



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

OCTOBER 2009

PARSON'S CORNER

FULL SERVICE, EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

"You'd do that?"
"Well, sure. Why not?"

It was a surprise to me that someone was surprised when I offered that I would come to their home to bless their new-born child, who due to health issues was not yet able to "enter the world" outside their home, yet.

And then a week later I went to the hospital maternity ward to similarly bless another newborn the day after birth.

One of the things I learned working at a major Level One Trauma Unit and Medical Center was not to be afraid to push my way into any unit of the hospital - well, sweet-talk myself past the nurses, that is. I'm familiar with IC units, the back rooms of morticians (that is a story in its own right!) going to a new restaurant to offer prayers of thanksgiving. "You'd do that?" Certainly. I have even had the honor of vesting the corpses of two priests before burial!

So, here is a partial - and just a partial list of some things that as a member in the Episcopal Church are provided for you, by the Book of Common Prayer, the Book of Occasional Services, or just plain creative pastoral care:

- + House Blessings, especially at Epiphany and Easter, and a new home
- + Blessing of a Pregnant Woman (especially under health issues)
- + Thanksgivings for the Birth - or Adoption - of a Child
- + Anointing of the Sick prior to Surgery
- + Private Confession
- + Reconciliation of a Relationship
- + Blessing of Food (Wine, Bread, Lamb, and Eggs!) at Easter
- + Prayers at the death of a beloved house pet
- + Blessing of cars, boats, airplanes and ships.

Some of these and others may seem strange and unusual. But to a child who has just lost a beloved pet, how can you refuse a prayer? Or a teenager who has just gotten her first car? Or a couple who are in fear of losing a child? These are important times in people's lives and can, should even, be marked in prayer and blessing.

Just ask me. We're a full service, equal opportunity organization. God is here at all times and for all people.

Father Ed

NOW, THE BAD NEWS

We would normally send this information out in a private separate letter to the parish. Yet in light of trying to reduce costs, postage, and extra photocopying and paper use, we are including this letter in GraceNotes and the Sunday bulletin.

27 September 2009

Dear parishioners and friends of Grace Church,

The Finance Committee is making a difficult recommendation to Vestry. While the Golf Outing proceeds are designated to the Building Renovation Fund, called *Grace Abounding* we have a cash-flow problem once again. Vestry has agreed to allow the proceeds from this year's Golf Outing to be placed in the General Fund as a stop-gap measure, the amount to be repaid over the next few months.

After the second year of a September crisis, we have analyzed the problem and plan a solution for the 2010 Budget. Summer offerings, like attendance, falls away. And the middle of September brings large quarterly payments for taxes and insurance. Our parish administrator, Rose Rosler, has prepared a list of regular monthly and quarterly payments in order for Finance Committee to better plan. An escrow account will be established in 2010 which will be fed each month so that quarterly payments won't hit so hard. The problem that we particularly anticipate in the coming months is the beginning of the heating season. These are huge buildings to heat!

We need your help. A special envelope is enclosed for any gracious gift you are able to make. These extra envelopes will be included in the Sunday bulletins each week in October. These contributions will be used first of all to repay the \$10,000. borrowed from Grace Abounding. Secondly, we will begin to prepare for the high costs of heating, and the establishment of the escrow account.

One concern which might be expressed is the purchase of the piano earlier this year. Those funds came from a memorial fund, the Dorothy Menner Fund, specifically designated for music and choir. In addition special gifts were given towards the purchase.

Every effort is being done to reduce costs, as noted above. Repairs have been made to the boiler (paid from the General Fund), light bulbs are replaced with CFLs, recycled paper is being used, plus we have to mention the free labor from the prison work-release which has accomplished many long needed tasks in the Church - most at little or no cost. In addition, the electronic thermostats have been adjusted and will be monitored.

Your help in these difficult times is greatly appreciated. The ministries of Grace Church are thriving and growing stronger each day, it seems. And we look to a bright future as the parish continues to grow and reach out to the spiritual needs - and joys - of our own folk, and to the community.

Sincerely,

The Rector, Wardens and Vestry
Grace Episcopal Church

Vestry Highlights from the September 15, 2009 meeting.

- The recent rummage sale and bake sale was reviewed. Totals were still being tallied at the time of the meeting.
- A Cub Scout den has made a request to plant a tree on our property. All members were in favor of this idea.
- Some minor repairs need to be done in the church pews including attaching cardholders and securing loose boards. Fr. Ed will ask the people working in the church to help with these improvements.
- Val will be the coordinator for keeping in touch with those members who are away at college or temporarily out of the area.
- The upcoming fundraising events were discussed. The golf tournament will be September 29th and the ham dinner will be October 20th.
- The Upper Delaware Chamber Ensemble is interested in borrowing our piano for a concert at the end of the month. Details were discussed regarding this proposal.
- Events are being planned for Consecration Sunday, November 1st. Robin Yedlock from Grace Church Kingston will be our guest speaker.
- Projects are being completed in the rectory. Fr. Ed reviewed and prioritized a list of necessary repairs to be done.
- Financials were reviewed and discussed. The Finance Committee will meet next week to review the current situation and offer a solution.

Respectfully submitted,
Paige Corso

Due to the Ham Dinner, Vestry will meet on Tuesday, October 13th at 7:00 PM

CONSECRATION / ALL SAINTS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1ST *Celebration of The Saints - Here and Beyond*

On Sunday, November 1st, we once again join together as a family of celebration and consecration.

The annual stewardship program, Consecration Sunday, invites all parishioners, young and old, to a single service of Holy Communion consecrating our lives in thanksgiving for God's many gifts to us, followed by a parish meal.

In Holy Communion, the Prayer of Consecration is called the Great Thanksgiving. It is in sharing the feast of Christ's Passover that we offer our best praises and consecrate our lives - loving God with all of our heart, mind, body and spirit.

You will hear more in coming weeks, but plan now to join us for a single service on Sunday Nov. 1st at 9:00 AM and brunch at Cordaro's Restaurant.

WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND THE PARISH?

The "HANDY DANDYS"

A group of guys in dark green jump suits have been seen around the Parish Hall these days - accompanied by a Corrections Officer! The Wayne County Prison has allowed some 'residents' on work-release to help out at Grace Church. They have been helping our sexton with many chores, such as finishing the parish hall tables, painting stair-wells, repairing light fixtures, cleaning out inside and beside the garage, and soon will be helping with the painting of the rectory. Thank you, guys!

RECTORY RENOVATIONS & REPAIRS

With the "new" lease of the rectory to Citigroup, there is a list of repairs and renovations which are required to be accomplished soon. Safety and health issues, as well as cosmetic needs for preservation of our historic building. Already, we have had asbestos removed from the basement. Within a few weeks the driveway will be excavated and repaved. And soon, the exterior trim will be scraped and painted.

A SCARE-CROW?

The Youth have joined the Greater Honesdale Partnership in decorating the town with Scarecrows. Our "story-book" figure is Noah complete with animals and an ark. A simple, and fun, evangelism effort. Tell the world about the Bible, and 'advertise' Grace Church. Thanks, youth, for your good work!

GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL

Our visit from Lee Brosious in September was greatly appreciated by the local Gideons camp. We received a letter of thanks which indicates that "The love offering of \$86 will provide 17 full Bibles or 59 New Testaments to be placed." Remember to use the gift cards located in the back of the Church if you'd like to further help spread God's Word.

Sunday, October 4th, we welcome back to Grace Church, the Rev'd Canon Ginny Rex Day who will preside at the Eucharist, preach, and lead Adult Forum. (Fr. and Mrs. Erb will be on vacation performing a wedding in Vermont.) Canon Day will continue our discussion of General Convention with her own experience of ministry to and with gays and lesbians. Her story is both engaging and challenging.



JOIN US - JOIN THEM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4th

Walk, Run or Bike 10 miles, 6 miles, or 3 miles

"We walk because they walk"

Registration at 1:00 PM

"Kick-Off" Ceremony at 1:30 PM

at The Half-way House Restaurant,
off Route 6 in Texan Township



DIOCESAN NEWS

ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION St. Stephen's Pro-Cathedral, Wilkes Barre 9-10 October 2009

Parish Representatives –

Jeanne Roskoski (Jr. Warden) and Joyce Slate are our Delegates for 2009, with Janet Burgan and Cindy Smith as our Alternates (who will become delegates in 2010). Fr. Erb, of course, represents us in the “house of clergy.”

Come Along –

Jane Bunnell is coordinating a car-pool of parishioners to attend the Saturday morning Festive Eucharist and morning deliberations. If interested in attending, see Jane or Fr. Erb.

ECW Collection –

Sweatshirts & Sweatpants for underprivileged children and youth are being collected by the women of the Diocese. One pair will be presented at Convention, the remainder will be distributed locally.

Resolutions Proposed:

In addition to the elections of officers and members of the various Diocese Committees and Organizations, these resolutions have been presented for vote at the 2009 Diocesan Convention:

- A. Accept the assessment rate for 2010 of 12% of a parishes Normal Operating Income and 3% additional as Acceptance contribution.
- B. Recommended salary schedule for clergy and clergy supply for 2010.
- C. from the Evangelism Commission - that we become increasingly effective communicators of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, using such resources as the book, Unbinding the Gospel.
- D. the call for a Diocesan Gathering, *Share the Bread*, on Pentecost 2011 and continue the advertising campaign initiated in NE PA this year. (Similar celebrations have been held in past years, the most recent in 2000.)
- E. to establish a Sunday designated for Episcopal Relief and Development.
- F. calling for timely communication before and after General Convention by our Diocesan deputation.
- G. proposed amendment to Canon VIII regarding the number of lay leadership in “Parishes at Risk” from “five” to “three (3) to five (5).”

If you have concerns or suggestions on any of these resolutions, talk with your parish representatives. We will be glad to voice your opinion.

When passed, it is our responsibility as a parish to implement these actions locally. Stay tuned for how we can respond responsibly.

What churches can do to go green

from the Church Insurance Company



Any congregation can reduce its carbon footprint in 12 easy ways:

Replace appliances, particularly inefficient refrigerators, with Energy Star compliant models. Old refrigerators use two or three times more energy as new models do.

Replace halogen torchiere floor lamps with fluorescent models, reducing energy consumption by 75 percent and eliminating a fire hazard.

Replace incandescent lights with compact fluorescent lamps, reducing the cost of lighting by as much as 50 percent.

Upgrade incandescent exit signs to use LED lamps, reducing the energy consumption of these signs by about 80 percent.

Replace older thermostats with electronically programmable ones that will reduce the heat and air conditioning automatically when no one is in the building.

Recycle printer cartridges, which saves money and keeps toxic materials out of landfills.

Recycle green waste. If your city waste collection won't do it for you, create a compost bin.

Place a recycling container beside every trash or garbage can.

Buy recycled office supplies, including paper, ink cartridges, hand towels, napkins and bathroom tissue.

Install low-flow toilets.

Make sure that the people you hire to do maintenance and other services understand your commitment to sustainability and follow good practices as well.

Encourage your youth group to take ownership of the recycling program, including recycling soda cans.

FROM GENERAL CONVENTION - Encourage parishes and parishioners to stop using disposable plastic water bottles in favor of re-useable, re-fillable, bottles. Using local water rather than bottled, shipped, marketed and stored water.

NEW FACES:

WELCOME to GRACE CHURCH!

Susan Treanor, who graduated from General Theological Seminary in NYC this May, and runs her own business in real estate management. Susan is looking for ways in which she can offer her ministry to our parish!

Tim & Josephine Vogt, Angela and Amelia, who have recently moved here from NY City area. Tim's sister discovered the beauty of our area and they decided to come and enjoy, as well. Tim is in the construction business.

Jane Prettyman, from New York, California and many more places in her career as a journalist, now retired, working for such publications as *Esquire* magazine.

HARVEST HOME HAM DINNER

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
827 CHURCH STREET

MENU:

Ham w/Raisin Sauce - Parsley Potatoes
Carrots - Cole Slaw - Peas w/Pearl Onions
Homemade Applesauce - Rolls and Butter
Apple or Pumpkin Pie



\$9.00

Adults

\$5.00

Children

Take-outs Starting at 3:30
Sit-down Dinner Starting at 4:30

MINISTRY SCHEDULE for OCTOBER 2009

	Oct. 4 th	Oct. 11 th	Oct. 18 th	Oct. 25 th
<i>CRUCIFER</i>	C. Carroll	E. Carroll	R. Becker	K. Becker
<i>ACOLYTE</i>	K. Peer O. Johannes	J. Peer E. Becker	C. Carroll E. Carroll	K. Peer O. Johannes
<i>LECTOR</i>	G. Feldman	K. Skinner	C. Smith	M. Corso
<i>INTERCESSOR</i>	J. Bunnell	G. Feldman	D. Lewis	J. Roskoski
<i>ALTAR GUILD</i>	E. Young F. Mikulak	S. Wilding -----	S. Wilding -----	J. Bunnell J. Slate
<i>CHALICIST</i>	M. Brown	J. Roskoski	G. Feldman	M. Brown
<i>ALTAR GUILD</i>	E. Young F. Mikulak	S. Wilding S. Lathrop	S. Wilding S. Lathrop	J. Bunnell J. Slate
<i>USHER</i>	C. Stevens J. Stevens	J. Merritt BJ Clark	R. Sampson J. Sampson	C. Carroll E. Carroll
<i>COFFEE HOUR</i>	C. Smith R. Becker	S. Soden D. Lewis	R. Sampson D. Pursch	V. Cheripko C. Escalona
<i>COUNTERS</i>	P. Mikulak E. Young	L. Chavey V. Cheripko	G. Mikulak D. Romano	S. Wilding 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!

OCTOBER 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 *she/he* begins another year. Grant that *she/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.

Oct 1 - Kaleb Becker
Oct 2 - Philip Erb
Oct 3 - Jennifer Stevens
Oct 5 - Chris Carroll
Oct 18 - Annette Acker
Oct 18 - Angelica Becker

Oct 20 - James Sampson
Oct 22 - Sarah Lathrop
Oct 25 - Phyllis Korb
Oct 29 - James Smith
Oct 30 - Imogen Pursch
Oct 31 - Todd Stephens

CONGRATULATIONS !

Frances Clift turns 90 this month. She is, I believe our oldest parishioner. We will celebrate with her family on October 11th. Fran, May God's blessings continue to be upon you for health and happiness.

N1H1

*Swine Flu
and Holy Communion*

The World Health Organization has encouraged us and the House of Bishops have instructed us to be aware of the health issues, particularly for the very young and the elderly surrounding the Swine Flu epidemic.

Bishop Marshall has made the decision that for the time being, Holy Communion in the Diocese of Bethlehem should be administered solely by intinction. Rather than drinking from the chalice, all are to take the wafer and dip it lightly into the wine.

Priests are also instructed to use hand-sanitizer before Holy Communion.

While we don't want to run into "mass" hysteria, discretion and safety are the better part of valor.

Similarly, at the Passing of the Peace, we are encouraged to find other suitable greetings of friendship than shaking hands. Sometimes a sincere smile can mean so much more!

Grace Notes

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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