



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
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NOVEMBER 2010

PARSON'S CORNER

GHOSTS, GHOULS WITCHES, GOBLINS & SAINTS GALORE!

Dessin Animal Shelter is holding a "Paranormal Experience" for Hallowe'en - a fun fund-raiser. So we advertise it in our parish newsletter and bulletin boards. The Shelter are friends of God's creatures and many of us have beloved pets rescued by them. But the question comes, "Does the Episcopal Church condone seances and palm-reading?" No, but we recognize a creative way to raise money in a fun way. Will I attend? Probably not.

Someone years ago asked me what to do with a Ouija Board their children were using. I remember an 8-Ball I had in childhood. Never gave the answer I wanted. So I put it on the shelf. The Ouija parents were dreadfully afraid of the demonic nature and I volunteered to take it (in a chained wooden box) and burn it - half-heartedly, I admit. I didn't hear any screaming demons as they flew out.

Do I take it seriously? Yes, and no. Most often no. But sometimes yes.

I do believe in ghosts. The Holy Ghost for one. I also believe that the spirits of the deceased "live" in a parallel existence to ours which we (usually) cannot see, but can often feel. There are souls at rest, and yes, I believe souls not at rest. We have several family stories which I have myself been witness to. Ask me sometime around a campfire. I also know several people - including in our own congregation - who have seen, or see, benign spirits.

Now there is Biblical precedence for this - but they come with warnings. King Saul hires the Witch of Endor to divine the spirit of the deceased Samuel (1Samuel, chapter 28). Saul was already turned against God, and one could say he was possessed by other demons of his own making (read all of Saul's story!)

I read Chinese fortune cookies for fun - they also taste good. But I don't read my horoscope, believe the weather reports nor even play the Lottery.

Yet I do believe in the spiritual world, the working of God in mysterious and magical ways, am not afraid to read Harry Potter - or go to see the movies!

God speaks to us in many and various ways. What is important for the hearer is where am I with God in the process? Am I possessed by earthly passions as was Saul? Or am I "tuned-in" to God's working within my life and trying my best to work within God's life? The answers I receive might reflect those answers.

Father Erb

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

SEPTEMBER 2010

At it's 21 September meeting, Vestry:

- + Accepted Cynthia Smith as our new Clerk of Vestry. She will begin at October's meeting.
- + Accepted Frances Hlavacek as a parish intern for her Candidacy towards ordination as a permanent deacon.
- + Accepted Fr. Erb's proposal of a preaching rota to regularly include Mrs. Hlavacek; Susan Treanor and Brother Carl Hooker.
- + Accepted the resignation with appreciation of Judy Diver-Riggall as Sexton. A purse will be collected through the parish as a going-away present.
- + Reviewed the application of Fred Fisherman to fill the position as Sexton. Mr. Fisherman will be hired following a probationary period, with a background check and his completion of the Safe-Guarding God's Children program.
- + Accepted a proposal from Mr. Fisherman for the use of the kitchen and parish hall for a catering business with donation made to the parish for the use of the facilities.
- + Discussed the Stewardship program, Consecration Sunday. It was decided to continue with that program, though the date will be moved to November. Fr. Erb will check with the Honesdale Golf Club to set up the celebration brunch on Nov. 7th. There will be only one service that weekend, at 9:00 AM and no Church School.
- + The Covenant Players, an acting company, will be with us for worship on October 10th.
- + Property issues were discussed with a Work Day being planned for October 2nd, and possibly October 23rd in order to finish the Parish Hall window exteriors.
- + Terry Werner, a Scout from Troop One will be refinishing the exterior of the towers' doors for an Eagle project.
- + Christian Education at all levels with Godly Play, Confirmation Class and Adult Forum has taken off with good attendance and interest. The Youth Group has also met to plan activities.
- + Fr. Erb announced that he will be taking on directing the Adult Choir with Maria Zengion's assistance. There has been no luck at finding a resource for annual review of Church musicians, so a simple evaluation form for Maria's benefit will be produced.
- + The Vestry will be on retreat again this year at Forest Lake Club Oct. 15-17, with Fr. Erb leading them through reflections on the book, Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations.
- + The Harvest Home Ham Dinner has been set for Tuesday, October 12th.

WHAT IS A VESTRY RETREAT?

Once a year the members of the parish Vestry go off for a day or two of reflection, conversation and visioning. What are our challenges as a parish in downtown Honesdale? What is our heritage as Anglicans? What do we discern as God's will for us at this time - in 5 years. What do we need to grow people in the strength of faith?

The past three years, we have been the guests of Forest Lake Club, the home of BJ and Suzanne Clark. This is a wonderful retreat from our usual routine where we can sit in an historic lounge around a large stone fireplace and "dream dreams" and "see visions" as God promises (Joel 2:28)

This year, Fr. Erb will lead conversation around the book by Bishop Robert Schnase (of the United Methodist Church): *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*: Radical Hospitality; Passionate Worship; Intentional Faith Development; Risk-Taking Mission; and Extravagant Generosity.

Expect to hear some exciting visions and dreams coming from your leadership. Your prayers are indeed invited and welcome!

DIOCESAN CONVENTION NEWS & VIEWS

2010 Convention - October 8-9 - Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem

from our Delegates - Cindy Smith and Janet Burgan

The convention was a wonderful experience of fellowship and worship for me. I participated in the hearing for the formation of a Health Ministry in each parish. As different parish representatives asked questions about resources for such a ministry, I became more and more excited about our own ongoing, diverse health ministries already in place: fellowship luncheons, AA meetings, dance and yoga classes, meals and services provided when needed ...even our own coffee hour! I hope to be instrumental in helping bring these activities (and more) together under a Health Ministry Committee.

As delegates and guests, we participated in break-out sessions to discuss "From Risk to Opportunities," a report from the congregational renewal committee. The Bishop charged us with particular questions to spur conversation aimed at suggesting answers for how congregations can work better to renew their congregations, both in spirit and number...how best we can look toward the future...and possible collaborations. These were serious conversations and I was impressed with how POSITIVE everyone was. The sessions were fun, informative, and productive.

I was interested to read the reports of the various diocese committees and particularly intrigued by the Interfaith Committee. I volunteered to help this committee as a non-clergy member and received an "assignment" on the spot!

I was honored and exhilarated to be a part of the convention; thanks for the opportunity.

Cindy Smith

I was so happy to serve Grace Church as a delegate to the 2010 convention in Bethlehem, PA on October 8th and 9th. Four of us travelled together and had lively conversations in the car. We arrived in time to check into our hotel - they had lost Fr. Ed's reservations, but since God was still in charge, they had room for us at the inn. We walked a few blocks to an Indian restaurant for lunch - really yummy!

Registration was in progress when we arrived at the Cathedral and we were in plenty of time to take our seats for the opening ceremonies. Bishop Paul Marshall gave the opening address and some explanation for the rest of the convention procedures. Fr. Ed helped us figure out our ballots and since there were only two contested positions, the voting was pretty easy.

We went off to our "Table Conversations" which were small groups discussions with people from parishes of the same size and in the same region. There were a series of questions asked and everyone was encouraged to voice their opinions. The overall topic was congregational renewal, based on the report "From Risk to Opportunities: Congregational Renewal in the Diocese of Bethlehem." I didn't write down the exact questions, but in general the ideas ranged from "What does your parish do well?" to "How can and do we partner with others in our community?" Our group was in need of a scribe, so I had the great opportunity to fill that role. It kept me busy and really focused on the discussion. We had another "Table Conversation" on Saturday with a different set of questions.

This year they had separate discussions for each of the Resolutions and we were invited to attend one of these discussions. I attended "Resolution to End Two Wars: Afghanistan and Iraq" which was moderated by Fr. Ed and included representatives of the Diocesan Peace Commission. A very lively debate ensued and I thought there was a lot of love and tolerance of other's views shown by (mostly) all.

Both of the services - Evensong on Friday and Convention Eucharist on Saturday were really quite beautiful and moving worship services. I find it thrilling to worship with such a group - I really felt the Holy Spirit moving through the cathedral. I understand the services were somewhat truncated this year to allow for the small groups to meet, but I could have had less cocktail hour/banquet and more worship.

Thank you again for letting me be of service as your Diocesan Delegate for 2010!!

Janet Burgan

Grace Church was well-represented at Convention. In addition to our two delegates, Maggie Niles (on Diocesan Council) and one our Alternates, Harold Krieger and his wife Kathy, attended the sessions. Fran Hlavacek also assisted the Peace Commission and served as an acolyte for the Eucharist (Fr. Erb was an MC.)

WELCOME TO THE PARISH FAMILY:

FRANCES HLAVACEK - parish intern from Shohola, a parishioner of Good Shepherd, Milford. Massage Therapist, with husband Glenn parents of a grown son.

Fran is in "The Process" with the Diocesan Commission on Ministry, seeking ordination to the Diaconate. She will be working in various capacities around the parish, particularly in learning what the ministry of service means.

The Catechism describes the ministry of the Deacon as: "a servant of those in need; and to assist bishops and priests in the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments." BCP p.856

A BIG THANK - YOU TO

BISHOP MARSHALL

for the 'permanent' loan of a professional grade Yamaha electronic keyboard, amplifier, and speakers. The Youth will definitely enjoy the possibilities. We may also experiment with amplification for readers in our worship services, as well as for concerts and special activities.

TO The HARVEST DINNER CREW~

Fred Fisherman, Rose Rosler, and many, many hands peeling, chopping, cooking, baking, selling tickets, coming to enjoy a fine dinner!

CONGRATULATIONS !

To Jodi (Case) and Gary Defeo, Jr. who were married at Grace Church in September.

GRACE CHURCH IS A "GREEN TEAM!"

Several people have commented on - and complimented us for - being a "green parish" as a recent article in the Wayne Independent reported. Our Green Team of Maria Zengion, Susan Treanor, Lee Erdman and Fr. Erb met with intern Donnie Hoffman of SEEDS and Workforce Wayne to determine what we have done, are doing, and can do to help reduce our energy resources, and our parish consumption of such things as paper-goods, plastics and Styrofoam, even water.

Here is one letter we received:

Dear Father Erb and the Green Team -

I was delighted to read about the efforts you have made to go green." I feel it is so important to take better care of the present we were given - the earth - than we have been. Not only is this good for the Church, it will positively influence all those who come there.

Thank you and good luck on the solar panel project. "Linda"

CONSECRATION SUNDAY

It's coming - November 7th

Save the date and join us for our annual parish celebration of God's goodness.

GOD'S GRACE ABOUND!

Isn't that our Motto?

There is an old anecdote: Someone stopped Arthur Rubinstein on the streets of New York one day, "Pardon me, sir," asked the stranger, "Could you tell me how to get to Carnegie Hall?" The famous pianist replied, "Practice, practice, practice."

One might ask in the Church aisle, "How do you get to blessedness?" The answer might be, "Give, give, give." There are so many stories, like the old King Midas, or Ebenezer Scrooge, who hoarded their blessings and turned their loved ones away.

Consecration Sunday recognizes that a faithful Christian loves God's creation, and all the blessings we have been given in this life. It is a biblical philosophy that the person who is full of faith needs to give back to God. The spiritual growth and blessedness attained models Christ Jesus himself, and his early followers who gave up all they had to follow The Way.

It is an unselfish act of discipleship to the Savior who gave his life for the life of the world - the world which he himself created and blessed with his presence.

During the single worship service at 9:00 AM on Sunday, November 7th, we will once again have an opportunity to recall that, "All things come from You, O Lord; and of your own do we give back to you." (*the old offertory sentence*)

We ask you before that day to consider - apart from all else in your life - what God is calling you to give for the building up of Christ's Body here on earth - the Church. Every member of the congregation will be given an opportunity to present upon the Altar an Estimate of Giving card - unseen by no one except God. And well, our Financial Secretary who must fulfill our records - not even the priest sees them! Ministry is not reflective of upon giving! Perhaps it is just the opposite - you provide for the ministry to the poor and the hungry!

We will not call upon parishioners - all estimates are totally voluntary. If you are not able to attend the service and celebration brunch, a letter and Estimate of Giving card will be sent so that those who are absent can have an opportunity to help. All is kept confidential, and as it is an estimate, your response may be changed as life's situations change - hopefully for the better!

The eyes of all look to you, O Lord,
and you give them their food in due season.

You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing. *Psalm 145: 14-15*

What is your desire?

MINISTRY SCHEDULE for NOVEMBER 2010

<i>Date</i>	November 7 <i>Consecration Sun.</i> 9:00 AM	November 14 <i>Morning Prayer</i>	November 21 Christ the King	November 25 Thanksgiving Day	November 28 The 1 st Sunday of Advent
<i>Crucifer:</i>	H. Stephens	C. Carroll	E. Carroll		A. Fink
<i>Acolyte:</i>	D. Fink A. Fink	K. Peer Jared Peer	K. Peer H. Stephens	<i>Any</i>	Jordan Peer Jared Peer
<i>Lector:</i>	T. Stephens	J. Bunnell	A. Escalona		R. Stephens
<i>Preacher</i>	Bobbie Hraba, guest leader	Susan Treanor	Bro. Carl Hooker		Fr. Erb
<i>Intecessor:</i>	F. Hlavacek	- - -	J. Slate	<i>Volunteers</i>	F. Hlavacek
<i>Chalist:</i>	J. Roskoski	- - -	F. Hlavacek		J. Bunnell
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	E. Young S. Wilding	E. Young S. Wilding	J. Slate -----	<i>to</i>	J. Slate -----
<i>Usher:</i>	BJ Clark J. Merritt	P. Mikulak R.. Stephens	E. Carroll C. Carroll		C. Stevens J. Stevens
<i>Coffee Hour:</i>	Consecration Brunch	R. Sampson D. Pursch	J. Bunnell S. Erb	<i>Assist ?</i>	C. Geinitz S. Soden
<i>Counters:</i>	J. Bunnell C. English	L. Erdman V. Cheripko	N. Johannes S. Wilding		P. Mikulak J. Roskoski

*IF THERE'S A DATE YOU CANNOT SERVE ,
PLEASE CALL SOMEONE ELSE ON YOUR PHONE LIST TO SWITCH.

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 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.

11/2 - Martin Hedgelon
11/13 - Rachel Hedgelon
11/18 - Robin Sampson
11/10 - Gail Lowden
11/17 - Diane Peer
11/23 - Robin Becker
11/30 - Greg Mikulak

DAUGHTERS of the KING

DORIS LEWIS will be inducted as a Daughter of the King at their annual Assembly Saturday, Oct. 30th at Church of the Good Shepherd, Scranton. let us give thanks for this new Daughter of Christ our King. (Our St. Anne's Chapter meets the first Monday of the month at 6:00 at the Church)

PARISH SHORTS

FALL RUMMAGE SALE - NOVEMBER 5 & 6 Set-up on Thursday.
bring your good used stuff and duds to the Church anytime. Call if you need help.

SATURDAY COMMUNITY LUNCHEONS

The 2nd, 4th, and 5th Saturdays each month Grace Church hosts the Community luncheon.
Your help is welcome - and also spread the word - the meal is free! Tell everyone.

ADVENT-WREATHS

On Sunday, Nov. 28th we will be making Advent-wreaths for your family. If you have a wire-form, bring it in, and family decorations. Greens and extra forms provided.

AFRICAN TEAM MINISTRIES

Oct. 31st & Nov. 7th

In time for Christmas gifts shopping, the beautiful items from ATM will be here for two weeks. Support men, women and children in Africa who have made these gifts.

for YOU - TH

CROP WALK Would you believe it?!? Two of our guys themselves raised half of the thousand bucks we raised! Excellent! Damian and Hunter!

MOVIE NIGHTS Sunday nights at 7:00pm

Robin Williams in *What Dreams May Come* - October 24th

Zac Efron in *Charlie St. Cloud* (this is not High School Musical!) Nov. 14th

Bring a friend! Popcorn provided

IT'S HAPPENING ! With a 1980s theme - Rubik's cubes and all.

Diocesan Youth weekend for students in grades 9-12

Friday Nov. 12 through Sunday Nov. 14 at Kirby Episcopal House outside Wilkes Barre.

You won't come back the same! We promise!

Cost\$125. Scholarships are available.

ALL HALLOWS' EVE PARADE

What about a Grace Church float for the Honesdale Hallowe'en parade?

We're a Church, so we don't want to do any "horror,"

though we could do the Witch of Endor - yes, she's in the Bible.

And Was Jesus a ghost in the cave on Easter morning? Read the Gospels accounts and let's think about it.

NOVEMBER'S HOLY (and UN-HOLY) DAYS HALLOWE'EN

What exactly is Hallowe'en? Honestly - it is a Church observance. But let's get first things first
What is it to be Hallowed?

A hallowed one? Hallowed is an old word which means to be holy.

The hallowed ones are holy people - people even we have known who have lived lives of faith.

And we remember them on the Church's Memorial Day - All Saints' Day

the commemoration of all the saints - big ones, and little ones -

especially the little ones, as the big ones have their own days of commemoration -

they are listed in the Church's Calendar

and in our book, *Holy Women, Holy Men*.

But the "little" saints - those loved ones who have modeled for us the Christian life - one of self-giving love -
are those we honor on the feast of...

ALL SAINTS

All Hallow's Day, November 1st.

While All Saints Day was - and should be - honored as a special day in the Church,
like so many things, the secular celebrations have superseded the religious observance.

Hallowe'en developed centuries ago as a time when it was believed the un-holy spirits had their hey-day
before the holy ones were honored.

back to>>>>

ALL HALLOWS' EVE

came to be a horrific time of demons and ghouls, unsettled spirits, witches and goblins who rule the dark night
before the brightness of God's holy ones shine forth on All Saints' Day.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT For God's People?

Cheap Costumes, Expensive and unhealthy candy and other treats, Fun and Revelry?

Or remembering those holy people who have fed our own faith, and helped us to grow in grace?

Have fun. celebrate Hallowe'en, but put first things first. Keep your priorities straight - and your faith strong!

CHRIST the KING

In the last century, the Pope recognized that we need to acknowledge Christ as the King of our lives. A holy day
to remember who benevolently rules the faithful was set as the last Sunday before Advent begins a new year.
We end our Christian year with a celebration of the King of Heaven.

November begins with a vision of the Heavenly realm as we ponder those who have gone before us into God's eternal
presence. The month ends with another vision of the "end times" with Jesus seated upon the throne of Heaven.

It is a mystical and "magical" time for our faith.

THANKSGIVING

For what are you truly thankful? This is how we end our days, giving thanks to God. For what will you give
thanks? To whom do you give honor, glory, and thanks? What is the most important thing - or being - in your life?

Give thanks!

To God. For all the true and right blessings in your life.

THANKSGIVING TOGETHER

Our 27th Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner
preceded by a service of Holy Communion - the Great Thanksgiving

Mass at 10:00

Dinner at 11:00

Years ago the rector of Grace Church walking downtown on Thanksgiving Day encountered visitors to our town and realized that no restaurant was open for the Holiday meal. They were alone. That soon changed. Since then, Grace Church has hosted a dinner so that no one is alone for the holiday.

If you can join us, to cook, serve the community - or just want to have a good holiday meal - with all the fixins' - come and join Thanksgiving Together.

Grace Notes

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2010