



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

FEBRUARY 2008

PARSON'S CORNER *

The Lenten Journey

Very soon we begin traveling down the road from Bethlehem to Jerusalem following behind the Disciples and accepting Christ's call to "Follow." It seems too close to Christmas - could it really be time for Ash Wednesday and Lent?

As I sit and write, I am between two Sundays when we have heard John the Baptist say to Andrew on the shores of the Jordan River: "There is the Lamb of God. Go and follow." And this next Sunday we hear the story of four fishermen being called by Jesus to Come and follow: Andrew, Peter, James and John. Setting up a theme of going and following, traveling down a journey with Christ which will eventually lead to Jerusalem, Calvary and our salvation from sin and death.

There are many milestones along the way these forty days of Lent. Each stopping point will bring us a little further down the road until we stand at the gates of Jerusalem with the palms in our hands, and the voice of "Hosanna" on our lips. But let us not get too far ahead on the road.

We begin on February 6th - Ash Wednesday. No one should begin a journey of such importance without proper preparation. Just this month John the Baptist himself has shown us how to prepare to follow Jesus with an acknowledgment of our sinfulness - a reminder that we are all "dust from dust and ash to ash." Two services will be held on Ash Wednesday, at 12:10 in the afternoon (for the downtown working crowd and those who do not like to drive at night) and at 7:00 PM with music.

Then each Friday during Lent at 12:10 PM we will walk the Stations of the Cross. I invite you to observe the Fast on Fridays at noon and join with me in reliving the steps of Jesus through the streets of Jerusalem as we carry the Cross to each Station around the Church.

Each step along our Lenten journey will bring us closer to full awareness of God's great acts of love done for each of us. Are you able to say, God loves me so much that he did this for me? It is so easy to generalize and say that "God so loves the world" (John 3:16) but harder for most to say that "God so loves me." That is my invitation for you to come and follow the journey of this Lent 2008. Let us come to Jerusalem together. Let us go to the gates of the city, let us walk the streets to the Upper Room, let us follow along to Calvary and sit waiting in the Garden. What a journey it will be!

Father Erb

* In my first parish, I called myself The Country Parson, taking the title from George Herbert's classic text from 17th cent. England. Now in Honesdale, I feel like I must be "Parson Brown" from Winter Wonderland!

WELCOME to Staff-members: Rose Rosler, secretary & Nicole O'Connell, treasurer

Hello to all,

Fr. Ed asked me to share with you a little something of my life for your newsletter. So, please bear with me. My name is Rose Rosler and I am your church's current secretary. Quite a few of you, I am happy to say, I know already. Especially Jane Bunnell with whom I graduated. I was born in Honesdale; graduated from Honesdale High School. After high school, because I couldn't afford to go to college, my cousin, sister and myself enlisted in the U. S. Army. Medical training was my choice of careers. After I graduated boot camp and Advanced Individual Training, I was given my first duty station, Ft. Benning, Georgia. When I started at the Mash 4077th, I was given a choice of jobs; either pediatric or psychiatric. H-mm-h, hard choice. But, you guessed it, I chose psychiatric. Good thing for me because I needed all the therapy I could get.

After I finished my three years of military time, I came back home to Honesdale, met and married my husband Pat Rosler. After five years of it just being the two of us talking to each other, we had a child by the name of Shawn Patrick Rosler. What a joy that turned out to be. Shawn is 30, is married to Greta Keller Rosler. They both work for Geisinger Hospital. On August 30, 2008, they blessed us with our grandson, Wesley Patrick Rosler know to his grandparents as "Whipper."

I just retired from the State Welfare on December 7, 2007 after 26 years. And even though I gave my husband five months before he had to get another job after his retirement, he gave me two weeks. What a guy!!!

And now, you have me. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your church.

Take Care,
Rose Rosler



Nicole O'Connell comes to Grace Church as our new Treasurer. She and her husband Chet both grew up in the area. Nicole graduated from Honesdale High School in 2002 and since then has been employed as a crew member at McDonald's, a salesperson at JCPenney and a bank teller.

Many of you met Nicole and her 2 yo son, Christian at our Annual Meeting. Because of raising a young boy, Nicole sought a part-time job that would give her flexibility and the ability to work at home.

She has been working carefully with Mary Skinner for several weeks getting to know the works. We thank Mary for guiding Nicole through the transition.

Welcome, Nicole!

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

20 January 2008

Thanks are due to three dedicated women who have served Grace Church as Vestry-members these past three years: Gail Lowden, Dianne Romano and Doris Lewis, all who cycle off Vestry today. Especially we give thanks for Dianne and Doris who have faithfully served as co-Junior Wardens in charge of the great responsibility for the physical plant of our Victorian splendor - the "Grey Elephant!" Gail has offered much in electronic data and organizational skills. We will miss them all on our Vestry.

We welcome to new positions on Vestry, B. J. Clark and Deborah Pursch who will begin their own three-year term. They were elected by consensus at today's Annual Parish Meeting. It is particularly to be noted that Deborah, after chairing the Search Committee with all its hard work and many hours spent in finding a new rector is willing to assume new duties in ministry to God's people. And welcome also to BJ who I expect will bring great organizational and communication skills to our leadership team.

A Resolution of Courtesy was passed to honor Pastor Michael Lyle on the day of his ordination at First Presbyterian Church.

We honored with a special designation, our devoted organist of many years, Phyllis Korb. See the Resolution below. A framed certificate and purse collected from the parish were given to Phyllis - to spend wildly!

We also welcomed our new Treasurer, Nicole O'Connell and our new parish secretary, Rose Rosler; as well as looking to transitions in our situations with sexton and organist.

Copies of the Annual Report are available in the back of the Church for any who were unable to attend.

ANNUAL REPORT of the UNITED THANK OFFERING *

The UTO, United Thank offering Ingathering is held twice a year, fall and spring. We encourage the members of the congregation to use the "Blue Box" and each day as they are thankful for something, to put a monetary amount in the box. The amount in the box is then brought to Church on the day of the Ingathering.

The total amount collected for 2007 was \$472.87.

Many thanks to all who made this happen.

UTO Coordinator
Joan Merritt

* *with apologies to Joan. We found her report Monday after the Annual Meeting.*

The following Resolution was passed unanimously at the Annual Meeting

Whereas Phyllis Korb has made rich the lives of many from the young at heart to the mature and discerning with the joy of music and the love of God;

and Whereas she has lifted the inner symphonies from the daily routine and cares of this life into a realm of beauty approaching heaven's gate;

and Whereas after many years of filling this temple with joyous strains both soft and majestic, she now retires from active and weekly ministry;

Therefore be it resolved this 20th day of January 2008 that each third Sunday of Easter, *Jubilate Deo*, be named in this parish of Grace Church, **The Phyllis Korb Church Music Sunday**.

Signed to rousing acclaim and grateful devotion,
The Rector, Wardens, Vestry and People
Grace Church Parish, Honesdale Pennsylvania

*There let the pealing organ blow
To the full-voiced choir below,
In service high and anthems clear,
As may with sweetness, through mine ear,
Dissolve me into ecstasies,
And bring all heaven before mine eyes.*

John Milton (1563-1647)

Phyllis responds:

Dear Father Erb and Parishioners,

Thank you for your gifts and thought Sunday, Jan. 20. Your spirit has brought me happiness through these months of illness.

Instead of my being here for the Annual Meeting, I was playing at the Bethany Presbyterian Church where you know I have been in the past. However, your organist and your choir will lead your singing God's praises throughout the years!

*Yours,
Phyllis Korb*

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

SCOUT RECOGNITION SUNDAY

February 3rd at the 11:00 Service, we will have special guests from Cub Scout Pack 105 assisting with our worship. The Cub Scouts have been chartered by Grace Church for many years, I understand, and it will be great to recognize these youngsters as they grow in the 12 points of the Scout Law: to be Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly... all the way to Reverent. Boy Scouts or Scouters are invited to wear your uniform, too and be recognized.



“SNO-FEST” Sunday February 10

Following Church service, we'll grab a sack lunch for the trip and head off to Elk Mountain for an afternoon of fun. Skiers and Snow-boarders alike, beginners to advance. Want a lesson? Stay on the Bunny Slope? Hit the Black Diamonds or Terrain Park? Or just sit in the Lodge and read?

Details available soon - the Youth are meeting as we speak to plan the trip!

Did you know that “snow” is mentioned 22 times! in the Bible? (27, if you count the Apocrypha!)



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A newly energized Christian Ed. Committee is being formed, looking to reinstate our program for children, youth and adults. Sunday School classes, Confirmation study, Youth Group, Adult Forum, retreats, conferences & workshops, ministry discernment.... There is so much that could be done with Christian “Formation.” If you are interested in participating, or offering ideas at least, see Deborah Pursch or Sue Erb.

NEWS of the EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

Any woman who comes to Church is automatically a member of E.C.W., there are no other requirements to membership!

The ECW Board does much of the planning for events during the year. There are two full meetings a year, one in May and one in October for fellowship and to plan for the next few months. The board meets separately and communicates as needed.

ECW is in dire need of volunteers to fill vacancies for President, 1st Vice President and 2nd Vice President. If anyone is interested, contact Jane Bunnell at 253-6091 or Fr. Ed at the Church, 253-2760. Please consider volunteering - ECW Board needs You!!

MEN'S LENTEN BREAKFAST

Men and Boys are invited to a special Lenten Service and Breakfast beginning at 7:00 AM on Sunday, February 10th at CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, corner of Church & 11th Streets. Sponsored by The Honesdale Ministerium. A donation of \$6 is suggested. Tickets available from Fr. Erb



ECUMENICAL LENTEN SERVICES

Each Sunday during Lent, the Honesdale Ministerium sponsors an ecumenical worship service. You are invited to come and join our sisters and brothers in Christ. All services begin at 7:00 PM. This year, local Ministers will be offering messages on the themes of the Lord's Prayer. Special music is provided by the host Church.

<i>date</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>preacher</i>	<i>theme</i>
February 10	First Baptist Church	Pastor Michael Lyle	"Your kingdom come"
February 17	St. Mary's RC Church	Pastor Rebecca Sweet	"Your will be done"
February 24	St. John's Lutheran Church	Father Martin Boylan	"Give us today"
March 2	Bethany Un. Meth. Church	Pastor Ryan Kraus	"Forgive our sins"
March 9	Bethany Presbyterian Ch.	Pastor Mitchell Lindquist	"Save us from the time"
Palm Sunday	Grace Episcopal Church	Pastor Val Rommel	"Deliver us from evil"
Good Friday	First Presbyterian Church	Father Edward Erb	"For the kingdom"

ADULT FORUM for LENT

Sundays at 9:30

The Rector would like to gather any interested folk for coffee and discussion between Sunday services. Father Ed has mentioned a book he has been reading by A. J. Jacobs, The Year of Living Biblically. Jacobs, an agnostic Jew living in Manhattan writes for *Esquire* magazine. He takes the dare to live one whole year according to the commandments of the Bible - yes, as many as he can - between 600-700 of them. The account of his trials is humorous, enlightening, and brings him and the reader to a new awareness of God, religion, and spirituality.

Sundays, from 9:30-10:30 beginning on February 10, join Father Ed in his study for a chat of what would it be like to live a year following all the commandments? Like growing your beard, wearing a white wool 'dress' with a rope belt, and carrying a wooden staff down the streets of New York City. Sounds pretty normal to me. But spreading lamb's blood on your apartment doorposts?!?

The HONESDALE COMMUNITY PANTRY

Answered 30 calls in November serving 56 adults and 53 children; In December, 15 calls serving 21 adults and 22 children. Some items in short supply are: crackers, dry milk, salad oil, cereal juice and mayonnaise. Should you wish to donate food, Monday afternoons from 1:00-3:00 would be a good time, at the building just north of the courthouse. *Sincerely, Alice Martin, secretary.*

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAYS
at 8:00 ("spoken")
and 11:00 (with music)

February 2008

ECUMENICAL LENTEN SERVICES

Sundays at 7:00 PM - See Schedule in GraceNotes
beginning February 10th

3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<i>Last Epiphany</i>				<i>ASH</i> WEDNESDAY		
11:00 Recognition of Scouts			Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist		12:10 Stations of The Cross	Community Lunch
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<i>LENT ONE</i>						
7:30 Men's Breakfast at First Presbyterian					12:10 Stations of The Cross	
SNOW-FEST					Deadline to register,	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<i>LENT TWO</i>						
(Father DIOCESAN	Erb CLERGY	Away) RETREAT			12:10 Stations of The Cross	Community Lunch
24	25	26	27	28	29	
<i>LENT THREE</i>						
					12:10 Stations of The Cross	

The DIOCESE
NATIONAL CHURCH
and WORLD-WIDE ANGLICAN COMMUNION



DIOCESAN TRAINING DAY

Saturday, March 1st

at St. Stephen's Church, Wilkes Barre, PA

Each year our Diocese offers a day of workshops and seminars on a variety of topics appropriate for anyone in the parish. Sessions are held for Vestry members, new and old; Treasurers and Finance Committees, Planned Giving; Children & Youth;

Father Erb is leading one of the training sessions, so a ride is waiting for you. Come alone! Brochures are available in the Church Office.

ANY ADULTS SEEKING CONFIRMATION or RECEPTION into the Episcopal Church when the Bishop visits this June should see Fr. Erb to schedule preparation sessions. Learn more about the Episcopal Church and your faith expression.

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