



Grace Notes

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

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EASTERTIDE 2021

PARSON'S CORNER

"Moving on"

By now, you have all received my letter of resignation effective June 1st. Sadly, after that time, Sue and I have to cut off any and all ties, communications and sadly even attendance at funerals and weddings of those we have come to love as friends and colleagues in our joint ministry in Jesus.

This was not an easy decision. As a matter of fact we had planned that I would retire from Grace Church at the end of 2023. But Sue and I prayed and have discerned that I am 'too young' to retire, nor would many more years in the parish be good for Grace Church. And rather on a whim the week before Christmas, I updated my profile in the national Church's computer system (boy, that was not an easy process these days!) and sent an application the day before the deadline to St. Paul's Church in Wellsboro, not expecting anything to come of it. But two months later, it did, and I was asked for an interview.

St. Paul himself talks about the will of the human, and the will of the Spirit. I don't know which side of my being took hold, but I pray that the Spirit has moved and called me to share my ministry for eight more years to full retirement. (In the Episcopal Church, a priest must retire as a rector of a parish at age 72. And as people don't seem to realize, I'm older than I act.)

I have mentioned for a couple of years to Vestry and parishioners, even townfolk, that I would be leaving Grace Church retiring at a 'young age'. The current Vestry, under the leadership of former Sr. Warden Todd Stephens began to work towards that end. And, as he says, "Acting" Senior Warden, Dr. Matt Corso, has taken on responsibilities for leading Vestry and other in making a transition - now in full speed ahead.

Grace Church is known by many as "The Community Church." And I pray that will continue in new and creative ways. The Covid Pandemic has given us the opportunity - yes, I say opportunity - to see things in new ways and to be creative.

The cold of winter has gone. This *has* been a winter, hasn't it! In many ways. But the Resurrection of Jesus as the earth bursts forth gives us faithful everlasting, every Spring, every day, a hope and a challenge. We discussed in our Zoom Bible Study a few weeks ago how the Spiritual Life of Prayer and Bible Study feeds our Ministry, and how that Ministry likewise feeds our hunger for Prayer and Bible Study. All in a special and miraculous circle dance with God's Spirit of Sanctity.

In all our "newnesses" may God bless us, and all to whom *we* seek to bless - here, now and in the future, wherever God calls each and every one of us. *And* Sue and I plan to return and retire back here. You only thought you could get rid of us! Har. Har!

Father Ed

"A House of God for All"

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH 2021

On Sunday, March 9th, Vestry met with, as you know, the big news -

Fr. Ed and Sue are moving on.

and since the meeting, we learned that Bishop Nichols is allowing us to open up for public worship!

But before that...

- + Pete Mikulak reported that there are still problems with the boiler. Plans are in place for repairing the Rectory roof, the slate sidewalks around the Church and the parking spaces, and some window replacements or repairs.
- + The annual Easter candy fund-raiser has been successful this year with Sue Erb leading a number of experienced ladies in the kitchen.
- + A new computer and a variety of programs have been installed in the office which with Fr. Erb's leaving will make life easier for a Parish Administrator to take over.
- + A Confirmation class has been meeting for several weeks with Fr. Erb, and we are hoping that Bishop Nichols will be able to be in Honesdale on the feast of the Ascension (as this has been our tradition), Thursday, May 13th.
- + So the big news was shared by Fr. Erb and Sr. Warden Matt Corso that Fr. Ed and Sue will be leaving Grace Church after 12+ years. Fr. Ed has accepted the call to be Rector of St. Paul's Church in Wellsboro (PA) - three hours west on Route 6, and close to his home in Central PA. Fr. Ed begins at St. Paul's on June 1st.
- + A Search Committee will be formed soon, and supply priests for the coming months will be solicited.

PARISH BIRTHDAYS

(Remember our Parish family in your prayers)

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

<u>April</u>		<u>May</u>			
4	Ann Bock	15	Joan Merritt, Eileen Hetzel	11	Robert O'Connor
8	Hannah & Harry DeVrieze	16	Dorothy Ridgeway	15	Joan Russo
9	Beth DeVrieze	26	Fr. Erb	18	Hunter Stephens
10	Pat Coggins	28	Peter Mikulak	19	Elektra Kehagias, Kyle Peer
11	Don Bock	29	Paige Corso	21	Sandi Grandinetti
12	Jaidyn Mikulak			23	Christian Marsh
14	Richelle Stephens	3	George Carl	25	John Sullivan
		10	Bernice Testa	27	Sebastian Kiraly
				29	Martha Wilson

EASTER CANDY

Another very successful year of Easter Candy making! Thanks to Sue Erb, Joan Russo, Pat Coggins, Sue Wilding, Bobbie Hraba (from St. John's Hamlin), and Margo Hocker. And to all those who sold candy to family and co-workers!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>April 2021</h1>						
<p>WHILE WE WILL HOLD IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES, WE WILL CONTINUE TO OFFER “VIRTUAL GRACE” BROADCASTS.</p>				<p>1 MAUNDY THURSDAY</p> <p><i>(there will be no Agapé meal this year)</i></p>	<p>2 GOOD FRIDAY</p> <p>noon & 7:00 pm “Proper Liturgy” for Good Friday</p>	<p>3 HOLY SATURDAY</p> <p>5:00 Easter Service 8:00 pm The Great Vigil of Easter with ‘private’ Baptisms</p>
<p>4 EASTER DAY</p> <p>Celebrations at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00.</p>	5	6	7	8	9	<p>10</p> <p>Holy Communion resumes at 5:00 in the Parish Hall!</p>
<p>11 Easter 2</p> <p>Holy Communion resumes at our normal times! 8:00 & 10:00 9:00 Confirmation</p>	12	13	14	15	16	<p>17</p> <p>Saturday ‘luncheon’</p> <p>5:00 Holy Communion</p>
<p>18 Easter 3</p> <p>8:00 & 10:00 Holy Communion 9:00 Confirmation Class</p>	19	20	21	22	23	<p>24</p> <p>Saturday ‘luncheon’</p> <p>5:00 Holy Communion</p>
<p>25 Easter 4</p> <p>The Good Shepherd</p> <p>8:00 & 10:00 Holy Communion 9:00 Confirmation Class</p>	<p>26 <i>St. Mark, transf.</i></p>	27	28	29	30	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>May 2021</h1>						1 Sts. Philip & James Saturday 'luncheon' 5:00 Holy Communion
2 Easter 5 8:00 & 10:00 Holy Communion 9:00 Confirmation Class	3	4	5	6	7	8 Saturday 'luncheon' 5:00 Holy Communion
9 Easter 6 8:00 & 10:00 Holy Communion 9:00 Confirmation Class <i>Mothers' Day</i>	10 Rogation Day	11 Rogation Day	12 Rogation Day	13 Ascension Day 6:00 Confirmation ?	14	15 Saturday 'luncheon' 5:00 Holy Communion
16 Easter 7 8:00 & 10:00 Holy Communion	17	18	19	20	21	22 Saturday 'luncheon' 5:00 Holy Communion
23 PENTECOST 8:00 & 10:00 Holy Communion	24	25	26	27	28	29 Saturday 'luncheon' 5:00 Holy Communion
30 HOLY TRINITY 8:00 & 10:00 Holy Communion - Fr. Ed's last Sunday	31 <i>The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth</i>					

HOLY BAPTISM

Holy Saturday, we offer the Sacrament of New Birth through Baptism at the “Great Vigil of Easter” in a somewhat limited service this year.

The Great Vigil is one of the most special events in the Church year. We begin in the courtyard, lighting the New Fire and the Paschal Candle which is processed into the darkened Church.

We hear the
mystery of
o u r
Redemption
t h r o u g h
H o l y
Scripture
and shout,
“Alleluia,
alleluia,
alleluia!”

Those to be Baptized this year are Paul & Bernard Mikulak, Lesley Johnson and Lucy Foster.

SERVICE of CONFIRMATION

Offer your prayers for the five youth who have been preparing for Confirming the faith offered for them at Baptism as we hope the Bishop will come for the Episcopal Visitation (tentatively set for Ascension Day, Thursday May 13th: Elise and Ewan Marsh, Lucas Stephens, Ethan Corso and Harry DeVrieze.

GRADUATIONS - WHO IN THE PARISH FAMILY ARE TO BE HONORED?

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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