



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

MARCH 2008

PARSON'S CORNER

PROMISES MADE

There is an old paradigm of ministry, that unfortunately for this pipe-smoker is a bit archaic and impossible in these days of "Thank You for Not Smoking" signs. Alas, especially as I gave up my pipe for Lent, I will have to ponder the image offered while chewing on an unlit pipe. A priest of former days remarked that when someone came into his office for consultation or counsel, he would stuff hi pipe full of tobacco and light it. (Now, you must understand that there is an art to loading, packing, lighting, and drawing on a pipe - OK, yes, I'm going through withdrawal!) The priest continued, "I would light my pipe and sit at my desk, and listen to what my parishioner unfolded in their concerns, anxieties, issues, needs. If my pipe went out, I knew I had been talking too much." That image of a priest slowly drawing on his pipe, leaning back in his desk chair timelessly listening to his parishioners is a dear and quaint image, but it IS dear to me, not only as a pipe smoker, but as your new rector. I told the Search Committee and Vestry that most of my first year would be just sitting back and listening to the concerns - and joys - but mostly this time, the concerns of you, the people of Grace Church.

One of the greatest concerns that have come across my desk (besides the electrical problems in these buildings!) is that over the past years uni-lateral and irrevocable decisions were made with a handful (at most) of Vestry-members or others "in the know." As I drew a group of people together to work on a particular issue so that we could present a recommendation to Vestry the following week, someone remarked to me after the meeting their surprise and delight, and perhaps skepticism. Even in the proposal we were making, there were built in checks and balances between committees and the Vestry, things I expect as "standard operating procedures."

And this is what I, as your "executive officer," but more importantly as your pastor, will expect. One of my favorite sayings has a double edge to it. "Vestry does not do committee work." That suggests that there must be an active and responsible committee structure for the smooth operation of parish life. It also suggests that Vestry relies upon and trusts its Committees to do their work and make their recommendations after diligent and responsible background work.

This sounds like a long and tedious process. Yes. But it also sounds like a group of creative people joining together to brainstorm and present ideas and solutions well-thought out and by the time they are done, so obvious that Vestry needs do nothing more than say, "Why didn't we think of that! Go for it!"

To this end, you will see invitations in weeks and months ahead for you - YOU - to become involved in the Committees of our Vestry. You may not be interested in teaching children the faith of the Church - not everyone can be. But you may be able to help in the Building and Property issues which address us. You may not be talented in Fund-raising, but you may have creative insights into meaningful Worship.

continued

The basic structure I see - and this is the base line, the minimal, the absolute least - there are so many other possibilities - is:

- Building & Grounds
- Christian Formation (*aka* Christian Education)
- Evangelism & Outreach
- Finance & Stewardship
- Pastoral Care

and Worship & Music

what about Fellowship?
what about Fine Arts?
what about.....

Which of these groups are you called to? Which ones might seem interesting? In which ones do you have experience, curiosity, deep concern?

As a gathering meeting is called for this or that, we pray that you will not be hesitant to come to an exploratory meeting at least. You can always come once and dip your toe in the water, and decide, "No, that's not quite what I feel called to." Or you might just discover, "Hey, I could do that!"

Remember two old hymns, "Jesus calls [to] us, o'er the tumult of our [heart/mind's] life's wild, restless sea."
and, "O Jesus, I have promised to serve you.... and your/my Church..."

(OK, I changed a lot, but you get the idea. You **HAVE** the ideas! So share them! The rest of us may be clueless!)

And this is my continual promise - I will listen. I hope you will listen, too, to what the Lord God is calling us to do together in this small corner of His kingdom.

Father Erb

YOGA at GRACE CHURCH

Meditation...

Whether you use it for stress reduction
or to deepen your prayer life,
learning how to meditate and clear the mind of countless worries
will help you to achieve a happier, more fulfilling life.

Come and join us for an introductory class and learn how to meditate.

Tuesday March 25th from 5:15-6:15 pm.

Classes will be taught by Michael Grady, former Vestry member at Grace Church,
and long-time instructor at the Himalayan Institute
who will share what he has learned in over 25 years of teaching yoga and meditation.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE for MARCH 2008

	March 2 nd LENT 4	March 9 th LENT 5	March 16 th PALM SUNDAY	March 20 th MAUNDY THURS	March 21 st GOOD FRIDAY	March 22 nd GREAT VIGIL	March 23 rd EASTER DAY	March 30 th EASTER 2
<i>Crucifer</i>	C. Lathrop	I. Pursch	B. Pursch			C.Lathrop	I. Pursch	C. Sampson
<i>Thurifer</i>			C. Sampson				C. Lathrop	
<i>Torches</i>							CJ & K Schupe	
<i>Lector</i>	J. Bunnell	K. Skinner	G. Feldman			<i>various</i>	D. Pursch	J. Bunnell
<i>Intercessor</i>	D. Lewis	J. Roskoski	J. Slate				<i>(none required)</i>	<i>(none required)</i>
<i>Altar Guild</i>	S. Soden E. Young	S. Soden E. Young	K. Skinner P. Corso S. Soden	<i>all available to assist with the Altar Stripping</i>		<i>all available to assist with Dressing the Altar</i>	K. Skinner P. Corso S. Soden	S. Wilding J. Slate
<i>Chalicers</i>	J. Bunnell J. Slate	J. Bunnell J. Slate	J. Roskoski V. Cheripko				J. Roskoski V. Cheripko	C. Lathrop B. Lathrop
<i>Coffee Hour</i>	S. Erb N. Kuzminski	J. Merritt J. Slate	P. Mikulak G. Mikulak				D. Pursch R. Sampson	J. Bunnell G. Feldman
<i>Counters</i>	V. Cheripko P. Mikulak	E. Young G. Mikulak	S. Wilding J. Roskoski				S. Lathrop G. Lowden	J. Bunnell N. Kuzminski
<i>Usbers</i>	C. & J. Stevens	R. & M. Sampson	G. Mikulak J. Russo		<i>any volunteers available</i>	<i>any volunteers available</i>	J. Merritt BJ Clark	C. & J. Stevens

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, especially in this busy season for all your help!

March 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 DIOCESAN TRAINING DAY St. Stephen's, W-B
2 <i>LENT 4</i> 12:30 Acolyte training Lunch & Olympics	3 6:00 Dance Class	4 6:00 Lenten Supper	5 7:00 Choir	6	7 12:10 The Stations of the Cross	8 Community Lunch
9 <i>LENT 5</i>	10 6:00 Dance Class	11 6:00 Lenten Supper	12 7:00 Choir	13	14 12:10 The Stations of the Cross	15
16 <i>PALM SUNDAY</i> 1:00 lunch & a movie, <i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i>	17 6:00 Dance Class	18 6:00 Lenten Supper 7:30 VESTRY	19 7:00 Choir 7:00 Cub Scout Pack	20 <i>MAUNDY THURSDAY</i> 6:00 AGAPÉ MEAL and WATCH in the GARDEN	21 <i>GOOD FRIDAY</i> noon Ecumenical Serv at 1 st Presbyterian 7:00 Proper Liturgy & Adoration of Cross	22 <i>HOLY SATURDAY</i> Community Lunch 8:00 The Great Vigil of Easter with Baptism
23 <i>EASTER DAY</i> FESTIVE EUCCHARIST at 8:00 & 11:00	24 6:00 Dance Class	25 5:15 Yoga Class	26 7:00 Choir	27	28 YOUTH CHRISTOPHANY	29 YOUTH CHRISTOPHANY Community Lunch 7:30 Square Dance (tentative date)
30 <i>EASTER 2</i> YOUTH CHRISTOPHANY	31 6:00 Dance Class					



PRAYING LIKE A TRUE PRINCESS:

A retreat for the Daughters of the King

What would the daughter of a king pray for? Wisdom, Humility, Charity, Love, Justice, Gratitude, Compassion and JOY. Deacon Joanna Depue of The Geranium Farm will be joining the Bethlehem Chapter of the DOK to explore the ways we can incorporate these themes of prayer into our lives. Utilizing a Franciscan style of prayer including using music, body movement (for all ability levels) reflection, association and story telling we will touch on methods - new and old - to bring out our true princess qualities.

The retreat will be held from April 4-6, 2008 at St Francis Retreat House in Easton, Pennsylvania. The cost will be \$165 for a double room with bath or \$175 for a single room with bath. Single rooms are limited and will be assigned on a first deposit sent, first served basis. Registration will begin at St Francis on Friday @ 5PM and the retreat will end at noon after Sunday service.

K.L. Joanna Depue (dubbed "DJ" by Barbara Crafton) is an Episcopal deacon, spiritual director and writer of "More or Less Church" on the Geranium Farm. She has served in five parishes in the Diocese of New York and been active in on a diocesan level in working with youth. In parishes she has written and directed liturgical drama and radio scripts; she is the rare songwriter who is also her own lyricist, and she is a stand-up comic. She was a chaplain at Ground Zero during the recovery effort after the WTC bombing.



Before her training for the diaconate, Joanna worked in community and regional theatre productions as an actress and musical director. She has held different "worldly" jobs, including working for a company that publishes a law directory, Prentice-Hall publishing catalogue department, dog sitting and training, massage therapy and, for over 27 years until her recent retirement, in the pension department of the United Nations. During her tenure at the United Nations she was appointed by the Secretary-General to the Panel on Discrimination and Other Grievances and was selected as one of six speakers from the UN staff on the occasion of the first commemoration of the WTC bombing. Visit Deacon Joanna at www.geraniumfarm.org.

Saint Francis Retreat House
3918 Chipman Road,
Easton, PA
18045
www.stfrancisretreathouse.org



Please reserve your space by sending in a non-refundable deposit of \$25 by March 25, 2008 with your choice of room. Please indicate your chosen roommate if you are assigned a double room. Send your reservation to Beth Grosso, 197 Woodtown Road, Shohola, PA 18458. Questions? Call Beth 570-228-6013.

FOR INFORMATION - SEE JEANNE ROSKOSKI

Name _____ Chapter _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email: _____ @ _____

Room Preference:

___ Single

___ Double

Deposit: \$ _____

Roommate _____



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights from the February 19th vestry meeting...

Paige Corso

This was a very productive meeting and the first meeting of the year with our three new members. Rachael Hedgelon was officially appointed as a vestry member, she is joining the vestry along with Deborah Pursch and BJ Clark. There is still room for one more if anyone is interested, it's not too late!

Jane Bunnell was appointed to continue her position as Senior Warden. Jeanne Roskoski was appointed to take on the position as Junior Warden and I was again appointed as Secretary.

There has been much discussion over the last few months about forming a building and grounds committee. It keeps coming to our attention that if we had a committee like we've had in the past we could really get a lot accomplished. There are many projects that have been put on the back burner for the past few years. So... we are looking for people who may have some knowledge of the church and handymen and women who could form this committee. Although Fr. Ed is getting very good at changing light bulbs and troubleshooting electrical issues, it would be great to have others who are more familiar with the building and grounds who could help!

Other exciting news included discussion to hire our temporary organist Maria as full time since Phyllis has retired. Bob Lathrop made the nomination and a proposal was reviewed and approved by vestry. Maria has been with us since Phyllis had her stroke and has been doing a wonderful job. She has an impressive resume and is a great addition to Grace Church!

Fr. Ed highlighted the Lenten and Easter happenings as well as what the youth group has been planning. Sue discussed what she has been working on with the Christian Education committee. A questionnaire has been circulating regarding different activities and education groups, please see Sue Erb if you haven't completed one.

Some Vestry housekeeping issues were discussed such as reviewing the by laws, something that has not been done in over 10 years. Matt Corso and Deborah Pursch are going to take on the task of reviewing and rewriting if necessary. Diane Bishop is leaving the sexton position as of March 1st. So the position is available as well as the apartment. There are necessary repairs, such as the electric, that need to be done in the apartment. Funding for these repairs was discussed. Fr. Ed mentioned we should upgrade to high-speed Internet access. We currently have a dial up modem so we are going to look into upgrading to a faster connection. There is a lot of office/clerical work that is being done on line and it would facilitate these tasks.

Theresa Kehagias has been holding Middle Eastern Dance classes in the parish hall on Monday nights. These have been going very well and so far she has donated \$336 back to the church. This money is going into the general account. There was also discussion of having other groups in the near future including Yoga!

Nicole our treasurer was also at the meeting and submitted the treasurer's report. She has taken hold of the book keeping with Mary's help and is doing a wonderful job.

So far our year is off to a great start with our new rector, office staff, and vestry. There are great things happening and more ideas for things to come in the near future!

SO LONG, DIANNE & LIZZY
WELCOME WAYNE & JUDY

Our sexton for the past year plus, Dianne Bishop and her daughter Lizzy are moving to Gloucester MA. Dianne submitted her resignation as Sexton, effective March 1st. We will miss Dianne and Lizzy's jovial manner, and wish them our best as they begin a new phase of their lives. *Via con Dios!*

You may have seen Wayne and Judy Riggall from time to time over the past months. They will be assuming the position as Sexton and moving into the apartment. Please welcome them into our parish family.

AN INTRO TO THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH and ANGLICAN TRADITIONS

Adult Forum beginning March 30
Sundays, at 9:30

- For Those (including the priest) who think they know it all, and
Those who have NO clue about why we do the things we do, say the sings we say, and. . .
- + are seeking to be received into the Episcopal Church when Bishop Paul visits in June;
 - + wish to find out more about the Episcopal Church;
 - + who forgot everything they supposedly learned as teens in Confirmation Class
(but it WAS a different world - and even a different Church - back then!
 - + or just want to join in conversation about who we are,
from where we came and ideas of where we are headed.
 - + (or for that one or two of you who may think of leading the Confirmation Class in the fall,
hint, hint.)

Where DID we come from? (to whet your appetite)
Joseph of Arimathea brought the Holy Grail to hide on British soils, thus establishing the Church
The Roman Legions left the Church in Britain high and dry
Celtic and Druid influences took over
We were "Green" Christians from the beginning
Ours is simply a translation of Martin Luther into English
"Off with their heads!" (the translation of the Bible into English)
"Off with their heads!" - part 2 (The Romans vs. Reformers vs. Romans vs. Reformers....)
(ie, "Bloody Mary" was not originally a drink with tomato juice and a celery stick)
"Off with their heads!" - part 3 (The Cromwellian Rebellion)
And this only the beginning of the fun!

The Episcopal Church:

"Where you need not check your brain at the door."
where: "All may; none must; some should."
where: "We don't teach you what to believe, but invite you how."

AND one more WELCOME~

MARIA ZENGION, who has been serving as our guest organist since Phyllis' hospitalization and recovery has accepted the position as Organist. In addition to experience as a harpsichord and organ builder, a bachelor's degree from Westminster Choir College, and a Master's degree in organ performance at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Maria is also a horse trainer and a master gardener.

We are so grateful to have you with us, Maria.

The SACRAMENT of HOLY BAPTISM
is offered at the Great Vigil of Easter
on Saturday, 22 March at 8:00 PM

If you know someone, of any age, who would like to enact new birth --
the perfect symbol for Easter's Resurrection -- see Father Ed.

CALLING
ANY CHILD
or YOUTH

who is interested in serving the Altar
to come to a special Training for new and old acolytes
Sunday, March 2nd following the 11:00 service.



Training
Pizza
and
ACOLYTE OLYMPICS!!!

Offering Plate Toss
Torch Race
Thurible (incense pot) Swinging
and more!

LUNCH & A MOVIE

Palm Sunday, March 16th following the 11:00 Service

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Weber
the new production from London, 2000.

You know Jesus' story. But what about the perspective of the people around Christ: Judas, Magdalene, Pilate, Herod and Peter? If you've never seen this classic, or want to enjoy a new performance, join us about 1:00 PM.

Everyone is invited.

The ECUMENICAL LENTEN SERVICE
on PALM SUNDAY at 7:00 PM
will be held at Grace Church.

The Choir will be offering special music,
and we need some volunteers for providing refreshments
plus a good turn out to welcome our sisters and brothers!

and STAY TUNED - We may be having a Square Dance! DETAILS SOON

HOLY WEEK

✚ THE HOLIEST WEEK OF THE YEAR ✚

Because it marks the anniversaries of some of the most important events in the Bible, the week before Easter is called "Holy" Week.

It was natural that Easter should become the most important day on the Christian calendar. For the first several centuries after Christ, Sunday (the day of Christ's resurrection) was the only important day of the week, called "The Lord's Day" (not the Sabbath!) The disciples and early followers of Jesus just couldn't stop talking about the resurrection, the subject of every Sunday - the first day of Creation, the first day of God's New Creation.

MAUNDY THURSDAY and GOOD FRIDAY didn't become part of Christian worship until the fifth century. St. Helena, Emperor Constantine's mother, a devout Christian, toured the sites of the Holy Land and encouraged pilgrims to retrace the steps of Jesus from his Triumphal Entry into the city of Jerusalem, to the Upper Room's Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Way of the Cross to Calvary. These processions made deep and lasting impressions on European pilgrims and were carried back to their homelands to be observed in their cathedrals and parish churches when it was no longer safe to travel to Palestine. (The famous labyrinth at Chartres is the distance traveled in the Way of the Cross!)

The day on which the Lord's Last Supper was remembered became Maundy Thursday, the name coming from the Latin *mandatum*, mandate: Jesus told his disciples that night, "This is my commandment, that you love one another." This is Christ's mandate to us!

Good Friday (from the old English, "God Friday") commemorates first the Way of the Cross to Calvary, Christ's Words on the Cross, the time of darkness when an earthquake shook the Temple, and the death and burial of Christ Jesus and his descent into Hell.

From 3:00 PM (the "ninth hour") on Friday, through all of Saturday until Easter's dawn, the earth suffered what could be called a Spiritual Eclipse, when our hearts are filled with darkness.

Yet Easter's Dawn of Light and Life awaits! Our hope is reborn!

ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!
THE LORD IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!



H O L Y W E E K
at
GRACE CHURCH

PALM SUNDAY

The Blessing of the Palms
Christ's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem
& the Celebration of Holy Communion
at 8:00 & 11:00 AM

Weather permitting at the 11:00 Celebration we will begin outdoors.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

6:00 PM **The Agapé Meal**
with the tradition of Foot-Washing observing the Last Supper
with the Watch in the Garden and the stripping of the Altar.

(a Sign-Up sheet for the dinner will be provided.)

GOOD FRIDAY

12:00 noon - **The Community Good Friday Service**
at First Presbyterian Church. Fr. Erb will be the guest preacher
with the theme from the Lord's Prayer,
"The kingdom, the power, and the glory are thine."
special music will be provided by the 1st Presbyterian Choir

7:00 PM - **The Proper Liturgy for Good Friday**
with the Adoration of the Cross
and music by the Choir of Grace Church

HOLY SATURDAY

8:00 PM - **The Great Vigil of Easter**
while we wait for the Resurrection of Christ,
we prepare those for Baptism and the Sacrament of Redemption -
the Glorious celebration of Holy Communion.

(if there are candidates for Holy Baptism, see Fr. Erb)

EASTER DAY

The Festive Eucharist of the Resurrection
at 8:00 and 11:00 AM
with special activities for the Children among us.



