



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

FEBRUARY 2009

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## PARSON'S CORNER

## WINTER DOLDRUMS

I have a confession to make. I haven't been exercising, I haven't been reading the daily office of Morning Prayer. I wouldn't call it cabin fever, for Sue and I have been, as you well know, heavily involved in finishing our kitchen. So it's distraction more than doldrums. But I recognize that this is the time for many people to want it to end - OK, we've had winter, let's get it over with. But we have two months more to go (which is good, cause I haven't been skiing either!)

How does one break the monotony, the depression for some, of winter doldrums? Routine came to my mind. The routine - sometimes rote repetition - of good habits, even if the heart isn't in to it when the thought occurs or the time is at hand. But getting on my NordicTrac or picking up my hand weights the past few days, and beginning again the routine of Morning Prayer in the Church has actually made me feel better. I didn't start singing, "Oh, what a beautiful morning," but my heart felt lighter, even though it is winter grey outside.

The Chapel of the Good Shepherd is at the heart of General Seminary in New York City - literally at the heart and figuratively. When I was at orientation, our liturgics professor and head of the chapel urged us all to get into some daily routine of chapel worship. General Seminary Chapel where there is Morning Prayer, Holy Eucharist, Evensong and Compline every day of the week. Professor (now Bishop) Alexander urged us, "There will be times you don't want to go to chapel. Those are probably the times you need to be in chapel."

And he was right. First of all, if one of us wasn't in chapel, one of our classmates would come knocking on the dormitory door with a cup of coffee and bagel from Frankie's Deli in hand - nothing beat the doldrums more than a nagging classmate and anything from Uncle Frankie! But more importantly, we discovered that just going through the motions some days of life keeps the spiritual blood flowing, slowly maybe, but flowing and gently nourishing, even healing, what ails us.

My piano professor in college reminded us that if you don't practice one day your teacher will know. If you don't practice two days, you will know. If you don't practice three days, the whole world will know! That transposes to the spiritual life as well. If I don't pray and read the Bible one day, the Teacher knows. If I don't pray and read the Bible two days, I know. If I don't pray and read the Bible three days - well, the whole world knows!

How do you get to Carnegie Hall? Practice, practice, practice. How do you get to Heaven? Practice, practice, practice. And one day, we will get it Right! Right into Heaven.

*Father Erb*

GRACE RECEIVED + GRACE SHARED + GRACE ABOUND

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

25 JANUARY 2009

Following a luncheon provided by the Episcopal Church Women, the Parish met for its 2009 meeting. The Senior Warden declared a quorum of “communicants in good standing” and welcomed all.

Jane introduced those on the ballot for Vestry: Jeanne Roskoski, running for a second full term; Lee Erdman and John Sullivan running for first terms of three years. With no nominations from the floor and by consensus (moved by and seconded by ) the ballot was unanimously cast as presented.

Later in the meeting, Cynthia Smith and Janet Bergan offered themselves as Alternates to Diocesan Convention to be our parish Delegates in 2010. Their election (moved by and seconded by ) was passed unanimously.

The reports of activities in 2008 were presented by the officers and various committee chairs.

Father Erb announced staff changes. Though Wayne Riggall has left, Judy remains as long as she is able as our sexton. She continues to do an admirable job, helping out in so many ways beyond her job description. Nicole O’Connor has stepped down as our Treasurer. Father Erb is working with Rose Rosler to incorporate the Treasurer and Secretary positions into one as Parish Administrator, using the model of other area parishes.

The finances of the parish - like every family and individual this year - are in critical mode. The Finance Committee, staff and all the parish are doing what we can to streamline and be good stewards. The continual growth of the parish is encouraging. Several ideas for fund-raising activities and offerings to the community were shared and will, hopefully, be enacted.

Fr. Erb introduced Michelle White, who will be with us for the next few months as an intern, preparing for ordination to the priesthood, learning liturgy and music, parish administration, and pastoral ministry.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30.

## VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 2009

At its brief organization meeting following the Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday 25 January, the Vestry of Grace Church:

+ Welcomed newly-elected members: Jeanne Roskoski (2<sup>nd</sup> term); Lee Erdman and John Sullivan (1<sup>st</sup> terms)

+ Appointed and elected officers:

Senior Warden (appointed by the rector):	Jane Bunnell
Junior Warden (elected by Vestry):	Jeanne Roskoski
Clerk:	Paige Corso
Treasurer:	Rose Rosler
Assistant Treasurer (Head Teller):	Valray Cheripko
Financial Secretary:	Joyce Skinner



## 3 Upcoming Retreats for Women in the Diocese of Bethlehem

Faith Formation News

Diocese of Bethlehem

Daughters of the King Lenten Retreat

Led by The Rev. Joseph DeAcetis

February 27-March 1, 2009

for more information contact Joan DeAcetis 570-325-2204

*Journey of Prayer*

Women of Nativity 7th Annual Retreat

Travel Mercies: Here, there & everywhere

Led by The Rev. Suzanne Guthrie

March 6-8, 2009

for information contact Janet Kolepp, [jkolepp@msn.com](mailto:jkolepp@msn.com) 610-954-9582

Dancers of the Dawn

under the direction of Saba

Middle Eastern Dance

Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM

\$10 Admission (under 10 free)

benefits the local Food Pantry

MARDI GRAS

Shrove Tuesday

P A R - T A Y ! !



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24<sup>th</sup>  
BEGINNING at 6:00 PM

ALL YOU CAN EAT - THE FINEST OF THE BEST  
ADULTS \$10 CHILDREN (under 12) \$5

RECIPE SMORGASBORD -  
COMPETITION FOR THE BEST RECIPES

PREPARE your favorite family recipe - enough for many to taste:

Appetizers	Salads
Main Dish	Vegetable
Side Dish	Dessert

Diners will vote on the best recipe in each category - and prizes will be awarded!

Then the recipes will be collected for publishing in a Grace Church recipe book as another fund-raiser!

*Followed by*

TALENT SHOW  
LIVE ON OUR STAGE!



MUSIC - COMEDY - DANCE - POETRY-READING ?

SHOW OFF YOUR STUFF  
sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall

AMERICAN IDOL - DANCE WITH THE STARS ?  
*East your heart out!*

TRIVIA PAGE  
of FEBRUARY "HOLY (Holi-) DAYS"

DID YOU KNOW?



## FRIDAY the 13<sup>th</sup>

What is "paraskavedekatriaphobia"? \*

Two months in a row, we see Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> - the epitome of every adolescent horror movie. What is behind this fear of Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> (no, not Freddie Kreuger) or the evil associated with it - another Hallowe'en?

You only need be afraid on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> if you are a Knight Templar and if this is the early 14<sup>th</sup> century in France. Under the urging of Pope Clement, King Philip of France had the Knights Templar arrested, accused and executed on Friday, the 13<sup>th</sup> of October 1307.

Because of Jesus' arrest, trial and death on Friday, plus 13 being long considered an unlucky number, these all lead to the superstition of bad luck - and terrible horror movies - on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>.

But you need not fear, God's angels will protect you from every peril. Even terrible movies!

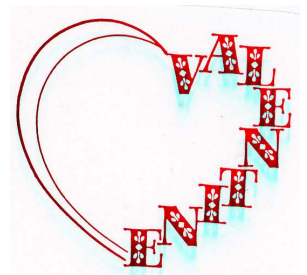
\* answer: the fear of Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>.

FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY

## *St. Valentine's Day*

Valentine is indeed a saint, a bishop in the early Church and was imprisoned by the Roman emperor for refusing to deny his Christianity. He was executed February 14<sup>th</sup>.

So why the Valentine's card? Why cupids of love? Valentine while in prison, was visited by the jailer's daughter, with whom he fell in love. He sent her a love note, signing it, "From Your Valentine." Possibly her father, the jailer found it, for shortly afterwards Valentine was executed. Talk about perilous love! Was he killed for being a Christian or being in love? We will never know.





# CONFIRMATION CLASS and YOUTH ACTIVITIES



## Opening the Bible

During February and March, Confirmation Class will continue to meet Sundays at 10:00 with the Adult Forum, continuing the segment on the Bible.

## SNOW - DAY Sunday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> @ ELK MOUNTAIN

Lunch at the Church, then we'll head off to Elk Mountain to join our parish friends for a day in the snow. Ski, Snow-Board, Sit in the Lodge.

Lift tickets are:	12:30-4:30 \$41 / \$33 (Ch)	12:30-10:00 \$53 / \$40
Rentals:	Skis: \$30 / \$25 (Ch)	Boards: \$35
Lessons:	\$24	

PERMISSION SLIP REQUIRED !



## "40 Days and 40 Nights"

WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?  
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Stuck out in the desert for 40 days.  
What do you do in the desert?

Think a lot,  
look for food,  
chase the birds,  
fight the devil.

After Church on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Youth will discuss a video shoot of British artist Si Smith, call "40"

*then*

On March 1<sup>st</sup>,

a short video on forgiveness called **Lump**. We'll make you wonder.

## MINISTRY SCHEDULE for FEBRUARY 2008

	FEB 1	FEB 8	FEB 15	FEB 22	ASH WEDNESDAY
<i>CRUCIFER</i>	M. Everett	C. Lathrop	B. Pursch	C. Sampson	C. Carroll
<i>ACOLYTE</i>	H. Stephens J. Peers	CJ Shupe K. Shupe	C. Carroll E. Carroll	K. Peers O. Johannes	E. Carroll K. Shupe
<i>ALTAR GUILD</i>	S. Wilding S. Soden	S. Wilding S. Soden	J. Bunnell E. Young	J. Bunnell E. Young	
<i>USHERS</i>	C. Stevens J. Stevens	BJ Clark P. Mikulak	C. Carroll E. Carroll	R. Sampson J. Sampson	R. Sampson J. Sampson
<i>LECTOR</i>	D. Pursch	G. Feldman	K. Skinner	M. Corso	D. Pursch
<i>INTERCESSOR</i>	J. Roskoski	J. Slate	J. Bunnell	G. Feldman	- - -
<i>CHALICIST</i>	G. Feldman	M. Brown	J. Roskoski	M. White	S. Erb
<i>COUNTERS</i>	P. Mikulak V. Cheripko	D. Erdman J. Roskoski	E. Young L. Chavey	N. Kuzminski J. Bunnell	- - -
<i>COFFEE HOUR</i>	S. Erb R. Becker	P. Mikulak N. Kuzminski	G. Mikulak J. Slate	C. Smith J. Bunnell	- - -

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!*

### FEBRUARY 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.

Feb. 1 Suzanne Clark  
Feb. 5 Zachary Romano, Sr.; Marty Hedgelon  
Feb. 7 James Johannes; Maurice Brown  
Feb. 8 Terry Smith  
Feb. 11 Rob Aleckna  
Feb. 14 "Reg" Bunnell; Sue Erb  
Feb. 16 Matt Corso  
Feb. 17 Ellen Korb



SATURDAY, FEB. 7 from 9:00 until noon

Come out and give a HELPING HAND to do a number of HOUSEHOLD CHORES in GOD'S HOUSE.

Of course, there will be coffee and goodies all morning!

## *February Highlights*

*at Grace Church*

- Sat, Feb 7      Work-Day, 9:00 - 12:00  
Dancers of the Dawn - Middle Eastern Dance Recital, 7:00 PM
- Sun, Feb 8      (Girl & Boy) Scout Recognition Sunday @ 11:00 AM Service  
Snow Day @ Elk Mountain
- Thurs, Feb 12    Scout District Ecumenical Service, 7:00 PM
- Tues, Feb 24    Mardi Gras Smorgasbord & Talent Show, 6:00 until - - -
- Wed, Feb 25    Ash Wednesday Services at 12:10 & 7:00 PM
- Sat, Feb 28    7:30 PM Square Dance with the Uphill Sting Band

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**FEBRUARY 2009**