



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

EPIPHANY-TIDE 2011

PARSON'S CORNER

The 13th Day

What is Epiphany-Tide? Is the ocean coming and going?

No, The Christian calendar is marked by holy days and seasons. Often those seasons are designated by the Holy Day corresponding to, or initiating the season. So, Christmas-tide is actually the 12 Days of Christmas from Dec. 25th through Jan. 5th. The next Major Fast (check the Calendar in the front of the Book of Common Prayer) is Epiphany, or as I like to call it, "The 13th Day of Christmas." Epiphany, you may recall, is when we celebrate the arrival of the 3 Wise Men/Astrologers/Kings. Epiphany-tide is the season in the Church year between the feast of The Epiphany and Ash Wednesday.

But what about the 13th Day?

It is the rest of our lives.

We have come with the Angels and the Shepherds and the Wise Men, and even as the smelly animals in the stable. We have come, we have seen, hopefully, we have adored the Christ, and maybe we have even offered our gifts. And now it the rest of our lives. The 13th Day. When we lift up the Christ and show him to the world. "Epiphany" means a showing or revealing.

It is our duty now to go from Bethlehem
and show Christ to the World.

We start with the Wise Men who came from foreign lands - each one representing a different part of the (then) known world - Europe, Africa, and Asia.

And now we are to show forth Christ to our own world, and demonstrate Christ to the whole world.

You can see why we need more than the 13th Day. We even need more than the season of Epiphany. We need the rest of our lives to show Christ to the world.

Perhaps that is the gift that the baby in the manger really wished to receive on his birthday.

Better get going.

Father Erb

from Ruth Ferndon, parish librarian

(if you don't know who Ms. Ferndon and her assistant Trent are,
you need to tune in to the radio on Saturday nights!)

Yes Garrison (that's a hint), Grace Church DOES have a Library.

AND, it contains some very useful and exciting books, not quite, perhaps, in the genre of Harry Potter but they do open up their own mysteries and magic.

So... the library is now open, although not yet as organized as I hope it will be eventually.

Among other topics, there is a section, a shelf of books and pamphlets on the Episcopal Church, the Episcopal culture, and on Anglicanism.

In preparation for our Adult Ed forum on what is an Episcopalian, I sifted thru the library shelf and found a great, short pamphlet entitled: *A People Called Episcopalians*. It answered questions like:

What has made us be, or at least aspire to being as tolerant as we are?

Why is the Church of England still fighting over whether women should be Bishops while we have women bishops and our presiding bishop is a woman.

It explains why our different opinions about church matters and theology do not have to divide us. Why our Book of Common Prayer and our worship unite us....

How the American Revolution both gave us a structure of Bishops and a democratic church government.

Why it is said of us that we are perched on a three legged stool and what are the three legs?

That we a biblical people yet do not all interpret the Bible in one way,

Are we so diverse and tolerant because we have no convictions?

Why do Episcopal churches emphasize beauty in church buildings, art, music and worship?

I'll stop here with one quote from the pamphlet:

...we "encourage a searching, questioning reasonable mind always open to new insights and change. We listen carefully to everyone, search for wisdom everywhere, take seriously the secular world and its work, and recognize that contemporary knowledge is not necessarily in conflict with faith and indeed may offer wisdom."

So, I hope I have stirred your curiosity. Peek into the library or let me give you a tour. We have two copies of *A People Called Episcopalians* to lend out and I can always order more.

New opportunities for Christian Ed:

Starting this month there will be two new opportunities for deepening our Christian journeys:

Monthly book discussion:

Proposed time: noon, the first Tuesday of each month

Proposed 1st book: Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time by Marcus Borg

Bi Weekly bible study,

Proposed times: noon, the second and fourth Tuesday of each month

Proposed topics: the gospel readings for the following 2 Sundays.

If you are interested in these groups, please let me know.

If you are interested in these topics but can not make the time or date, please let me know.

If you are interested in other topics, talk to me.

Susan Treanor, aka "Ruth"

Holy Days and Special Observances



The FEAST of the EPIPHANY of our LORD
Thursday, January 6th

The PRESENTATION of CHRIST in the TEMPLE
Wednesday, February 2nd

Several of us reflected that there are Principal and Major Feasts and Holy Days of the Church Calendar

(refer to the Calendar in the *Book of Common Prayer*, pages 15-17)
which we have not observed at Grace Church in a number of years.

Why are they important? Do they mean anything?

Well, besides the traditions of the Church to observe these holy days in Christ's life, they are not "days of obligation" as some Churches may suggest, but they are important, especially for us faithful Christians, to hear more of the story of our savior to enter into those mysteries of Jesus' life and ministry and to make ourselves a participant in the history of God's salvation.

There may be just a few of us who are able to gather, but if you are, join us in the contemplative mystery of Christ's presence in the here and now, through the moving of God in our history.



On Holy Days

WE WILL GATHER IN THE CHAPEL AT 6:00 P.M.
for Prayer, Meditation, and Holy Communion



The Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

The Congregational Renewal Committee has scheduled a diocesan-wide Renewal Assembly for Saturday, February 19, 2011. The Assembly will meet at six locations across the Diocese. The sites will be chosen to allow for ease of travel and availability of facilities, especially parking.

**SO: SAVE THE DATE:
 Saturday, February 19, 2011**

RENEWAL ASSEMBLY *THE CALL FOR PRAYER & DISCERNMENT*

Trinity Church, Carbondale

9:00 AM ~ 1:00 PM

Diocesan Convention Delegates, Parish Lay Leadership, and Clergy

INFORMATION & DETAILS TO FOLLOW



SQUARE DANCE WITH The UPHILL STRING BAND

our Monthly Square Dance
Saturday, January 22nd at 7:30

Come and enjoy a fun and energetic wholesome good time.
A hooting and a hollering! Bring your friends!

WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU MIX:

BONO & *HOLY COMMUNION*

WHY, a U2charist, of course!

The music of the band U2 set in a service of Holy Communion with the message of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for world peace, justice and ending poverty.

The last Sunday of the month at 6:00pm beginning January 30th, in the Parish Hall.

Stay tuned for more details.

WARMTH IN THE NIGHT

A few weeks ago, I dropped in at the Borough Office to pass on to Mayor Fritz and the Borough Council a letter from Grace Church describing our intent to open up for an emergency shelter on those winter nights when the temperature threatened against the homeless, the elderly, and others whose home heating systems or fuel payments would not sustain them through the cold of night. I was urged into the Council meeting, which was to take place in about 5 minutes. As I sat there, and nervously described our intent, I was greeted with great acclamation and welcomed with words of thanksgiving and encouragement for Grace Church considering the needs of our community - they in fact, offered their support and assistance.

We have a small corps of volunteers who have offered to take training and spend the night at the Church, offer a pot of hot soup, warm hospitality, and a safe bedding. The Church is heated already. We are not wasting anything, other than a few hours of warmth and hospitality. And Christ Jesus' love for the poor and the needy.

Cots, pillows, blankets, coats, mittens, scarves. Many things have already been donated. Here is a list of other items we could distribute:

We are especially seeking the small, travel-size items and those that might be picked up on travel by people who have lots of hotel stays.

Shampoo/Conditioner	Body Wash
Soap	Tooth Paste
Tooth Brushes -- a big need	Baby Wipes
Wash Cloths	Lotions
Baby Powder	Small pkgs infant diapers
Small bottles or individual packets of Tylenol	

We'd even like to turn a broken rest-room into a shower room. Any plumbers around?

And now, we wait to open the doors and welcome those whom Christ would invite. If you'd like to volunteer to spend a night, there is simple training to do. Something as simple as making a pot of soup, or coming in early the next morning to make a simple breakfast. Simply see Fr. Erb if you'd like to help.

Remember our Lord and his mother needed shelter from the cold one Christmas Day long ago.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE JANUARY 2011

	January 2 <i>Christmas 2</i>	January 6 <i>Epiphany</i>	January 9 <i>Epiphany 1</i>	January 16 <i>Epiphany 2</i>	January 23 <i>Epiphany 3</i>	January 30 <i>Epiphany 4</i>
<i>Preacher</i>	Fr. Ed	Fr. Ed	Bro. Carl	Fr. Ed	Fr. Ed	S. Treanor
<i>Crucifer:</i>	C. Carroll	---	F. Hlavacek	Jordan Peer	D. Fink	A. Fink
<i>Acolyte:</i>	H. Stephens D. Foshay	---	O. Johannes J. Hinds	E. Becker K. Peer	G. Geinitz H. O'Connor	Jared Peer D. Foshay
<i>Lector:</i>	S. Treanor	J. Burgan	R. Stephens	J. Bunnell	A. Escalona	H. Stephens
<i>Intecessor:</i>	J. Roskoski	---	F. Hlavacek	J. Slate	S. Treanor	J. Bunnell
<i>Chalists:</i>	V. Cheripko	Bro. Carl	S. Treanor	F. Hlavacek	J. Roskoski	J. Slate
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	J. Slate S. Wilding	J. Slate S. Wilding	J. Slate S. Wilding	J. Bunnell E. Young	J. Bunnell E. Young	S. Soden J. Dohner
<i>Usher:</i>	BJ Clark J. Merritt	---	C. Carroll E. Carroll	P. Mikulak R. Stephens	BJ Clark J. Merritt	C. Carroll E. Carroll
<i>Coffee Hour:</i>	P. Mikulak J. Slate	---	N. Johannes J. Bunnell	R. Sampson D. Pursch	C. Geinitz J. Roskoski	S. Soden N. Kuzminski
<i>Counters:</i>	L. Erdman S. Wilding	---	K. Skinner B. Bazewicz	V. Cheripko E. Young	J. Bunnell S. Wilding	P. Mikulak J. Roskoski

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!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

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.

1/11 - Nicholaus Carroll
1/12 - Conar Carroll

Are we missing you or someone you know on our Birthday list? Let us know and we will add you/them to our prayers.

Announcement of the Annual Meeting
of the Parish of Grace Church, Honesdale:
Sunday, January 16th at 12:30

Friends,

The new year is here which means our Parish Annual Meeting is coming. Few realize that this is required by the Commonwealth according to our charter of Incorporation. (The Preamble is given below. A copy of the original charter will be on view at the Annual Meeting). In years past, one needed to rent a pew for two consecutive years before being allowed to vote! Aren't you glad we've progressed! ("Blueprints" of pew rental forms will also be on view at our meeting.)

The election of Vestry members, delegates to Diocesan Convention, and any other official business of the corporation are the agenda for each annual meeting of members of the congregation and are required to be filed with the Diocese of Bethlehem, and kept on record for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Committee chairs, parish organizations and officers need to get a written report to Rose in the parish office by Monday, Jan. 11th for inclusion in the Annual Report for 2009.

Please plan now to join your parish family in our official gathering. A Pot-Luck Luncheon will be offered.

CHARTER of INCORPORATION of
St. JAMES CHURCH, HONESDALE, 1832

Whereas the following named persons of this Commonwealth, vis:

Joseph B. Walton	A. Vinton
Charles Forbes	George Stratton
Thos. T. Hayes	Daniel B. Willcox
Hasting Frisbie	A. H. Farnham
Zena H. Russell	

have together with other citizens (*sic*), associated for the purpose of worshipping Almighty God according to the faith and discipline of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America; and have for that purpose formed a congregation at Honesdale in Wayne (*sic*) County are now desirous to be incorporated agreeably to the provisions of the Act of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, entitled "An Act, to confer on certain associations of this Commonwealth, the power and immunities of corporations on bodies politic in Law."

(*note*: The name of the parish remained St. James Church until the new building was constructed in 1853.)

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED,
URGED, CAJOLED, BRIBED, THREATENED

*to attend our annual Parish Meeting,
Church dinner*

*(who wants to make the Jello salad?!)
and parish elections for
Vestry and Convention delegate.*

Sunday, January 16th at noon.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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