stephen’s Pro-Cathedral, Wilkes Barre

a car-pool will leave Grace Church at 5:30  
(see Fr. Erb if you wish to attend and can drive)

## OTHER EVENTS AT GRACE CHURCH

Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> the LION’S CLUB will offer the HOLIDAY DINNER for HANDICAPPED CHILDREN at Grace Church. Would you like to help? See Jane Bunnell or call the parish office.

CHRISTMAS DAY and NEW YEAR’S DINNERS - Thanksgiving Together includes other holidays, too. Help Al Schwartz & Co. provide a hearty meal for the community. Call the parish office to volunteer.

NEW YEAR’S EVE PARTY - Looking for a place to come for a safe, non-alcoholic, gathering for New Year’s? Come to the Church. We’ll have games, food, a TV set up for watching Times Square and more! Bring some food, bring a game, bring people. Activities for children (even some sleeping mats) will be provided.

# Christmas at Grace Church



CHRISTMAS EVE, 4:00 PM

The FAMILY SERVICE  
With the CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

“O Little Town of Honesdale”

The Youth Answer the Question - “What If Jesus Were Born in Honesdale 2010?”  
Joseph a custodian at Walmart? Mary a freshman at Damascus U?  
Angels as a Punk Rock Band? Shepherds as Skateboarders in the Park?

CHRISTMAS EVE, 11:00 PM \*

FESTIVE CHORAL EUCHARIST  
for the NATIVITY of CHRIST

CHRISTMAS DAY, 10:00 AM \*

The CHRIST-MASS  
Holy Eucharist, Rite One

The SUNDAY following CHRISTMAS, 11:00 AM

A CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF  
LESSONS & CAROLS  
with Holy Communion

*\* Note: Incense will be used at these services*

There will be no Saturday service on December 26th.

## MINISTRY SCHEDULE for DECEMBER 2009

	December 6 <sup>th</sup> the feast of St. Nicholas	December 13 <sup>th</sup> Advent 3	December 20 <sup>th</sup> Advent 4	December 24 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve 4:00 pm	December 24 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve 11:00 pm	December 27 <sup>th</sup> Lessons & Carols
<i>THURIFER</i>	---	---	---	---	E. Carroll	---
<i>CRUCIFER</i>	B. Pursch	R. Becker	C. Carroll	C.Becker	C. Carroll	D.Fink
<i>ACOLYTES</i>	C. Carroll E. Carroll	E. Becker H. Stephens	O. Johannes J. Peer	H. Stephens K. Peer	---	O.Johannes J.Peer
<i>ALTAR G'LD</i>	S. Wilding E. Young	S. Wilding E. Young	J. Bunnell E. Young	J. Bunnell E. Young	J. Bunnell E. Young	<i>take a break - Fr. Erb will do</i>
<i>USHERS</i>	G. Mikulak P. Mikulak	C. Stevens J. Stevens	BJ Clark J. Merritt	?	?	R. & J. Sampson
<i>LECTOR</i>	M. Corso	J. Bunnell	D. Pursch	Youth	J. Bennell	various
<i>INTERCES'R</i>	J. Slate	D. Lewis	J. Roskoski		J. Slate	J. Bunnell
<i>CHALICIST</i>	J. Roskoski	J. Bunnell	J. Slate	S.Treanor	J. Bunnell	V. Cheripko
<i>COUNTERS</i>	L. Erdman D. Romano	K.Skinner J. Roskoski	J. Merritt P. Mikulak	---	---	N. Johannes S. Wilding
<i>COFFEE HR</i>	J. Merritt J. Slate	C. Smith J. Bunnell	S. Soden E. Young	---	---	R. Sampson C.Escalona

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!*

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Remember our Parish family in your Prayers  
and send a card with your prayer!

**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 - B.J. Clark  
Dec. 15 - Valray Cheripko  
Dec. 20 - Julia Cheripko  
Dec. 20 - Carl Roberts  
Dec. 22 - Kim Skinner  
Dec. 23 - Margaret Smith  
Dec. 24 - Judy Stephens  
Dec. 26 - Alexandra Johannes  
Dec. 29 - Dorothy Gunuskey

Into the Climate of fear and apprehension,  
    Christmas enters,  
Streaming lights of joy, ringing bells of hope  
And singing carols of forgiveness high up in the  
    bright air.  
The world is encouraged to come away from  
    rancor.  
Come the way of friendship.

At this Holy Instant, we celebrate the Birth of  
    Jesus Christ  
Into the great religions of the world.  
We jubilate the precious advent of trust.  
We shout with glorious tongues the coming  
    of hope.  
All the earth's tribes loosen their voices  
To celebrate the promise of Peace.

*from Amazing Peace  
a Christmas Poem  
by Maya Angelou*

# *Grace Notes*

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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