



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

HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2010

PARSON'S CORNER

CONFIRMING FAITH

It is the darkness of faith - the deepness of night. At the Easter Vigil, converts to the faith - those who have gone through the ordeal of struggling with faith in God, faith in Christ, faith in themselves - present themselves. Open. Vulnerable. Unsure. Still questioning. Naked. Stepping into the waters which will either drown them or provide them with freshness. Baptism. Resurrection. Affirmation. Profession of Faith. Christ is Alive. And so am I! "Because He lives I can face tomorrow" an old song hints. The sunrise will burst from the dark night and celebration of new life will be real. Real. Real!

Presumably, each one of us here gathered has gone through that same struggle. We've fought with ourselves. We've struggled with injustice in the world. We've wrestled with the deep questions of doubt and faith within the darkness of our heart.

It is a big presumption - to think that we have each come to this point of faith. Every clergy-person dreams of such a parish. Yet, we recognize that some of us are still in the middle of the struggle of faith. Some have enjoyed the faith early on, but the worries of the world have choked the seeds of faith and the growth struggles to win the battle with the weeds. Some even wonder about the need to believe. What point is there? Some have hit rock bottom, and know that the only way out is with some slender filament of hope pulling them up.

We are invited to walk the streets of Jerusalem. See the people poor and oppressed along the decaying alleys, through the narrow crowded streets of life's pains following a prophet king riding on a smelly donkey. Follow him to the Temple Mount. Hear his last words preached on the hard steps of the Law, overturning the tables of that which we believed to be true. Climbing in the dusk of the evening, the stairs to the upper chamber where a private meal of celebration, sharing, foreboding is prepared. The Garden of Gethsemane's despair and betrayal; rumble with authorities and arrest; betrayal by friends, flogging, tormenting, bouncing from injustice to injustice; sentencing, execution, and mournful burial. Despair, fear, questioning, struggle for meaning. Then some ridiculous claim of resuscitation - renewal of life - resurrection!

How can we proclaim that Jesus is alive? How can we sing, "Alleluia"? How can we confirm what we believe?

In a few weeks, some will be brought before the Bishop - the maintainer of the Apostolic Faith - and asked that same metaphorical question. Can you profess the faith of Christ Crucified and Resurrected? Can you proclaim the Living and Active God working within you? The question comes to each of us, like a burning arrow - "Do you believe?"

Do YOU believe?

Father Erb

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY & MARCH 2010

At its recent meetings, Vestry:

- + reviewed the recommendation from Finance Committee regarding removing funds from Diocesan Investment Trust, deciding we need not do so at this point;
- + received a proposal and accepted an Eagle (Boy) Scout project to replace the roofing and siding of the garage;
- + reviewed procedures and provisions for the blessing of same-gender unions at Grace Church;
- + discussed issues of welcoming new-comers and visitors; suggested re-arranging tables and open space at coffee hour, the wearing of name tags, and Vestry taking the initiative of setting the example to approach visitors and engage in conversation;
- + evaluated building and grounds issues, particularly emergency lighting, the exit signs and energy efficiency particularly the Church Street doors.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

have been made to the ALL SAINTS MEMORIAL FUND

by Mikulak family in loving memory of:

W. Wayne Slaier

Robert Menotti *and*

Mary Ham Koropchak

A BIG THANK-YOU TO:

We've said it before, and we'll say it again: To Susan Treanor, Vince Senft, and Lee Erdman for many tasks being done around the parish, especially electrical updating which continues.

Susan has also taken on the abominable task of organizing the Library. Didn't know we had a library did you? Many old and some new titles of a variety of topics, especially religious and theological works are housed on the second floor. We now have a listing for organization's sake as well as for insurance purposes.

And have you noticed any changes around the parish? Our great thanks to Harold Derrick and the inmates of Wayne County Prison for all the work they are doing around the Church. Newcomers may not know that Harold and his wife Chris were our sextons years ago, and they know the building inside and out. Now that he is guiding the prison work-release., we have benefitted with so much 'free' labor. Our prayers are that their welcome here at Grace Church will encourage them in the future and strengthen their self-assurance and commitment to new life. Evangelism takes many forms.

Cleaning and cleaning and cleaning!

Painting the kitchen, the sexton's apartment; patching, repairing and painting the tower-room; Sanding and refinishing the stage floor...

What could be next? Maybe you'll come and join in the fun!

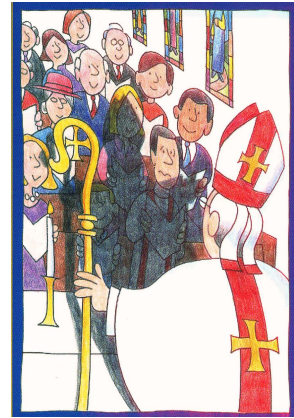
The Bishop Is Coming!

SUNDAY, APRIL 25th

Bishop Paul Marshall will be with us
for the 11:00 Service

(Note-there *will not* 5:00 & 8:00 services)

The Rites of Confirmation with
Festive Eucharist and Reception following.



FROM THE NATIONAL CHURCH and THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

[Episcopal News Service – Omaha, Nebraska] The Episcopal Church's Executive Council pledged Feb. 22 to continue to stand by the Diocese of Haiti as it continues to minister to earthquake survivors and plans its rebuilding efforts, while challenging the church to raise at least \$10 million to help pay for that rebuilding.

The Council said (via Resolution WM011) that "Haiti's recovery and reconstruction must be directed by the Haitian people" and affirmed "the authority of Bishop Duracin and the leaders he appoints to request and direct the resources required to rebuild the damaged institutions and impacted congregations of the diocese."

Donations to Episcopal Relief and Development for Haiti can be sent through the parish office. For information, see Fr. Erb.

FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS and OTHERS

More than 60 educational scholarships are available from The Episcopal Church

Earmarked for education and schooling for Episcopalians, funding for the scholarships is derived from numerous trust funds that have amassed over the years. Deadline for applications is April 15, 2010.

All materials – the list of scholarships, the guidelines, the application form and the instructions for filling out the form – are available online at: www.episcopalchurch.org/109539_110675_ENG_HTML.htm The list of trust funds and scholarships is here: www.episcopalchurch.org/documents/ScholarshipTrustFunds121609.pdf

Eligibility: In many cases, the scholarships are geared to particular audiences and students. Among the specific communities are: American Indians/Native Americans, African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Latino/Hispanics, children of missionaries, medical missionaries, men in the ordination process, Pacific Island Americans, children of living or deceased bishops and clergy; Chinese girls; and others.

Easter 2010

Easter Message from the Presiding Bishop

The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light. (Isa 9:2; Matt 4:16)

The Diocese of Haiti has observed Lent in a very different way this year. When Bishop Jean Zaché Duracin and I spoke just before Ash Wednesday, we talked about how this year would be different. He noted that the people of Haiti would need to practice saying Alleluia, so that when Easter came they could enter in with joy. In the midst of grief and darkness, it can be exceedingly difficult to believe that resurrection is a possibility. Nora Gallagher makes a similar point in her book, Practicing Resurrection.

We are not born with the ability to insist on resurrection everywhere we turn. It takes the discipline and repetition that forms an athlete – in this case, a spiritually fit Christian. We practice our faith because we must – it withers and atrophies unless it's stretched. We must continue to give evidence of the faith that is within us.

Easter prods and provokes us with an immense stretching exercise. God has renewed a life given to the evil of this world on behalf of those with no other helper. That earth-shattering and tomb-shattering rebirth has planted the seeds of hope in each one of us. Yet those seeds do not produce fruit without struggle.

The people of Haiti are finding new life in the midst of death and struggle. As a nation and a people they have repeatedly practiced resurrection through centuries of slavery, oppression, invasion, corruption, and privation. The joy of their art forms – music and painting in particular – gives evidence of the hope that is within them as a people. They know, deep in their cultural DNA, that God is continually bringing new life out of death. Yet each person must discover and nurture that hope. It is made far easier in community.

The shared hope of a community is essential. Most human beings cannot long survive the evil and death of solitary confinement or a concentration camp. It is the shared sense of suffering and the shared nurture of even tiny embers of hope that offers life. The greatest cruelty of places like Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib is the removal and destruction of such hope. The absence or disconnection from other people as sources of hope leads to suicide and even that mysterious ailment in young children called “failure to thrive.”

The Christian community is about shared hope in resurrection. The citation at the top first buoyed hope among a people exiled in a foreign land, without the support of familiar leaders or places of worship. That people developed a community that could practice its faith in a strange land, insisting that God was present among them even in exile. Jesus insists that that light is present even in the midst of Roman oppression, and that he will gather a community to remember that light and practice seeing and discovering it.

The Christian community is meant to be a mutual hope society, with each one offering courage to another whose hope has waned, insisting that even in the darkest of night, new life is being prepared. That work is constant – it will not end until the end of all things. And still the community persists, year in and year out, in time of earthquake and war and flood, in time of joy and new birth and discovery. Together we can shout, “Alleluia, he is risen! Indeed, he is risen, Alleluia!” even when some among us are not quite so confident as others. For indeed, the body of Christ is rising and risen when even a small part of it can rejoice and insist that God is renewing the face of the earth and light has dawned upon us.

Alleluia! Keep practicing that joyful shout. Someone needs to hear its truth. Alleluia!

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori,
Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church

HOLY WEEK 2010

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HONESDALE PENNSYLVANIA

located at Church & 9th Streets

(570) 253-2760

www.gracechurchhonesdale.org

PALM SUNDAY ☩ March 28th

The Blessing of the Palms

Christ's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem
& the Celebration of Holy Communion
at 8:00 & 11:00 AM

Weather permitting, Blessing the Palms begins in Central Park at 10:45.

MAUNDY THURSDAY ☩ April 1st

6:00 PM The Agapé Meal

with the tradition of Foot-Washing
observing the Last Supper with the Watch in the Garden
and the ceremonial stripping of the Altar.
(call the Office to 'reserve' a seat at dinner. 253-2760
bring a dish to share - think of a Mediterranean picnic)



"GOOD" (God's) FRIDAY ☩ April 2nd

12:00 noon - The Community Good Friday Service
at Central United Methodist Church
7:00 PM - The Proper Liturgy for Good Friday
with the Adoration of the Cross
and music by the Choir of Grace Church

HOLY SATURDAY ☩ April 3rd

8:00 PM - The Great Vigil of Easter
we await the Resurrection of Christ
with the Renewal of Baptismal Vows

EASTER DAY ☩ April 4th

The Festive Eucharist of the Resurrection
at 8:00 and 11:00 AM
with special activities for the Children.



MINISTRY SCHEDULE for HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2010

	Palm Sunday March 28	Maundy Thursday April 1	Good Friday April 2	Holy Saturday April 3	Easter April 4	April 11	April 18	April 25
<i>Crucifer:</i>	A. Fink	C. Carroll	K. Shupe	A. Fink D. Fink	A. Fink	R. Becker	C. Carroll	E. Carroll
<i>Acolyte:</i>	E. Becker K. Becker	K. Peer J. Peer	K. Peer J. Peer	G. Geinitz	K. Peer J. Peer	O. Johannes J. Peer	G. Geinitz H. Stephens	E. Becker K. Becker
<i>Lector:</i>	R. Stephens	-----	J. Bunnell	S. Treanor	J. Bunnell	C. Smith	M. Corso	T. Stevens
<i>Intecessor:</i>	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<i>Chalists:</i>	J. Slate				J. Roskoski	V. Cheripko	S. Treanor	J. Slate
<i>Altar Guild</i>	J. Bunnell J. Slate	*All available	-----	*All available	J. Bunnell J. Slate	S. Soden E. Young	S. Soden E. Young	J. Dohner S. Wilding
<i>Usher:</i>	P. Mikulak BJ Clerk				R. L. Becker R. Becker	R. Stevens J. Merritt	C. Carroll E. Carroll	C. Stevens J. Stevens
<i>Coffee Hour</i>	S. Erb C. Smith	-----	-----	-----	P. Mikulak J. Slate	R. Sampson D. Pursch	J. Bunnell G. Mikulak	J. Merritt C. Geinitz
<i>Counters:</i>	E. Young V. Cheripko	-----	-----	-----	N. Johannes K. Skinner	J. Roskoski S. Wilding	P. Mikulak D. Romano	E. Young K. Skinner

If you cannot serve on a date you are scheduled, please contact someone else on the list to switch - call the parish office(253-2760) so that we may make the change, too. *THANK YOU for all your help!*

APRIL BIRTHDAYS 2010 *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.

April 1 - Judy Diver	April 14 - Richelle Stevens
April 5 - Suzanne Theobald	April 17 - Marlene Brown
April 10 - Pat Coggins	April 20 - Stacy Mikulak
April 11 - Colleen Caruso	April 29 - Paige Corso
April 11 - Dorothy Ridgeway	

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

for May 2010

	May 2 5 th Sunday/Easter	May 9 6 th Sunday/Easter	May 16 7 th Sunday/Easter	May 23 Pentecost	May 30 Trinity Sunday
<i>Crucifer:</i>	A. Fink	D. Fink	E. Carroll	R. Becker	C. Carroll
<i>Acolyte:</i>	K. Peer J. Peer	O. Johannes G. Geinitz	E. Becker K. Becker	J. Peer K. Peer	O. Johannes H. Stephens
<i>Lector:</i>	H. Stephens	A. Escalona	R. Stephens	J. Bunnell	C. Smith
<i>Intecessor:</i>	-----	-----	-----	-----	J. Bunnell
<i>Chalists:</i>	J. Bunnell	J. Roskoskii	J. Slate	V. Cheripko	S. Treanor
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	S. Wilding J. Dohner	S. Wilding J. Slate	S. Wilding J. Slate	J. Bunnell J. Dohner	J. Bunnell J. Dohner
<i>Usher:</i>	BJ Clark P. Mikulak	J. Stevens C. Stevens	C. Carroll E. Carroll	J. Merritt R. Stephens	P. Mikulak BJ Clark
<i>Coffee Hour:</i>	V. Cheripko N. Kuzminski	N. Johannes D. Romano	P. Mikulak S. Soden	J. Slate N. Kuzminski	S. Erb C. Smith
<i>Counters:</i>	E. Young K. Skinner	V.j Cheripko L. Erdman	N. Johannes J. Bunnell	D. Romano S. Wilding	J. Roskoski P. Mikulak

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MAY 21010 BIRTHDAYS

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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.

May 9 - Nancy Johannes
May 9 - Maria Zengion
May 12 - Maggie Shupe
May 15 - Marie Roskoski
May 15 - Cynthia Smith

May 17 - Margaret Sampson
May 18 - Joshua Vinton
May 19 - Kyle Peer
May 22 - Hobert Gunuskey Jr.
May 28 - Jane Cable

Grace Notes

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
827 Church Street
Honesdale, Pennsylvania 18431

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

EASTER-TIDE 2010