



Grace Notes

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

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

SPRING 2020

PARSON'S CORNER

I've done a lot of reading these days - you?

- + Re-reading the Old Testament via Robert Alter's acclaimed translation and commentary to challenge ya'll for Jeopardy
- + Fleming Rutledge sermons
- + a biography of St. Hilda of Whitby - who helped the British and Roman Church determine when Easter should properly be celebrated.
- + Albert Camus' *The Plague* and before the pandemic hit, a mystery about the Black Plague in London - how fortuitous, or as I say, "*Spiritipidous.*"



I was challenged by the love of my life the first week to prepare and 'perform' Virtual Grace broadcasts of short 15-20 minute 'services' each week. I offer grateful thanks to our videographer Sue, and out technician son Philip for producing these weekly offerings. Especially during Holy Week services, I thank Choir members Sue Keller, Zach Wyckoff and Jane Bunnell for adding their presence to the services.

I have enjoyed my own challenge and yours in digging into the Old Testament stories, history and theology. Twice before - prior to seminary and during seminary training - I was required to read the entire Bible (with Apocrypha). Surprise that someone preparing for the priesthood... Well, prior to that in working in the Church, and as a college Religion/Archaeology major, and since ordination dealing solely with the readings for Sunday worship and those other out-of-context readings for Morning and Evening Prayer, I honestly, have lost the context of the whole of Scripture. This time 'away' has proffered me the opportunity to dig back into it. And as I mentioned above, to dig deeper (remember, I was an Archaeology major) with Robert Alter's translation, footnotes and commentary. For anyone who is crazy like me, I urge you to buy and read through his highly acclaimed work.

We are redefining how we do Church. It's like the First Century when those faithful had to re-experience the work of Christ in their midst, and apart from them, and the pouring forth of the Holy Spirit. I invite you to read through the last chapters of John's Gospel, the first chapters of Luke's telling of the Pentecostal experience, and prayerfully, spirit-filled, be inspired to share how we continue to offer Grace in our community and the world.

Fr. Ed

Re-Opening Grace

Vestry (particularly your Sr. Warden Todd) and Fr. Ed have been working hard to determine with the Bishop's directives, Wayne County turning to 'Yellow,' the Governor's orders and CDC guidelines how we as a community of faith can begin to open our doors and worship God again together. Todd and Fr. Ed 'met' with Bishop Kevin this week to discuss our proposals and gained his approval for re-opening.

Each week may present new opportunities. And we are grateful for everyone's prayers, concerns, insights and especially, your patience and understanding as we all figure these things out for the safety of all God's people.

WORSHIP SERVICES TO RESUME:

We are pleased to announce that we will be able to open up worship services on Saturday at 5:00pm, and Sunday at 8:00 and 10:00am beginning May 30/31 - the feast of PENTECOST!

There is, however some restrictions. Only 25 people will be allowed into the building at one time. For this reason, the Saturday congregation will be welcomed as normal (12-15 people on average). We encourage any who would normally attend the 10:00 service (average 35-50), to come at 8:00am when we have a small attendance (3-8). This would provide a balanced attendance between the three services of 20-25 people, within our guidance. The 8:00 service will be held in the Church rather than the Chapel for good distancing, and larger capacity.

And yes, we will continue "Virtual Grace" videos each week. Approachable on our Facebook and Website.

MORNING PRAYER INSTEAD

Holy Communion at this point is not to be offered by the directive of the Bishop. In a sense we go back to the historic part of the Episcopal Church when Holy Communion was only offered several times a year. We almost go back to our parish beginnings in the 19th century.

We will be offering together Morning Prayer on Sundays and Evening Prayer on Saturdays. Nonetheless we will be able to be together again in our parish house of God.

We have creative ways planned for social distancing to be maintained (for example, it is eleven feet from the pulpit to the front pew! I measured) and every other pew will be blocked off. Entrance on Sundays will only be through the Tower Door which will be propped open, so you don't have to worry about the door handle. Facial coverings must be worn at all time, and some will be provided at the door. Offering plates will be placed on a table rather than being passed.

WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT

Is that we will be joining together as a family of Grace offering prayers, hearing God's word, and rejoicing in God's presence in our lives. We will continue the video services as well for those who wish to view from their own homes. They have been favorably received by many - around the country even!

We continue to pray that all are safe and healthy - in body and spirit - and that these restrictions will be replaced with new and wondrous experiences of worship fully together. Please offer your prayers of thanksgiving for the work of your Vestry.



A Message from Bishop Kevin:

The Primacy of Love Demands Justice and Racial Reconciliation

29 May 2020

Dearly beloved of God,

The outrage and horror over the brutal and needless murder of George Floyd, the latest in a string of brown and black people who have died senselessly, brings me to tears once again. The racial injustice that pervades our country and our communities leaves many terrified and in despair. The protests that have erupted out of this moment bespeak the desperate need for listening, healing, and action towards racial reconciliation.

As the adopted father of a young man of color, I have learned over the last 20 years that many of the things that my father taught me about the realities of this world are not true for those who happen to be brown or black skinned. My outrage and heartache does not and will never touch that of those who live the daily struggle of a world where racial bias and injustice abounds.

The primacy of love demands that each of us must respect the dignity of every human being. Sadly, this dignity has been diminished. Whether it is the racist killing of a jogger, biases in our criminal justice system, systemic poverty, healthcare inequalities, unjust immigration policies, or the disproportionate death rate of people of color during this COVID-19 pandemic, I am learning that I must find a way to leverage my societal privilege, authority, and power to confront these injustices and walk in solidarity with all of God's beloved.

I join with leaders around the country, the church, and in our local communities and beg that we focus on solutions to the systemic problems that surround us and find ways to support the most vulnerable in our communities. To that end, today I have called upon Sandy Milien, Missioner for Community Engagement, and the Rev. Canon Dale Grandfield, Canon Missioner, to assist me in the formation of a Racial Justice and Reconciliation Task Force, as we envision how to faithfully and actively stand against racism and inequality.

As I often say, the heart of Jesus' ministry was time spent with ordinary people--truly listening to them, and speaking truth about the most pressing issues of the time. I believe we are called to do the same in our communities. We need to hear from each other's hearts, acknowledge and confront our own biases, and have difficult conversations with each other. The only way forward is together - in love.

In God's love,

The Rt. Rev. Kevin D. Nichols
Bishop of Bethlehem

MAY & JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Remember our Parish family in your Prayers

God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, 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.

*Who are we missing?
Help us share a blessing.*

June
6 William Mikulak
9 Eddie Jellock
17 Karter Mikulak
22 Trisha Hill
23 Karen Hafler
27 Jared Peer

July
11 Eileen Wasman
12 Jane Bunnell,
William Bush
15 Jeanne Roskoski
17 Peggy O'Connor,
Ashley Starnes
23 Christian Marsh
28 Caroline Wilson

GRADUATES - We honor our graduates in their accomplishments this season:

Libby Stephens, graduating from Wayne Highlands, to attend Temple University in the Fall.

Jared Peer, graduating from Wayne Highlands, to attend Penn State/Scranton, then Main Campus, with an emphasis on architectural landscaping and design.

Leo Kehagias, graduating from Wayne Highlands, to attend George Washington University in DC, to major in poli sci and law.

Vincent Modugno, graduating from Wayne Highlands, future "to be determined."

George Carl, graduating from Wallenpaupack, to major in bio-chemistry.

Brian Wyckoff, graduating from Wallenpaupack, to attend Elizabethtown College, for education and math.

Taber Starnes, graduating from Temple University



St. Ann's chapter of The Daughters of the King

Sue Keller, President of the St. Ann Chapter

Many of you may have heard me speak briefly about the Daughters of the King.

At our last meeting a couple of weeks ago, there were 6 women in attendance.

During our meeting we touched base about how everyone is doing. Due to the

COVID-19 outbreak the annual retreat has been canceled but will be held as a mini-retreat through Zoom on Saturday, May 30th 10am to Noon.

The Daughters have decided to read "Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs and Principals". We usually do a study and decided this book would be a great place to start. If you would like to join us in reading Walk In Love, let father Ed know and he will order you a book.

We usually meet monthly but have started meeting by Zoom more often during these difficult times of social distancing. Our next meeting is June 14th at 4pm. We would love to have you join us. You can reach out to me at Skeller56@yahoo.com for more information.

Our Motto: *For His Sake, I am but one, but I am one
I cannot do everything, but I can do something
What I can do, I ought to do
What I ought to do, by the Grace of God, I will do
Lord, What will you have me do.*



The Brotherhood of St. Andrew

Making a difference in the Kingdom of God since 1883

A worldwide ministry to men and youth in the Episcopal/Anglican Communion & beyond

On Saturday May 10, Grace Episcopal's chapter of The Brotherhood of St. Andrew had its first Zoom meeting with regular attendees and Brother Conrad Jones, our provincial leader. Still a beginning chapter, we had to decide whether we wanted to choose a symbolic association with a specific saint, as other chapters have done. After considering the saints with a special connection to our own parish (St. James - the original name of the parish, and St. George - with our window in the Church, and the mural in the Parish Hall), the chapter chose St. George.

The chapter also chose a focus for its ministry, following the legend of St. George killing a dragon: battling the disease of addiction in our community, especially with our hosting of 12-Step programs. Over the next few meetings, we will surely be discussing steps forward, starting with a review of the information and resources at <https://brothersandrew.net/Ministries/recovery.html>.

We meet again on Saturday, June 13th, 8:30am. The meeting place is TBD, perhaps Zoom, hopefully not! For more information about Grace Episcopal's chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, please go to brothersandrew.net or reach out directly to Father Ed or Dave Faux (davefaux@dhf-law.net), our Chapter President.

ANNUAL PARISH NON-MEETING

We broke the Canons which require us to meet together as a parish incorporated entity in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by *not* having an annual meeting of the members of said corporation - namely *you*.

Canons state that the parish Vestry works officially in between total parish meetings, and the Executive Committee (Rector and Wardens) act in between Vestry meetings.

All that said, we recommended that in this confused year all Vestry members would remain one more year in addition to Diocesan Convention Delegates and Alternates.

Your Vestry for the coming year consists of: Todd Stephens, Sr. Warden; Peter Mikulak, Jr. Warden; Jane Bunnell, Dr. Matthew Corso, Marie Jellock, Susan Keller, Peggy O'Connor, Neil Petrosky, Jeanne Roskoski, Zachary Wyckoff, and Beth DeVrieze as Clerk. Convention Delegates remain as Sue Keller and Zach Wyckoff, with Maggie Niles as Alternate. Zach Wyckoff offered to be added as Alternate / Delegate for 2021 (as we need one Delegate to be a member of Vestry, and would provide a 2-year continuity).

MANY OF US ARE DOING A LOT OF BAKING



Here is Dylan making bread for his "First" Holy Communion Instruction.

A private Celebration with his immediate family will be held at their convenience.

Maybe when we all come back together, we can share some of Dylan's good work.

Honestly looks like the bread Jesus might have broken with his Disciples.



"The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the Bread."

Grace Notes

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
827 Church Street
Honesdale, Pennsylvania 18431

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SPRING 2020