



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

SUMMER 2009

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## PARSON'S CORNER

## STATE of THE PARISH

So half way through the year, where are we? It has been a challenging year for all Americans, indeed for all the world. How has Grace Church Parish been faring?

*What have we done so far this year?*

The tasks of Secretary and Treasurer have been combined into a Parish Administrator position (though don't call Rose that, she thinks she's still a secretary!) We are receiving quarterly help from a local accounting firm which makes sure we have all our ducks in a row. Though the first couple of months were challenging to two office staff, things are flowing much more smoothly now.

Following upon two years of hard work by Doris Lewis and Dianne Romano, we finally negotiated a new lease with Citigroup for the rental of the Rectory, which gives us additional funding, but also carries with it some additional upkeep responsibilities. Lee Erdman, Jeanne and Dave Roskoski have been working arrangements for maintenance of the rectory. We also must mention the hard work of Judy Diver and her friend Fred in keeping the Church and Parish Hall in condition.

At the behest of the Bishop and Diocesan Commission on Ministry, Michelle White has been with us, working with me as an intern as she prepares for ordination to the diaconate later this year, and we pray, the priesthood following that. She has broadened our perspectives and opened our eyes and hearts while we have challenged her Baptist background (not to mention her wall-climbing with the Youth Group!)

And we are in the process of building a fine ministry to the community. No, I don't mean the purchase of the piano, but that helps, nor the classical music venue we've offered. I'm talking about the ministry of hospitality. So many, many people in the community have expressed their joy at our open door policy, and the warmth of our welcome for numerous community events. (The added income from daily rental doesn't hurt the coffers, either, let's be honest.) Our facilities are not the greatest asset of Grace Church. The open arms of our people and the excitement and love for our own community which is evidenced and deeply appreciated *by* the townsfolk - *that* is our greatest asset. You. Many churches lock their doors and secure themselves against the outsider. While there may still be uncomfortable moments, and times when we have to adjust tight-fitting shoes (schedules and spaces), everyone involved has exhibited true Christian tolerance, patience and generosity.

Add to that that attendance at worship continues to grow (slowly) and even in these economic times, the commitment to financial giving is steady, and I'd say we are doing pretty well for a pretty small parish. The few, the strong, the Episcopalians!

*So where do we go from here?*

*Father Erb*

# VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

JUNE 2009

- + The Wayne Choralaires are asking to use our facilities Wednesday nights in the spring and fall for their rehearsals. The vestry voted to accept this request, and is in contact with them.
- + Grace Church is not on the Bishop's schedule for a visit for 2010. Fr. Ed suggested holding an Ascension Day service and inviting Bishop Paul to this special service.
- + There was discussion regarding the boilers in the basement that are in need of repair to meet state certification. Funding will be provided by the Grace Abounding Fund to repair the large valves on these boilers. The project should cost approximately \$1500-\$2000.
- + The music committee made a recommendation to purchase the baby grand piano on loan from Joseph D'Allessandro Piano Technician of Pittston, PA. The Vestry discussed possible options and funding available and approved this purchase pending negotiations on price.
- + Father Ed discussed that we are becoming the "Fine Arts" center for Honesdale and we have new people wanting to hold concerts and recitals in our facility. Purchasing this baby grand will only enhance these performances and add more opportunity for the future of Grace Church.
- + Jane announced that the \$700 made at the rummage sale was given back to the church by ECW as part of their yearly pledge for 2010.
- + Lee discussed repairs that needed to be made in the rectory; priority being removal of the asbestos on the basement pipes. A roll off container will be required to dispose of old hot water heaters and boiler. Also the ceiling in the computer room of the rectory will need to be replaced in the near future.

## WELCOME, HEINRICH !

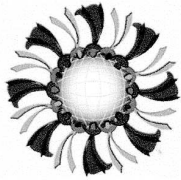


Mr. Steinway, born in 1903, is a model-O baby grand piano. Long story made short, Heinrich was brought to Grace Church in April for the Young Artists Showcase and sat here tantalizingly for several weeks. The Worship & Music Committee proposed to Vestry that we purchase the piano for placement in the sanctuary. Through stokes of bartering and good luck, we are able to purchase the piano for \$25,000. The sound-board is in fine condition, ribs and crown in perfect condition. It has brand new pin block and set of strings, The brass red-mahogany case have been completely refinished and Heinrich comes with a 10-year guarantee!

Initial monies to be taken from the Dorothy Menner Trust Fund (designated for music and choir needs). Yet we do not wish to deplete the Menner Fund. Subscribers to repay the Trust will be solicited. Already we have commitments from several parishioners and friends, including the family of Carolyn and John Morris dedicating their memorial donations.

Heinrich was 'christened' by Bishop Croneberger at his visitation in June, and inaugurated with a recital by baritone Ken Platt accompanied by Fr. Erb. Additional concerts are being scheduled this summer and fall to feature our new member, including the Simons Pond Chamber Ensemble. Stay 'tuned' for more events.

If interested in making a memorial or thanksgiving donation towards the piano, speak with Fr. Erb. You can purchase a key for \$300 (sorry, Middle C is already claimed) or a complete octave for \$3,500.



## 76th General Convention

of The Episcopal Church • July 8 - 17, 2009 • Anaheim, California

### Considering the issues

Fifth in a series

The General Convention of The Episcopal Church (TEC) considers a wide range of issues at each of its triennial meetings, and the July 8 – 17, 2009 gathering in Anaheim, California, will be no exception.

Issues are brought forth in the form of resolutions that come from bishops, deputies, diocesan conventions, provincial synods, and the committees, commissions and boards that help to carry out the work of the Church between meetings of General Convention.

Each resolution is assigned to one of several joint

committees of the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies. The committees, meeting during General Convention,

consider each resolution, hear testimony on the subject matter, revise or fine-tune the language, combine similar resolutions from different sources, and finally decide which resolutions will be sent to the full Houses. A resolution fails if it is not passed by both Houses.



#### A sampling of resolutions

##### Program & Budget

- TEC's Executive Council approved a draft 2010-2012 budget and sent it to the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance. PB&F will use that version to craft a proposed budget during its meetings, which begin two days before General Convention starts. Convention must approve the budget.

##### Worship and liturgy

- A report titled *Rachel's Tears, Hannah's Hopes: Liturgies and Prayers for Healing from Loss Related to Childbearing and Childbirth*.

- *Holy Men, Holy Women*, an overhaul of *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*, which would add a number of

names to the Calendar of the Church Year.

- New prayers for: artists and writers; the Virgin Mary; care of God's creation; on the occasion or anniversary of a disaster; prophetic witness in the church and society; reconciliation and forgiveness; and scientists and environmentalists.

- Consideration of requests for authorization to develop rites of blessing for same-gender unions, especially in states that have legalized such unions or marriages.

- Use of gender-neutral language for prayer book marriage services; creation of an Episcopal Relief and Development Sunday; liturgical materials for a new Creation Cycle to be celebrated during the season after Pentecost.





For more information visit the General Convention website at [www.episcopalchurch.org/gc2009.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/gc2009.htm)

For Episcopal Life Online reports, visit [www.episcopalchurch.org/elife](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/elife)

### **Economic justice issues**

- Establishing a program to help alleviate poverty within the United States in such areas as Appalachia and federal reservations for Native Americans and increased ministry to native peoples.
- Formation of an economic justice ministry for and with lower-income people, involving a system of local partnerships with agencies that work with the poor, as well as increased advocacy, empowerment and community-development work.
- Increased efforts to combat racism within the Church.
- Increased advocacy with the governments of the United States and other countries to combat poverty and disease, support human rights, and promote scientifically-backed environmental policies.

### **Global concerns/Anglican Communion**

- Support for the Millennium Development Goals, which General Convention 2006 established as a mission priority for the last triennium.
- Crises and peacemaking efforts in conflict areas such as the Middle East, Sudan, Sri Lanka and the Great Lakes region of Africa.
- The proposed Anglican covenant. The text was referred for further refinement by the Anglican Consultative Council at its May meeting, and as a

result, formal adoption of the document can not be considered; however, resolutions on this topic may be submitted for consideration.

- Requests to overturn, nullify or supersede GC06 Resolution B033, which called for restraint in electing or approving the election as bishops of candidates “whose manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church and will lead to further strains on communion.”

### **Ecumenical and interreligious relations**

- Proposals for immediate full communion with the Moravian Church and beginning a process towards full communion with the (Lutheran) Church of Sweden.
- A theological statement to serve as the foundation upon which the Episcopal Church engages in interreligious dialogue.

### **Church governance**

- Proposed revision of the church’s disciplinary canons, known as Title IV, to clarify several issues, including processes to deal pastorally and fairly with clergy who have been accused of inappropriate behavior.
- Proposals for TEC to help reduce the indebtedness of those studying in theological schools in preparation for ordination.



For information about General Convention resolutions and reports from The Episcopal Church’s commissions, committees, agencies and boards, visit [www.episcopalchurch.org/gc2009](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/gc2009) and select “legislation” or “publications”

# ELD

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[www.episcopalchurch.org/ELD](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/ELD)



# PARISH PICNIC Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>



at Ponderosa Pines Campground  
**Holy Communion at 11:00**  
picnic, fun and games throughout the day



We are all set for our annual parish picnic and fun day at Ponderosa Pines Campground (near Prompton Dam) for Sunday, Aug. 30th, from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m.



Grace Church will provide the meats. You bring everything else. There may even be homemade icecream again this year! PP has added a bonfire pit near the pavillion - let's bring the marshmallows!

All the other amenities are there for our use: swimming pool, volleyball, horseshoes, basketball, baseball, fishing (bring your own gear). They provide a paddleboat for our use for the day. Also, mini-golf available for \$1.00 per person. Two additions this year: Walking trails and Frisbee golf.! Save the date. Details to follow.

*There WILL be an 8:00 service at the Church that day. The 11:00 service will be held at the Picnic.*

## WELCOME TO THE PARISH:

New Episcopalians! Seven Adults were confirmed (and received) by Bishop John Croneberger at the annual Episcopal (bishop's) Visitation:

Judy Diver

Dr. Robert and Jacqueline Dohner

Lee Erdman

Gary (Sr.) and Constance Geinitz

Lorie-Ann McKean

## AND MAY GOD BE WITH YOU

Barbara Filopowski has recently moved to Florida "full-time." Barbara has been active in our Daughters of the King and a great help at the 8:00 service as reader and chalice-bearer. Not "Good-Bye" but "Auf Wiedersehen" (Until we meet again!)

## CONGRATULATIONS !

to Greg and Stacy Mikulak on the birth of Karter.

## JULY & AUGUST 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.

JULY 5 - James Pursch

6 - Zack Romano

6 - William Mikulak

12 - Jane Bunnell

12 - Benita Pursch

15 - Robert Becker

24 - Constance MacLeary

28 - Caroline Wilson

31 - Kenneth Skinner

AUGUST 16 - Michael Grady

17 - Shawn Vinton

22 - John Peer

# MINISTRY SCHEDULE

for JULY 2009

	<i>JULY 5</i>	<i>JULY 12</i>	<i>JULY 19</i>	<i>JULY 26</i>
<i>CRUCIFER</i>	C.Carroll	E.Carroll	C.Sampson	B.Pursch
<i>ACOLYTES</i>	J.Peer, H.Stephens	O.Johannes, K.Peer	J.Peer, H.Stphens	O.Johannes, K.Peer
<i>ALTAR GUILD</i>	J.Bunnell, S.Lathrop	J.Bunnell, S.Lathrop	S.Soden, E.Young	S.Soden, E.Young
<i>USHERS</i>	C. & J. Stevens	R. & J. Sampson	G.Mikulak, P.Mikulak	C. Carroll, E.Carroll
<i>LECTOR</i>	M.Corso	J.Bunnell	K.Skinner	G.Feldman
<i>INTERCESSOR</i>	C.Lathrop	D.Lewis	J.Roskowski	J.Slate
<i>CHALICIST</i>	M.White	M.Brown	J.Bunnell	V.Cheripko
<i>COUNTERS</i>	RL.Becker, L.Erdman	J.Merritt, S.Lathrop, M.White (observe)	G.Lowden, M.White	N.Johannes,J.Roskoski
<i>COFFEE HOUR</i>	P.Mikulak, D.Lewis	G.Mikulak, J.Slate	C.Smith, J.Bunnell	S.Soden, E.Young

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!*

for AUGUST 2009

	<i>AUGUST 2 MORNING PRAYER</i>	<i>AUGUST 9</i>	<i>AUGUST 16</i>	<i>AUGUST 23</i>	<i>AUGUST 30 PARISH PICNIC</i>
<i>CRUCIFER</i>	C.Carroll	E.Carroll	C.Sampson	B.Pursch	----
<i>ACOLYTES</i>	J.Peer, H.Stephens	O.Johannes, K.Peer	J.Peer, H.Stphens	O.Johannes, K.Peer	----
<i>ALTAR GUILD</i>	S.Wilding, F.Mikulak	S.Wilding, F.Mikulak	J.Slate, S.Lathrop	J.Slate, S.Lathrop	J.Bunnell, S.Soden
<i>USHERS</i>	BJ Clark, J.Merritt	R. & J. Sampson	C. & E. Carroll	G.Mikulak, P.Mikulak	----
<i>LECTOR</i>	D.Pursch	J.Bunnell	M.White	K.Skinner	M.Corso
<i>INTERCESSOR</i>	J.Bunnell	G.Feldman	D.Lewis	J.Roskowski	J.Slate
<i>CHALICIST</i>	----	J.Roskowski	G.Feldman	J.Slate	M.White
<i>COUNTERS</i>	P.Mikulak, K.Skinner	E.Young, V.Cheripko	G.Mikulak, M.White	S. Wilding, J.Bunnell	D.Romano, RL.Becker
<i>COFFEE HOUR</i>	R.Sampson, D.Pursch	J.Merritt, C.Escalona	V.Cheripko, C.Geinitz	D.Romano, N.Johannes	E v e r y o n e!

# MORNING PRAYER

Sunday, AUGUST 2

Michelle White and the Choir did such an outstanding job at leading Morning Prayer back in May that discussion arose at coffee hour - "Couldn't we do Morning Prayer occasionally?"

Well, the answer is yes. The suggestion is that when there are five Sundays in the month, on of those Sundays would be Morning Prayer, complete with choral canticles and chanted Psalm.

Morning Prayer (Mattins) and Evening Prayer (Evensong) are traditional and distinctive services in the Anglican Communion. The cathedral and collegiate chapel choral tradition (originally of paid men and boys made up of the scholars of the associated college) has been passed down even to many parishes today. And for many years in America, Morning Prayer was the standard Sunday service.

It's a long way from Honesdale to King's or St. John's College Cambridge, Christ Church Oxford, St. Thomas Church NYC or Washington Cathedral. Nonetheless, we can enjoy this rich heritage of our Anglican tradition.

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*On a similar note -*

That same day, Sunday August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00 PM you are warmly encouraged to St. Stephen's Church in Wilkes Barre for the Royal School of Church Music's Festive Evensong - 120 in the Choir from age 10 to 80+

## *Grace Notes*

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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