



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

LENT 2010

PARSON'S CORNER

"SPRING CLEANING"

I had a wonderful opportunity the other day. It doesn't happen very often. A Saturday with nothing scheduled until the 5:00 service. The sermon was written, other preps for Sunday accomplished. And even better Sunday was Super Bowl - so there was nothing for me to do on Sunday, either (as you may know, I'm *not* a football person - it's my goal every year to know who is playing before the kick-off). So, an entire Saturday with nothing to do. And most of Sunday!

Now, it may be a surprise to some of you, but I'm a clean freak. Sue and I learned a long time ago that I like to clean, and she is great at the family budget. So, I can't work in the yard, but I can spend the day "putzing" around the house with cleaning supplies in hand. No schedule, no agenda, nothing. Just putzing (and listening to NPR all day long - OK, it was a Puccini opera. What can I say!)

There is a joy in that. First of all, not having an agenda. But more importantly for that particular day, the time to spend cleaning. I love to clean. It's literally, immediate gratification. And wholesome gratification at that. To see something grungy turn bright, something covered in dust to sparkle, a pile of magazines to be sorted and shelved. To find something that I had totally forgotten about - a Christmas present! It wasn't much, but it was a present - the clean house that is. And it was perfectly a matter of enjoying my (our) home.

Is Lent like that? Is Lent a time when we can spend time with no agenda but to clean our (spiritual, personal) house? There are common ordinary things which we can make shine, sparkle, sorted out, shelved, thrown away. There are corners which need to be vacuumed, closets which need to be sorted through, old things which no longer fit our lives thrown away, perhaps some new things purchased. And all these things on a metaphysical, spiritual level.

In the ancient Church, Lent was a time to prepare the new converts to receive the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Forty Days of education, dedication, scrutiny, to prepare yourself for committing yourself to the life of Christ. It modeled the Forty Days of Christ's own denial of earthly pleasures and gratifications. Forty Days of Jesus cleansing his own house, to show us how to clean our own house. Forty days to prepare for the ministry to which we are all called, as Jesus himself was called: to heal, to teach, to reach out, to welcome, to transform.

Begin your Spring Cleaning. In Pennsylvania Dutch, we call it "reading up" - preparing the house (making ready) for someone to come and visit. Christ stands at our door, lifting his hand to knock. Are you ready to welcome Him? Soon it will be time to take off the apron and open the door. But first there is cleaning to do.

Father Erb

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 2010

Senior Warden John Sullivan (2011)

Junior Warden Lee Erdman (2011)

Vestry members (and year of term):

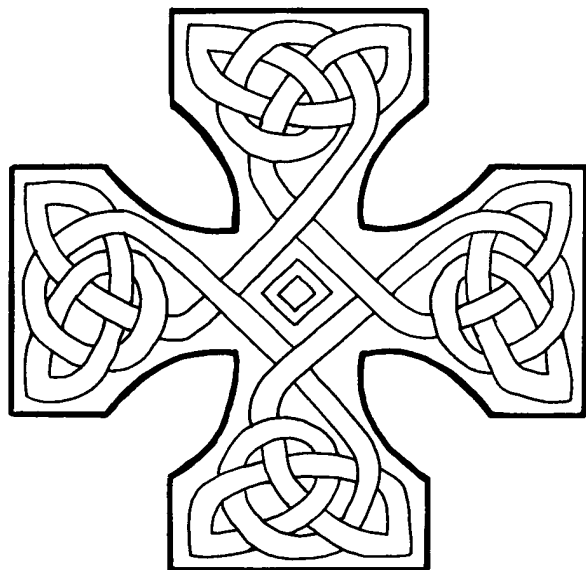
(2010) Conor Carroll, B.J.Clark, Deborah Pursch, Val Cheripko

(2011) Jeanne Roskoski

(2012) Neil Petrosky, Vincent Senft, Susan Treanor

At the January meeting, Vestry:

- + New members were welcomed; John Sullivan and Lee Erdman accepted positions as Wardens;
- + Plans for the 2010 Golf Outing were introduced by B.J.Clark for Tuesday Sept. 28th;
- + additions to the format of the Treasurer's Report were suggested;
- + Fr. Erb discussed with the Diocesan Finance staff our plans to remove moneys from the Diocesan Trust Fund. Mr. Reiner reminded us that we would be 'taxed' on any money we take out to add to our operating budget and suggested that we withdraw only in an emergency. The matter is being returned to Finance Committee for review.
- + Bulletin format for worship services was discussed. It was generally agreed that the format is helpful to newcomers and visitors. Prayer Book page numbers will be added for those who wish to use it.
- + Susan Treanor and Vincent Senft volunteered to assist Lee Erdman on Building & Grounds Committee. They will be reviewing the electrical needs particularly in the Parish Hall and kitchen.
- + It was suggested that the Christian Education Committee meet soon to review plans for next year.



LENT IS A - MAZING - (Like Grace)

IT IS A JOURNEY

INTERTWINING IN & AROUND OURSELVES

A MYSTERY AND YET NOT-CONFUSING

A LABYRINTH INSTEAD OF A MAZE

IT HAS A CLEAR PATH

AND LEADS US TO AN INNER KNOWING

IF WE TRACE ITS PATTERN

Travel the pathway with your finger as your quietly meditate.

Shrove Tuesday - Mardi Gras
February 16th
6:00 PM



SECOND ANNUAL SMORGASBORD
and TALENT SHOW

Bring your favorite and fabulous recipe to share. We'll be voting on the best in the house.
And adding them to our Grace Church Cook-Book.

Then share your talent - and enjoy those of others.

A Poem to Read

A Dance to Swing

A Joke to Share

A Song to Sing

DOES GRACE CHURCH
KNOW HOW TO
PAR-TAY ? ! ?

BUT THEN, WE MUST ATONE FOR OUR FOOLISHNESS...



Ash Wednesday Services at Grace Church
February 17th at 12:10 and 7:00 pm

"Remember you are but dust and to dust you shall return." With these words, the minister marks the forehead of each worshiper with ashes in the annual observance of a Christian's penance. The sign of the cross is made upon each Christian with holy oil at Baptism, and in other observances such as healing for the sick. All these reminders of the Cross of Christ bring the Christian into a fuller awareness of the redeemed life of the faithful.

Ash Wednesday is the day which yearly begins the Church's season of Lent. It is a day of cleansing and renewal setting the Christian on the 40-day journey of preparation for the solemnity of the Easter celebration. Ash is one of the earliest cleansers used by humans. Even today charcoal is used as a purifying agent. The symbolism for cleaning our lives is clear, especially with the mark of the Cross - the Cross of Christ through which the Christian's salvation is assured.

Grace Church offers the service of Penance, the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion twice on Ash Wednesday, February 17, at 12:10pm and 7:00pm.

MORE LENTEN OFFERINGS at GRACE CHURCH

TUESDAY LENTEN SUPPERS, beginning Fe. 23rd at 6:00 pm

GOD, RELIGION, the BIBLE, FAITH, REASON and SCIENCE

Do they compliment each other?

Do they compete with each other?

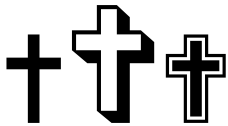
Is there Evolutionary Theory in Genesis, chapter 1?

Is the Holy Trinity an expression of Quantum Physics? and more

Tuesdays, beginning at 6:00PM with "pot-luck" supper and fellowship. Ending by 7:30

THURSDAYS - MORNING PRAYER, BRUNCH, and BIBLE STUDY

Join a group who have decided to share Morning Prayer Thursdays in Lent at 10:00. We could follow our devotions with fellowship, food, and Bible Study, if anyone is interested. Beginning February 18th.



The STATIONS of the CROSS

Walk the *Via Dolorosa*, The Way of Sorrows, in this traditional service of devotions on the steps Jesus took. Each Friday in Lent at 12:10.

MINISTERIUM LENTEN SERIES - EXPRESSING CHRIST IN ART

The Honesdale Area Ministerium has designed it's annual Lenten series of worship services in a unique way. How can our community express in art and music the message of the Christian understanding of the duality of time. "To Everything there is a season" many of us remember from the classic Pete Seeger folk song, "Turn, turn, turn" whose text is based on the Biblical book of Ecclesiastes.

The annual series of services rotates from Church to Church on Sunday afternoons at 4:00 PM, beginning on Sunday, February 21st at Grace Church. Each service is followed by a simple Lenten fare of soup and bread. The first service is being coordinated and led by The Rev'd Rebekah Sweet, pastor of Central United Methodist Church with a display of quilting.

Jazz music, Native American drummers, poetry, fabric, drama, sculpture... In these and other expressions of art the Christian message of time will be shared. Local artists will be featured each week.

ANNUAL MEN'S LENTEN BREAKFAST

The Ministerium also offers its annual men's Lenten Service and Breakfast at Grace Church on Sunday, February 28th at 7:00 AM. Judge Raymond Hamill is this year's guest speaker. Fay Milkulak is coordinating the breakfast. Ladies, call her to volunteer and give see Fr. Erb for \$5 tickets to the breakfast.





HELP THE YOUTH

Participate in BonTon Store's Community Day

Saturday, February 27th
at Steamtown Mall in Scranton.

Buy a coupon book for \$5, get a \$10 coupon!
And the Youth gets to keep your \$5!

A WIN-WIN DEAL !

Plus lots of other specials in the coupon book and in the store that day only.

A BIG THANK - YOU TO

SUSAN TREANOR, VINCENT SENFT, and LEE ERDMAN for beginning the work on updating the electrical system in the parish hall and kitchen. New grounded three-prong outlets have been installed which will benefit our many guests, such as the Red Cross blood drives with their equipment needs.

To ALL WHO HAVE PROVIDED for the CASSEROLE MINISTRY. Our freezer is full of good stuff for those who have been hospitalized, are recovering, and their families. If you know someone in need of this simple gift of love and hospitality, let the parish office know.

Ukrainian Egg Demonstration with Hana Gorman

Sunday, March 21 at 10:00am
at Grace Church

Hana Gorman will demonstrate the traditional handcrafted art of Ukrainian eggs or Pysanky, which starts with eggshells that are decorated in a technique akin to batik. Symbols are applied with melted beeswax using a tool called a kistka. Eggs are then dipped into successively darker dye baths. At the end, the beeswax is melted off to reveal the colorful "artful" egg. Participants will learn traditional patterns and shapes.



FATHER ERB IS BEING ARRESTED - AND PUT BEHIND BARS !!!

Unless you help bail him out!

Muscular Dystrophy affects many, many children and adults.

Help Fr. Erb unlock those who are bound by this terrible disease.



DIOCESAN TRAINING FOR MINISTRY

Saturday, April 24, 2010

St. Stephen's Pro-Cathedral Wilkes-Barre, PA

Workshop Descriptions

1. Vestry 101

An introduction for new wardens and vestry members – or a refresher for experienced vestry members – to the roles, responsibilities, and realities of parish leadership. We will look at canons, models, strategies, and resources to assist the elected leaders of parishes.

Led by The Rt. Rev. Paul V. Marshall and The Ven. Howard Stringfellow

2. & 7. Ministry of the Lay Eucharistic Visitor

The Ministry of the Lay Eucharistic Visitor extends the celebration of Holy Communion to those who are unable to attend the gathering of the faithful – the home-bound, those in hospital and nursing homes. This two-part course leads to the licensing by the Bishop.

Led by The Rev. Edward K. Erb, Grace Church, Honesdale [Morning and Afternoon]

3. & 8. Stewardship: Creating a Culture of Generosity in These Changing Economic Times''

People are searching for a church shaped and sustained by Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Formation, Risk-taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity. These fundamental practices are critical to the success of congregations.

Led by: The Rev. Phyllis M. Bowers [Repeated in the afternoon]

4. Technology and Communication: Communication and Your Parish

An overview of how to approach a communication ministry in your parish, including communicating your mission statement, determining your communication needs, how to develop a plan, how to evaluate activities and an overview of new electronic media you might want to explore. Recommended for vestry officers, parish communicators and parish administrators.

Led by Kat Lehman, IT Coordinator for the Diocese of Bethlehem

5. Lifelong Christian Formation: Welcoming Children with Disabilities

Creating inclusive classrooms in Christian communities benefits everyone. Learn about how the environment and curriculum you choose set the stage for how you welcome children with disabilities-and their families- into your programs for children and youth.

Led by Ellyn Siftar, Director of Youth Ministries, Trinity Church, Bethlehem

6. Congregational Development: Funding Future Ministries

A lively discussion regarding both aspects of planned giving. Discover a path to reflect on your core values, and how that relates to the process of developing a will, shaped by your Christian preamble for your will.

Led by Charlie Barebo, Diocesan Development Officer

DIOCESAN TRAINING DAY, continued

9. Treasurers' Workshop

Will focus on Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, Internal Controls, and Audits and review the Balance Sheet and Revenue and Expense statements and completing the Parochial Report. Led by R. Bruce Reiner, Diocesan Controller and Richard Guyer, Diocesan Treasurer

10. Lifelong Christian Formation: Lifelong Christian Formation Means Lifelong

How do we encourage adults in our congregations to actively engage in their own faith formation? Hands-on resources for adult study will be presented. Led by The Rev. Anne E. Kitch, Canon for Formation in the Christian Faith

11. Youth: Youth Mission

This will be a discussion about supporting youth in diocesan, parish and individual mission projects. Led by Kim Rowles, Diocesan Missioner for Youth

12. Health Ministries.

This workshop will provide basic information about Health Ministries, specifically information and tools for starting and maintaining a Health Ministry, as well as time for questions answers. Led by Diana Marshall, Diocesan Liaison to National Episcopal Health Ministries

For a brochure and more info, see Fr. Erb

PLANNING AHEAD:

The BISHOP INVITES EVERYONE WHO IS ABLE
to attend the Annual **CHRISM MASS**
at the CATHEDRAL of the NATIVITY in BETHLEHEM
at 11:00 AM on Thursday, March 25 - *the feast of the Annunciation to Mary*
when clergy of the Diocese renew their ordination vows,
holy oils are blessed,
and the Diocesan Community is celebrated at the end of our Lenten Journey.

BISHOP MARSHALL

will make his annual Episcopal Visitation to Grace Church
on Sunday, April 25th at 11:00 AM
for the Service of Confirmation and Holy Communion.

Plan now to celebrate with our catechumens as they profess their Baptismal Faith in Christ Jesus.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE for FEBRUARY/MARCH 2010

	Feb 14	Feb 17	Feb 21	Feb 28	Mar 7	Mar 14	Mar 21
	<i>The Transfiguration</i>	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	<i>Lent 1</i>	<i>Lent 2</i>	<i>Lent 3</i>	<i>Lent 4</i>	<i>Lent 5</i>
<i>Crucifer:</i>	C. Carroll	E. Carroll	R. Becker	C. Carroll	E. Carroll	E. Carroll	D. Fink
<i>Acolyte:</i>	E. Becker K. Becker		O. Johannes J. Peer	K. Peer H. Stephens	E. Becker K. Becker	G. Geinitz C. Carroll	E. Becker K. Becker
<i>Lector:</i>	J. Bunnell	K. Skinner	C. Smith	M. Corso	D. Pursch	K. Skinner	S. Treanor
<i>Intecessor:</i>	J. Roskoski	S. Treanor	J. Slate	J. Bunnell	J. Roskoski	J. Slate	J. Bunnell
<i>Chalist:</i>	J. Slate	J. Bunnell	V. Cheripko	S. Treanor	-----	J. Bunnell	V. Cheripko
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	J. Bunnell J. Dohner	J. Bunnell J. Dohner	J. Bunnell J. Dohner	S. Soden F. Mikulak	S. Soden F. Mikulak	S. Wilding E. Young	E. Young S. Wilding
<i>Usher:</i>	P. Mikulak BJ Clark		C. Stevens J. Stevens	C. Carroll E. Carroll	R. L. Becker R. Becker	BJ Clark P. Mikulak	BJ Clark P. Mikulak
<i>Coffee Hour:</i>	R. Sampson D. Pursch	_____	G. Mikulak C. Smith	S. Erb C. Geinitz	V. Cheripko J. Bunnell	N. Johannes D. Romano	E. Young N. Kuzminski
<i>Counters:</i>	K. Skinner E. Young	_____	V. Cheripko N. Johannes	J. Roskoski D. Romano	P. Mikulak S. Wilding	L. Erdman J. Bunnell	G. Mikulak N. Johannes

*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!

LENT 2010 Birthdays

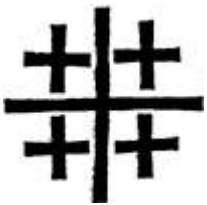
Remember our Parish family in your Prayers

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.

Feb 14 - Robert Bunnell
 Feb 14 - Susan Erb
 Feb 16 - Matt Corso
 Feb 17 - Ellen Korb
 Feb 22 - Jean Hoerter
 Feb 27 - Janice Greatorex

Feb 29 - Alexa Escalona
 Mar 7 - Ronald Greatorex
 Mar 9 - Betty Roberts

Grace Notes



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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