



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 2009

PARSON'S CORNER

An Icon of the Mystery of the Kingdom

This is one of my favorite times of the year - the Christian year, that is.

We come to the end of times, before Advent brings us once again to the beginning of things.

The feast of All Saints draws us to the gates of heaven as we remember those blessed faithful who precede us into God's perfect realm of heaven. Through the Sundays of November we are brought through depictions of the end of times culminating in our expression on the last Sunday of Jesus Christ as the monarch of the kingdom of saints. It is a mystical, magical time when we enter into the picture.

Over the Altar at Grace Church is a painting. Now, it is no secret that this is not my favorite painting, yet it does offer some contemplation. It is Honesdale, and it is not Honesdale. It is a bald priest, but it is not this bald priest. It is you kneeling around the Altar rail, but it is not you, nor is it our Altar rail. But it does suggest this earthly gathering of saints as it points beyond to a timeless, eternal celebration. This painting hovers over our earthly Altar just as those depicted seem to hover over our earthly feast.

These are saints of many walks of life, the poor, the affluent, those of color and of various ages. Perhaps even one is gay, who knows. Does it matter who we are when we come to the Altar of God? Does it matter when we gaze into the kingdom of God.

We approach the eternal kingdom, the mystical plane of holiness, with the saints and angels approaching down upon us as Christ Himself stands triumphant. We process upwards to that center of holy gravity with our own hands extended to reach beyond where the saints have gone to reign with Christ.

This is the joyous mystery of this time of year. It is eschatological (pointing to the end) and it is very immanent (right here and now). There are no Star Wars themes playing in the background, nor even perhaps any angelic harps (where *did* that image come from?!?) There is no fear of being Left Behind, nor being thrown into Dante's Inferno. One need not fear when one enters these gates, for here is where hope is given, not abandoned.

This is a holy season. I invite you as you sit in Church to contemplate the host of saints who have passed these steps before, who have walked up to this Altar, who have blessed Grace Church with their lives, and join with them, reaching yourself into the painting which stands before us. An icon into God's realm.

Father Erb



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER 2009

“A HOUSE OF GOD FOR ALL”

Senior Warden Jane Bunnell
Junior Warden Jeanne Roskoski
Clerk Paige Corso

B.J. Clark
Val Cheripko
Bill Hoerter

Conor Carroll
Lee Erdman
Deborah Pursch

At it's October 13 meeting, Vestry

- + selected a Nominating Committee for new Vestry members and Diocesan Convention Delegates: Jane Bunnell, Val Cheripko, Bill Hoerter, and Deborah Pursch will seek nominees.
- + discussed parishioners who might be able to help with repairs and maintenance issues in the Rectory. Asbestos removal has been accomplished; two old water-heaters and a boiler were removed; basement window covers were installed; painting has begun on the exterior. Joseph Blacktop will be repairing the driveway before the end of October.
- + discussed plans for our Celebration Sunday Stewardship program to be held on Sunday, Nov. 1st with a single service that weekend at 9:00 Sunday with brunch following. Robin Yedlock from Grace Church in Kingston will be our guest this year. Paige Corso is making arrangements with Cordaro's Restaurant for the brunch.
- + rejoiced in the success of the Golf Outing, and looked to preparations for the Harvest Ham Dinner; Fred Fisherman will be working with Al Schwartz who has had to pull back from cooking.

Vestry also met for its annual weekend retreat at Forest Lake Club, guests of Suzanne and B.J. Clark. See report elsewhere in this issue of [GraceNotes](#).

SAD FARE-THEE-WELL !

It is with deep regret that we announce the resignation of Bob Lathrop as our Choir Director. In his letter of resignation, effective immediately, Bob describes a horrible hearing problem which has stolen 50% of his hearing in one ear and 30% in the other.

We are grateful for his years of dedication to Grace Church, and the joy of having him and his family with us, bolstering the resources of the music at Grace Church. Particularly after a wonderful offering of the Choir yesterday and Bob's piano accompaniment, I am sure that I speak for all of us when I say that our parish life will be impoverished by their absence.

Please keep the Lathrop family, and especially Bob, in your prayers that they may have been as blessed by us as we have been by him.

One parishioner expressed our sorrow this way.

“I was watching the two of them in church on Sunday when they were singing and you could tell by the look on their faces that they truly love singing and love singing Gods praises. I hope all goes well for them they have been through a lot and still keep the smiles on their faces and show us all the life is truly a gift we should all be thankful for. My prayers will be with them...”

IT'S REALLY BLUE!

I was going to wait to see how many noticed...

But unless you come around Ninth Street, you may not see the change in the Rectory.

The Rectory is getting a face lift. Several items of repair and upkeep are required by our 'new' lease with Citigroup. The trim has been off-white for many years, and several of us decided a more Victorian color was in order. No, it won't stay this brighter color blue, we are working towards a deep steel blue, but a coat of primer was required to get us there.

Thanks to the Grace Abounding Fund - and our Golf Outings - and to B&M Painters, the work is being done before the snow falls (again), and at a very reasonable price! Thank you, guys!

And our thanks to Lee Erdman, Jeanne and Dave Roskoski for helping with other projects to bring us into compliance with our lease's addendum.



2009 VESTRY RETREAT

Grace Church: *A House of God for All*

Father Erb once again led our Vestry for a weekend retreat at Forest Lake Club, thanks to the hospitality (coordination, cooking, and dog sitting) of Suzanne and B.J. Clark.

The Appreciative Way a book by Robert and Kim Voyle was the vehicle for discussion and activities on the listening process required for building relationships and moving an organization forward through change.

“When you build on the positive, there is no room for the negative to grow” was the theme. So, Fr. Erb asked, what do we as a parish do well. Let's build on those things.

What came down as immediate answers are our location downtown as an asset and our hospitality to the community as a mission. “A House of God for All” became a new motto and a vision to imitate or better, replicate Christ with our doors and hearts open.

Some outcomes: We are a safe place for many - a sanctuary - we should register as a Safe Haven. There is a continued dream of handicap accessibility (a ramp, a stair lift, an elevator...) and bathroom facilities, possibly turning the Acolyte room into a handicap accessible restroom and adding a shower for emergency shelter.

And we need to energize the resource within our own people. We looked at the Parish Directory to see who we knew does what, and who it is we don't even know! People become engaged, energized, connected, when they feel heard. We talked about the possibility of a parish “canvass” - calling on and visiting with parishioners to hear their story. Who are they, where are they, what have they done, what are their hopes and fears.

As you can see, we have a lot of work ahead of us. And we may not succeed at some, many, or any of it. But we're going to try. We hope and pray that you will help - and that you will be energized by our efforts to be:

“A House of God for All.”

Christmas Gifts for Lasting Change

As the holidays begin drawing near, Episcopal Relief & Development is enabling friends and supporters to honor loved ones with alternative gifts that benefit people living in poverty around the world. Through the [Gifts for Life](#) Christmas catalog, you can:

- + Provide hot meals for school children to ensure they receive the necessary nutrition to grow, stay healthy and do well in their studies.
- + Help families protect themselves through clean water and learning about basic hygiene and nutrition.
- + Supply seeds, tools and training to establish a community garden that will be a reliable source of food for residents.

We're pleased to offer an expanded catalog and online store just in time for the holidays," said Episcopal Relief & Development President Rob Radtke. "With a wide range of gifts, people of all ages can help others in need. I'm especially excited about our new Green Gifts section, which includes opportunities such as a solar energy system. This system will provide a family with an ongoing power source that's healthy for both people and the environment."

The upgraded [Gifts for Life](#) online store features expanded price categories that make it easy for customers to find selections at every level, as well as an improved electronic card process that provides more choices for honoring recipients with an e-card greeting.

In addition to personal stories from people who have improved their lives through Episcopal Relief & Development programs, this year's catalog also features individuals and groups who have previously given Gifts for Life. These examples provide great ideas for ways that others can become involved, whether during the holidays or at other special times throughout the year.

To learn more about Gifts for Life and give a life-changing holiday gift, please visit www.er-d.org/GiftsforLife. For more information or to support one of the many other programs through which Episcopal Relief & Development is healing a hurting world, you can view our main website at www.er-d.org or call 1-800-334-7626, ext. 5129. Gifts can be mailed to Episcopal Relief & Development, PO Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058.

Episcopal Relief & Development is the international relief and development agency of the Episcopal Church of the United States. As an independent 501(c) (3) organization, Episcopal Relief & Development takes its mandate from Jesus' words found in Matthew 25. Its programs work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Together with the worldwide Church and ecumenical partners, Episcopal Relief & Development strengthens communities today to meet tomorrow's challenges. We rebuild after disasters and empower people by offering lasting solutions that fight poverty, hunger and disease, including HIV/AIDS and malaria.

Contact: Daryn Kobata
(800) 334-7626, ext. 6311



AFRICAN TEAM MINISTRIES

You've seen their beauty,
now you can purchase a number of items
from African Team Ministries
A unique program of jewelry, woven and carved items
all hand-made by natives of East Africa.

All proceeds benefit the artists and their communities



On Display at Grace Church from Sunday, November 1st through Sunday, November 8th.

JUST IN TIME FOR HOLIDAY GIVING!

Meet Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori ...

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 11th

Plan to come to Evensong (6:00 p.m.) at St. Stephen's Wilkes-Barre on Wednesday, November 11th where Bishop Katharine will preach and lead an open forum (7:15 p.m.) at which you may dialogue with her. (other venues that week are at the Cathedral in Bethlehem on Monday, Nov. 9, at St Luke's Lebanon on Tuesday, Nov. 10.)

A car-pool will be leaving Grace Church at 4:30 on Wednesday. If interested in attending, see Jane Bunnell or Fr. Erb.

The Presiding Bishop is the leader of the Episcopal Church, USA with offices in New York City. She presides over the House of Bishops and leads the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church between General Conventions.



Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori



TO: JEANNE & DAVE ROSKOSKI and
LEE ERDMAN
for help with Rectory Work

FRED FISHERMAN
and all who helped with the Harvest Ham Dinner
Jane, Jeanne, Katie, Sally, Jackie, Ruth & Howie, Judy, Val, Deborah, Eleanor,
Nancy, Mo, Sue, Dottie, Joyce, and all the pie bakers. (*I know I've missed some*)

The Simons Pond Music Festival

Saturday Nov. 7th 4:00 pm

World-class musicians violinist Yu Jeong Lee and pianist Juny Juny will be featured in a free concert utilizing our new Steinway grand piano. Sonatas by Mozart, Respighi and local composer Stephen Mayer. A special reception will follow.

“KRIS KRINGLE KOOKIES” is KOMING

Christmas Cookies and Goodies, Saturday, December 12th

When baking your cookies, make a dozen or two extra and bring them to the Church. We will sell them by the pound. Tell your friends to come and buy all the goodies!

And when you pull out your Christmas decorations, bring good quality unwanted items for a holiday flea market. Only clean items in good condition, please.

More details coming. For information, see Sue Erb or Kenny Skinner.

MORNING PRAYER - Nov. 15th at 8:00 & 11:00

Whenever there is a five Sunday month, we hold one as Morning Prayer Sunday. Susan Treanor (M.Div, General Theological Seminary, 2009!) will be our Officiant and Preacher while Fr. Erb reciprocates with Grace Church, Kingston on their own Consecration Sunday program. Thank you, Susan.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE for November 2009

	<i>Nov. 1 - 9:00 All Saints</i>	<i>Nov. 8</i>	<i>Nov. 15</i>	<i>Nov. 22 Christ / King</i>	<i>Nov. 29 Advent 1</i>
<i>Crucifer:</i>	C. Carroll	R. Becker	B. Pursch	E. Carroll	C. Becker
<i>Acolyte:</i>	J. Peer K. Peer	C. Carroll E. Carroll	E. Becker K. Peer	H. Stephens O. Johannes	J. Peer E. Becker
<i>Lector:</i>	J. Bunnell	D. Pursch	G. Feldman	K. Skinner	C. Smith
<i>Intecessor:</i>	J. Roskoski	---	----	---	D. Lewis
<i>Chalists:</i>	V. Cheripko	J. Slate	G. Feldman	V. Cheripko	M. Brown
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	J. Bunnell J. Slate	S. Soden J. Slate	S. Soden J. Slate	F. Mikulak S. Wilding	F. Mikulak S. Wilding
<i>Usher:</i>	G. Mikulak P. Mikulak	C. Stevens J. Stevens	BJ Clark J. Merritt	R. Sampson J. Sampson	C. Carroll E. Carroll
<i>Coffee Hour:</i>	<i>Celebration Brunch at Cordaro's Rest.</i>	G. Feldman N. Johannes	D. Lewis S. Erb	J. Slate J. Merritt	P. Mikulak N. Kuzminski
<i>Counters:</i>	L. Erdman J. Merritt	D. Romano N. Johannes	J. Roskoski K. Skinner	P. Mikulak E. Young	R. Becker V. Cheripko

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!

NOVEMBER 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 (s)he begins another
year. Grant that (s)he may grow in
wisdom and grace, and strengthen
her/his trust in your goodness all the
days of her/his life; through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.

Nov. 2 - Martin Hedgelon
Nov. 2 - Nancy Kuzminski
Nov. 10 - Gail Lowden
Nov. 13 - Rachel Hedgelon
Nov. 17 - Diane Peer
Nov. 18 - Robin Sampson
Nov. 23 - Robin Becker
Nov. 30 - Greg Mikulak

LET'S HAVE THANKSGIVING TOGETHER !



The 26th Annual Thanksgiving Together Dinner

THANKSGIVING DAY
beginning at 11:00 AM

Bring your friends and family -
so that no one will be alone on the holiday!

Your helping hands will be welcome as well, as we once again open
our doors and hearts to the Honesdale community.

The Honesdale COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE - Sunday, November 22nd at 4:00 PM
- St. Mary's Catholic Church, 5th & Church Streets.

THANKSGIVING DAY HOLY COMMUNION - at Grace Church, 10:00 AM

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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