



Grace Episcopal Church Honesdale, Pa.
Founded 1882

Grace Notes

of GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
The Rev'd Edward K. Erb, *rector*

827 Church Street
Honesdale, Pennsylvania 18431
(570) 253-2760

LENT 2011

PARSON'S CORNER

"DEM BONES"

A week ago, 250 people in the Diocese, including several from Grace Church, met for a Renewal Assembly. Those of you who know me know that I cringe at the word, "Renewal." (Too many charismatic, hand-waving experiences in my youth.) But I was engaged to attend (mainly because I needed to set an example, plus provide the electronic equipment from Grace Church).

So I went.

I was surprised and pleased to discover that the Diocesan Congregational Renewal Commission designed the day around the initial point of Contemplative Bible Study. A Benedictine practice of mine, called *Lectio Divina*, or "Sacred Reading" was used as a model for Christian transformation of the individual, then the parish, and then by extension the Diocese. *Lectio* invites the faithful into contemplation by taking a snippet of Scripture, reading it slowly, and spending time in silence meditating on what speaks out of that quotation - a word, a phrase, a mood... Again, I was surprised that my group actually did it. We were allotted 30 minutes of silence - twice! - to sit with the reading. Then each member of the small group shared their insight - where did God touch them in this reading?

The lesson shared was the familiar passage of the prophet Ezekiel and the Valley of Dry Bones. God asks the prophet, "Do you believe this pile of bones - the house of Israel - the parish of Grace Church - Ed Erb - will live again?" And God promises to Ezekiel that new life will be given to these bones. They will join themselves, ankle bone to the shin bone, shin bone to the knee bone -well, you remember the song. And sinew will be added, and flesh will grow, and skin will cover, and the breath of life will be restored.

Several people shared their experiences and insights. Particularly one priest expressed that we as clergy assume that we are to be the ones who bring about new life to the congregation - but we need to remind ourselves that it is God who brings about new life. We may only be the prophetic voice of hope - as was Ezekiel.

Eyes turned to me. What did I hear in the silence of these words?

I shocked them. "Sometimes it's OK to just lie there and be the bones."

We are led to believe in works righteous - that we must "do" our salvation. But Christ has already done it. While I firmly am a follower of St. James in that faith must be lived out in good works, I also am a follower of St. Paul, "God's Grace is sufficient for you." It's on the T-shirts several of us wear.

This Lent, I look forward to being dry - desert 40-day dry - and simply lying in the desert as a bone - bone dry. And wait for God. Wait for God. "For God alone, my soul in silence waits." (Psalm 62).

Sometimes, it's OK just to be a bone.

(If you're interested in Lectio Divina, I'll offer an Adult Forum session.)

Father Erb

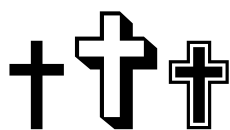
✝️ Ash Wednesday Services at Grace Church March 9th at 7:00 am and 7:00 pm

Sin? What sin? Do I have sin? *Do* I sin? What exactly *is* sin?

If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and we lie. But if we confess our sins, God will cleanse us.

1 John 1: 8,9

- + A special service for Youth will be held on Ash Wednesday at 7:30 am - yes, you'll be able to get to school late! A Service of Reconciliation at 7:00 am with a simple breakfast following.
- + A traditional service of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes is also offered at 7:00 in the evening.



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 6:00pm beginning March 11th

TUESDAY LENTEN SUPPERS, beginning March 15th at 6:00 pm

Listening with the Heart - Hearing God's Will

Every day we should do God's will, we should seek God's will with every decision we make. But how do you discern what God wants, what is best for you and the transformation of the world? Join us as we explore these questions.

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

CHRISM MASS:

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, April 14th

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.

See Fr. Erb if you'd like to accompany him.

Upcoming dates and topics for Adult Ed

Adult Forum: these topics may move if discussion takes longer than projected

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sunday March 6 | Salvation – What do we mean? |
| and | Saved from what? Blindness? Sin? |
| Sunday March 13 | For what? How are we saved? |
| Sunday March 20 | What are Christian Practices? |
| Sunday March 27 | Continuation of Christian Practices |
| Sunday April 3 | Christian Community |
| Sunday April 10 | |
| Sunday April 17 | Archeology |
| Palm Sunday | Jerusalem |

Future topic: The tale of the translation of the Bible into English.

Book Discussion

Currently we are about to begin discussing “Reclaiming the Great Commission”. We are meeting at the church in the choir room on the first Friday of every month at 12:15.

March 4 “Reclaiming the Great Commission”, Section I, P 5 - 39

April 1 “Reclaiming the Great Commission”, Section II, P 43-162

May 6 “Reclaiming the Great Commission”, Section III, P 165-216

June 3 “Reclaiming the Great Commission”, Section IV, P 219-244

Bible Study

We are currently meeting the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month at 12:15. During our hour together we discuss the gospels appointed for the next two weeks. The readings for the next bible study are posted on the door to the choir room.

MINISTERIUM LENTEN SERIES -

The annual series of services rotates from Church to Church on Sunday afternoons at 4:00 PM, beginning on Sunday, March 13th at Grace Church with Pastor Ken Buckwalter of St. John's Lutheran Church leading worship. Each service is followed by a simple Lenten fare of soup and bread.

Join our sisters and brothers in a time of prayer and fellowship in a Christian unity. The offerings received at these services each year provides aid to those in need in our community.

ANNUAL MEN'S LENTEN BREAKFAST

The Ministerium also offers its annual men's Lenten Service and Breakfast at Central United Methodist Church on Sunday, March 13th at 7:00 AM. The guest speaker will describe the ministry of Kairos, a Cursillo movement within the prison setting - seeking to renew and transform the lives of inmates.

Guys see Fr. Erb for \$5 tickets to the breakfast.





DIOCESAN TRAINING for MINISTRY

Saturday, April 2, 2011

9:00 - 3:30

at St. Stephen's Pro-Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre

Workshop Descriptions

Wardens & Vestry 101 (Morning)

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

Ministry of the Lay Eucharistic Visitor (Part One: Morning & Part Two: Afternoon)

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

Stewardship: Bringing Financial Sanity to the Family (Morning)

Led by Dan Charney, chair, Diocesan Stewardship Committee

Technology and Communication: Understanding & Working with ChurchPost

Led by John Goodell, owner of ChurchPost (Part One: Morning & Part Two: Afternoon)

Transitional Formation in Parishes (Morning)

Led by Kim Rowles, Diocesan Missioner for Youth

Come Let Us Worship - for Laity and Clergy (Morning)

Led by Mo. Laura Howell, Obl. S.B.; Fr. John Francis

Evangelism as Prayer and Faith Sharing:

How the *Unbinding the Gospel* series may work in your parish. (Morning)

Led by The Rev'ds Jane Bender, Doug Moyer and Mrs. Carol Keane

Enabling Ministries: Forward Life Planning (Afternoon)

Led by Mr. Charlie Barebo, chair of the New Hope Campaign

Treasurer's Workshop (Afternoon)

Led by R. Bruce Reiner, Diocesan Ass't Treasurer

The Confirmation Conundrum (Afternoon)

Led by Canon Anne Kitch, Diocesan Christian Formation

Health Ministries (Afternoon)

Led by Mrs. Diana Marshall, wife of Bishop Paul and head of the Diocesan Health Ministries

Incorporating New Members into the Episcopal Church (Afternoon)

Led by Canon Anne Kitch, Diocesan Christian Formation

Training for Regional Discernment Teams (Afternoon)

Led by Members of the Commission on Ministry

For a brochure and more info, see Fr. Erb

CHRISTOPHANY - A "SHOWING" of CHRIST

A weekend retreat for youth throughout the Diocese.



Some of our Youth will be attending this annual event, this year with the theme Anti-Violence.

As a part of the work for the retreat, the Youth are collecting for victims of violence - women, children *and* men -

for all sizes, for all ages, and for both genders:

Socks

Underwear

Shirts

Pants

Small Toys/ Stuffed Animals

Gift Cards for Fast Food or local Grocery Stores

YOUTH - INTERESTED in ATTENDING? See Fr. Erb for info

FRIDAY - SUNDAY, APRIL 8-10 at POCONO PLATEAU RETREAT CENTER (in Candadensis)

featured at Christophany will be contemporary Christian musician:

FRAN McKENDREE

The best part is that

Fran will visit Grace Church

**for a special, Sunday evening worship service
Sunday, April 10, at 6:00 PM**

Fran has recently designed an hour long evening worship service that incorporates scripture, poetry, song, and silence. This most recent addition to his work has connected with people of diverse liturgical disciplines, and provides a quiet, centering time - for prayer and community.



check him out, hear some of his tracks, at:
www.franmckendree.com

F ran will make your heart sing, your feet move, and your soul open. Through song, story and life experience, F ran brings an authenticity that truly inspires every gathering."
the Right Rev. Brian Prior, Episcopal Diocese of MN

MINISTRY SCHEDULE for LENT (March-April) 2011

| | <i>Ash Wednes. March 9</i> | <i>Lent 1 March 13</i> | <i>Lent 2 March 20</i> | <i>Lent 3 March 27</i> | <i>Lent 4 April 3</i> | <i>Lent 5 April 10</i> | <i>Palm Sunday April 17</i> | <i>Good Friday April 22</i> |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| <i>Preacher:</i> | Susan Treanor | Fr. Ed | Brother Carl | Fr. Ed | Susan Treanor | Fran Hlavacek | Susan Treanor | Brother Carl |
| <i>Crucifer:</i> | A. Fink | F. Hlavacek | Jordan Peer | D. Fink | E. Carroll | Conar Carroll | Alec Fink | D. Fink |
| <i>Acolytes</i> | --- | O. Johannes J. Hinds | E. Becker K. Peer | G. Geinitz H. O'Connor | H. Stephens H. O'Connor | O. Johannes D. Foshay | G. Geinitz, J. Hinds, D. Fink, K. Soden | --- |
| <i>Lector:</i> | J. Bunnell | S. Treanor | H. Stephens | R. Stephens | D. Pursch | B. Hattersley | M. Corso | T. Stephens |
| <i>Intecessor:</i> | F. Hlavacek | F. Hlavacek | J. Bunnell | J. Bunnell | F. Hlavacek | J. Roskoski | J. Slate | F. Hlavacek |
| <i>Chaliciat:</i> | C. Hooker | J. Bunnell | J. Roskoski | V. Cheripko | J. Roskoski | J. Slate | C. Hooker | --- |
| <i>Altar Guild:</i> | S. Wilding J. Bunnell | S. Soden J. Slate | S. Soden J. Slate | J. Dohner S. Wilding | J. Dohner S. Wilding | J. Bunnell S. Soden | J. Bunnell S. Soden | --- |
| <i>Usher:</i> | J. Bunnell | P. Mikulak R. Stephens | B.J. Clark J. Merritt | E. Carroll C. Carroll | D. Hinds L. Erdman | A. Hill T. Hill | D. Pursch D. Peer | J. Bunnell C. Carroll |
| <i>Coffee Hour:</i> | --- | F. Hlavacek J. Bunnell | C. Geinitz | N. Petrosky J. Roskoski | J. Albert M. Baker | D. Pursch R. Sampson | D. Lewis C. Escalona | --- |
| <i>Counters:</i> | --- | B. Bazewicz S. Wilding | L. Erdman K. Skinner | J. Bunnell N. Johannes | E. Young V. Cheripko | B. Bazewicz J. Bunnell | 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!

LENT 2011 Birthdays

Remember our Parish family in your Prayers

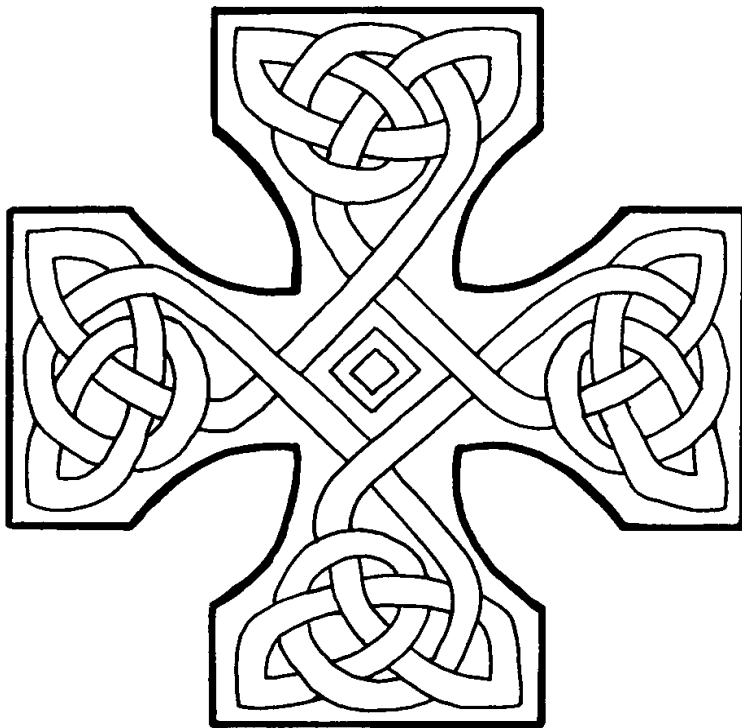
O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant N. as he begins another year. Grant that he may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen his trust in your goodness all the days of his life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mar 7 - Steve Cusumano, Ronald Greateorex
 Mar 9 - Betty Roberts

4/5 - Pat Coggins
 4/5 - Suzanne Theobald
 4/11 - Colleen Marie Caruso
 4/14 - Richelle Stephens
 4/28 - Pete Mikulak

4/17 - Marlene Brown
 4/20 - Stacy Mikulak
 4/11 - Dorothy Ridgeway
 4/26 - Fr. Ed
 4/29 - Paige Corso

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

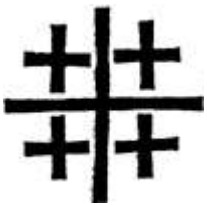
IT HAS A CLEAR PATH

LEADING US
TO AN INNER KNOWING
OF OURSELVES
AND GOD

IF WE TRACE ITS PATTERN

*Travel the pathway with your finger as you quietly
meditate on God's presence.*

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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