



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

JANUARY 2009

PARSON'S CORNER

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

It's an old story. The exercise equipment bought at Christmas sales (to work off those fruit cake and egg nog calories) will sit in the corner with empty promises. The resolution to take a day of rest is on the back burner until the pile of papers on the desk gets completed - "As soon as I finish these all will be well and I will be able to take that day off." Until today's mail comes. The attic remains a mess, the garage waits til spring, plans for the best garden ever dies with the misplacement of the seed catalogue.

Is this a message not to make empty promises? Not at all. Make promises to yourself, your spouse, your family, your boss, your world - whatever or whoever you choose this year. And make it as large as you wish. Will it be unfulfilled? Yes. No matter how large or how small, you won't keep that promise, unless it is sealed with the perfection of God's binding.

Vows. The most familiar, and sadly in this society the most broken, are the vows made by men and women. You may think of the marriage vows. And yes, those are the second most broken vows - "to love and to cherish until death do us part (even though death only perfects our vows)." But the most broken promises are those we make at our Baptismal Confirmation, rehearsed time and time again in the Renewal of Baptismal Vows. On January 11th we will hear of Jesus' own Baptism, as we baptize several young people of the parish. At that time each of us will renew our promises as Christians. We've done it many times. But do we seriously take them into ourselves, any more than many a husband and many a wife take their marriage vows seriously?

renouncing the forces of Satan and his wickedness that rebel against God
and the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God,
and all the sinful desires that draw you from the love of God. (BCP p.302-303)

And those are only the beginning. Overwhelming responsibilities. Resolutions way beyond our means and power. Just too much for us to handle.

That is the point. We are helpless. The forces of our human being. We are incapable of keeping our promises. It's against our nature. Which is exactly the point of our Baptism. We don't have to go it alone. We are members of a community who work together. We are members of an everlasting fellowship on earth, as well as enjoining the fellowship of heaven - those saints who have struggled before us and have proven that mere mortals are capable of surpassing the human nature.

And God is there. It is the power of the Holy Spirit which enables us, empowers us, encourages us, to take those resolutions and to keep them. "All" that is required is the invocation, the inspiring, the in-breathing of God's presence at the many moments of weakness. We cannot do it alone. Face reality. But also face God's promise! God promises that He will be with us to sustain us, to strengthen us, and to bless us. And that is a promise I expect to be kept.

Make your New Year's Resolution and expect to keep it. And on January 11th, renew your Baptismal Covenant. That will be the strength necessary to keep all your vows. And repeat after me, "I will with God's help!" *Father Erb*

GRACE RECEIVED
GRACE SHARED
GRACE ABOUNDS

What does our parish ministry statement mean to you?

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS
30 December 2008

Sr. Warden: Mrs. Jane Bunnell
Clerk: Mrs. Paige Corso

Jr. Warden: Mrs. Jeanne Roskoski
Treasurer: Mrs. Nicole O'Connell

Vestry Members: B. J. Clark
Dr. Matthew Corso
William Hoerter

Valray Cheripko
Rachel Hedgelon
Deborah Pursch

At it's December meeting (postponed from it's regularly scheduled date), Grace Church's Vestry:

+ discussed the proposed Budget for 2009 prepared by the Finance Committee. A projected deficit of \$12,000 will be reviewed by the Finance Committee and presented to the parish at the Annual Meeting;

+ routine required resolutions we made regarding the housing allowance for Fr. Erb (for IRS purposes) and for the Diocesan Assessment and Acceptance contribution figures. Vestry approved the Diocesan Assessment (12% of our Normal Operating Income from two years previous); while we hope to make contributions to the Diocese for the additional Acceptance amount of 3%, at this point, we cannot guarantee;

+ guaranteed \$500 to the Diocese of Bethlehem's Northern Tier Advertising Project with WNEP-TV as recommended by Diocesan Convention;

+ noted that Nicole O'Connor will no longer be our Treasurer, as of December. Vestry will be reviewing the possibility of combining the Parish Secretary and Treasurer's positions into one Parish Administrator position for the ease of maintaining the books in the Parish office, transferring records from MSEXcel to QuickBooks accounting program.

+ received the report from BJ Clark that we have been, once again, promised that the lease with Citigroup is being processed, though no signed document has yet been received.

+ discussed the date of the Annual meeting Though the third Sunday of January is also designated by the Honesdale Ministerium as Christian Unity Sunday for a Pulpit Exchange, the Annual Meeting could commence following the 11:00 service with a luncheon. (Pastor Kenneth Buckwalter from St. John's Lutheran Church and Father Erb will be switching churches for the morning services.)

+ continued the discussion of having an intern under the direction of Fr. Erb.

+ suggested some names of parishioners who may be approached by the Nominating Committee for election to the Vestry at the Annual Meeting in January.

2009 Budget and Financial Status

Grace Church

The finance committee met December 8th at the Wayne Bank to review the status of Grace Church's investment accounts. To no surprise all accounts were down for the year. Fortunately, these accounts are structured very conservatively and the losses were not as bad as could have been. However, this loss of income will affect the 2009 budget.

The Finance committee met again on December 10th to draft a 2009 budget.

Following is a brief description of each investment account, and a brief estimate of the 2009 budget (a line-item draft budget is being prepared).

Investment Accounts

Neilsen Trescott Farnham Trust (administered by Wayne Bank)

Fair market value as of – November 30, 2008 \$208,834.28

Down \$55,285.38 from Jan 1, 2008

100% of the income from this fund is designated for operating expenses (general budget)

Dorothy H. Menner Memorial Trust (administered by Wayne Bank)

Fair market value as of – November 30, 2008 \$19,557.54

Down \$7,342.24 from Jan 1, 2008

100% of the income from this fund is designated for music and choir needs

Diocesan Investment Trust (administered by Diocese of Bethlehem)

Fair market value as of – November 21, 2008 \$298,048.89

Down \$34,596 from Jan 1 2008

The income from this account also goes into the general budget in quarterly payouts.

draft 2009 Budget (estimate)

Receipts \$150,250.00

Disbursements \$162,162.54

Deficit of \$11,912.

Matthew Corso, Finance Committee



The Feast of the Epiphany
will be celebrated
Sunday, January 4th

with the presentation of the Magi
and the gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh

Epiphany means “A Showing” – A demonstration – An “Aha” moment.

It is the day we remember that Christ was shown to the world, symbolized the ‘pagan’ visitors coming to offer their honor, adoration and symbolic gifts to the Christ Child. “Showing Christ” to the nations.

How do you show Christ to the world? What gifts does God call you to bring to Christ?



Trivial Pursuit - Bible Version:

A Prize for all who bring the correct answers to Fr. Erb!

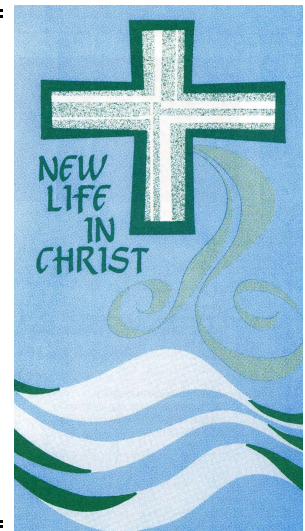
(Hint: A copy of the Hymnal 1940 will provide some answers)

- 1) The story of these mysterious visitors is found only in one Gospel. Which one?
- 2) How many of these visitors does Matthew describe?
- 3) What does Matthew call these visitors?
Magi. Kings. Wise Men. Astrologers. Basketball Scouts.
- 4) Tradition has given names to each of these wise men. Can you name them?
- 5) Tradition has also suggested where each of these wise men came from. Where?
- 6) What does each of the gifts symbolize about Jesus’ identity?
- 7) Bonus Round: Which visitor brought which gift?

The SACRAMENT of HOLY BAPTISM
will be offered on
The BAPTISM of CHRIST
(The Sunday after the Epiphany)

Saturday at 5:00
Kyle Soden

Sunday at 11:00
Damian Forshay
Jaydan Mikulak



YOUTH EVENTS

Service Project: Sunday, Jan. 11th, lunch at the Church, then we will lead a service of worship at Wayne Woodlands Nursing Home in Waymart. Parents and other parishioners are welcome to assist.

Pizza & a Movie Sunday, January 25th after Church - “Simon Birch” with Tom Hanks.

HONESDALE COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Greetings, Friends,

Thank you for the generous response to our recent plea for food to replenish the HCP supplies. We are truly blessed.

If anyone is interested in donating, there is a short supply of mayonnaise, salad oil, clothes detergent, body lotion, hair conditioner and toothbrushes at present.

HCP is open on Monday afternoons from 1:00-3:00 PM excluding some holidays, inclement weather or the unexpected. This is a volunteer force, so, things do occur that change plans.

Until next time, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from all of us to all of you and yours.

Merrily,

Alice O. Martin, *HCP Secretary*

IT'S OUR TURN *

SATURDAY LUNCHEON – JAN. 17th

Grace Church is hosting the Community Luncheon on Saturday Jan. 17th. So we need some help from you. Some cooking can be done at home and brought to the Church to make it real easy!

Cooking (Saturday at 9:00)

Set-Up and Serving (10:30)

Clean-up (at noon)

The menu will be chili, corn-bread, salad and dessert. We need:

+ pots of chili to mix together;

+ pans of corn-bread;

+ bags of salad;

+ desserts

* (When there are five Saturdays in the month, our parish takes the fourth Saturday. Only four times a year. We can do it!)

ADULT FORUM - SUNDAYS at 10:00 am

Resumes on January 4th as we continue "Opening the Bible"

BIBLICAL ARCHEOLOGY with INDIANA ERB
(where do you think he got the hat?)

After a trip to Ancient History displays at the Metropolitan Museum in New York, some of the youth were interested in Fr. Erb's tales of being Indiana Erb - an Archeology Major in college. Sunday, Jan. 11th, he will show some slides of his summer on a dig in Israel. Some artifacts will be on display, too. What does archeology teach us about the Bible?

We will continue in following weeks with explorations of how the Bible came to be, and how it developed over the centuries.

NOTE to YOUTH:

Confirmation Class will meet with Adult Forum for the next couple of months for the Bible segment.

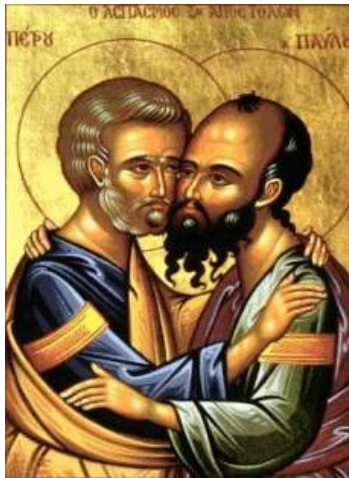


A SERVICE OF

Sunday January 18th

Will commemorate the Honesdale Ministerium's commitment to Christian Unity as we participate in a Pulpit Exchange.

Various Ministers of our community will swap churches for the day giving them and their parishes new experiences of inter-faith worship.



CHRISTIAN UNITY

On that day, Father Erb will be the guest of St. John's Lutheran Church while Pastor Kenneth Buckwalter of St. John's will lead our service and preach at both 8:00 and 11:00 o'clock.

For many years, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Episcopal Church have been in "Full Communion," honoring ministries of each other's clergy.

O how good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity. *Psalm 133*

PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

Did you know that as an incorporated non-profit organization in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Grace Church is required by law to hold an annual meeting of its members in order to conduct specific items of business - such as the election of members to Vestry.

Sunday, January 18th 12:30 P.M.

ANNUAL



The Nominating Committee – Jane Bunnell and Matthew Corso – are preparing a slate for elections of members to Vestry. Four regular members (of a three-year term) and one member to fulfill a partial term (of two-years) are needed. If you are interested in serving on Vestry, see Jane or Matt. (At the following Vestry meeting, officers will be elected by the Vestry, and committee assignments made.)

The Parish Meeting presents the Annual Report of 2008, the proposed Budget for 2009 and plans for activities for the coming year. A luncheon will be served following the 11:00 service. We hope you all will attend to fulfill our needed quorum - as well as to join in the family's life together.

A THANK YOU: To Grace Church friends,

Thank you so much for your generous gift for Christmas. It was definitely unexpected. It's great to be working here. A few of you I have gone to school with, a few I've known from other parts of life and the rest of you I will get to know, I'm sure.

If any of you catch me being obnoxious, let me know. If any of you catch Father Ed being obnoxious, let me know, too. I'll take care of him and set him straight for you.

Again, thank you so much for your gift. Take care of yourselves,

Rose Rosler, parish secretary

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

for January 2009

	Jan 4 th	Jan 11 th	Jan 18 th	Jan 25 th
<i>Crucifer</i>	Cathleen Lathrop	Benita Pursch	Curtis Sampson	Conor Carroll
<i>Acolytes</i>	Hunter Stephens, Jordan Peers	CJ Shupe, Katie Shupe	Conor Carroll, Elana Carroll	Kyle Peers, Olivia Johannes
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Sally Soden Faye Mikulak	Sally Soden Faye Mikulak	Joyce Slate Eleanor Young	Joyce Slate Eleanor Young
<i>Ushers</i>	B.J. Clark Pete Mikulak	Chris Carroll Elana Carroll	Robin Sampson Jim Sampson	Greg Mikulak John Russo
<i>Lector</i>	Gabrielle Feldman	Kim Skinner	Matt Corso	Jane Bunnell
<i>Intercessor</i>	Paige Corso	Gabrielle Feldman	Catherine Lathrop	Doris Lewis
<i>Chalicer</i>	Joyce Slate	Jane Bunnell	Catherine Lathrop	Moe Brown
<i>Coffee Hour</i>	Val Cheripko Chris Escalona	Diane Romano Connie Geinitz	G. Feldman Nicole Johannes	Deb Pursch Monica Ferrer
<i>Counters</i>	Jane Bunnell, Diane Erdman	Greg Mikulak, Val Cheripko	Diane Romano, Jane Bunnell	Lee Erdman, Jeanne Roskoski

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!

If anyone is interested in joining any of these ministries, please see Fr. Erb. We always welcome volunteers!

JANUARY 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.

Jan. 11 Nicholas Carroll
Jan. 12 Conor Carroll
Jan. 24 Cathleen Lathrop

Note Nick Carroll has received notice that he will soon be deployed in the Armed Services. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.