

A Voice in the Wilderness



ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

DECEMBER 2007

The Rector's Remarks Wes Shields



A little comic relief from the Rector:

They're back! Church Bulletins. Thank God for church ladies (or men) with errant keyboard skills. These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals. The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight "Searching for Jesus."

Our youth basketball team is back in action Wednesday at 8 PM in the recreation hall. Come out and watch us kill Christ the King.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Father Bill's sermons.

The Priest will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing "Break Forth Into Joy."

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24th in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.

A Voice in the Wilderness

ECW CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Big Girls and Little
Girls, calling all the
women of St. Andrew's**



Annual ECW Christmas gathering and ornament exchange.

Desserts! Sparkling Drinks! Carols with Coralee!

December 10th, 7:00 pm

Patty Washburn's House @ 6 Meadow Lane

Call or email for more information or to RSVP

367-6456/pwinnetka@aol.com



**Bring an ornament to swap.
Bring a dessert to share.
Bring a food item for the St.
Andrew's Christmas Food
Baskets.**



DECEMBER 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
Vestry Mtg. 7:00 pm ECW Christmas Party 7:00 pm	3 Retirement Center Service 10:30 am Bible Study 12:00 pm	4 Music Planning 11:00 am Prayer Hour 12-1:00 pm	5 Wednesday School 3:15 pm Adult Christian Ed 5:45 pm Middle/High Youth 7:00 pm	7 WINTERFEST Kids Grades 6-12 Begin w/ Dinner @ 6:00 pm	8 Winterfest	
9 Winterfest Ends w/ Sunday Morning Service	10 Retirement Center Service 10:30 am Bible Study 12:00 pm	11 Music Planning 11:00 am Prayer Hour 12-1:00 pm	12 Taize Service 7:00 pm	14	15	
16 Children's Christ- mas Pageant Fest. of L. & C. 3:00 pm Comm. Church	17 Retirement Center Service 10:30 am Bible Study 12:00 pm	18 Music Planning 11:00 am Prayer Hour 12-1:00 pm	19 Wednesday School 3:15 pm Middle/High Youth 7:00 pm	21	22	
23	24 Christmas Eve Services 5:00 pm & 10:30 pm	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

A Voice in the Wilderness

November Vestry Minutes, Cheryl Essington

Vestry Meeting
November 12, 2007

Present: Wes, Gail Grubb, Barb Wise, Jon Boroff, Donna Skinner, Sarah Hixson, Dave Lankford, Jordan Vana, Shane Costello, Cheryl Essington

Action items listed in Red.

The meeting was opened in prayer.

Sarah's presentation: Sarah Hixson made a brief presentation asking the Vestry to consider a gift to ERD and/or Heifer International as part of our Christian Education program. The Vestry will discuss at the next meeting.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: Gail moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting; Donna seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Jon moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Dave seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Senior Warden: No report.

Rector's Report: Big Piney is maintaining encouraging numbers, and the Monday Bible study continues to grow.

New Business:

1. Stewardship: the Vestry discussed the Stewardship campaign and began discussing line items in the budget for the December meeting..

Open Discussion: Barb will bring more information to the Vestry to investigate a microphone system for the Dec. meeting.

The Vestry discussed possible new Vestry members.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Laughter is the Best Medicine



A pastor preached an impassioned sermon on the evils of television. "It steals away precious time that could be better spent on other things" she said.

She advised the congregation to do what she and her family had done: put the TV away in the closet."

"That's right" her husband mumbled, "And it gets awfully crowded in there."

A Voice in the Wilderness

Taize Service

We Await His Coming -
A service in the Taize style of worship

Taize' worship draws its inspiration from the Taize' Community in France. Formed after World War II as an ecumenical center for reconciliation, it rapidly became a place where thousands from across Europe came each year seeking Christ. Contemplative in nature, worship in the style of Taize is characterized by hauntingly beautiful repetitive chants with improvised melodies from musicians and singers in a candle-lit setting. Sound and symbol are emphasized more than the spoken word. Taize' evenings, most often on Fridays, occur regularly in churches of various denominations around the world. On Wednesday, December 12th at 7:00 PM, St Andrew's will have a Taize service focused on the themes of Advent: Christ coming into the world those long years ago, and Christ coming, bringing his love and grace into our lives in the here and now.



Music Notes Coralee Petersen



Gloria In Excelsis Deo

Advent and Christmas are wonderful seasons for church musicians. There is more beautiful music written for this time of year than any other. And there seems to be more will on the part of people to come sing and/or play and be part of rehearsals and performances. There is no other season of the year that we are more steeped in traditions and that we are as attached to those traditions. As we begin Advent, you will hear familiar music at St Andrews's: O come, o come Emmanuel will form the background

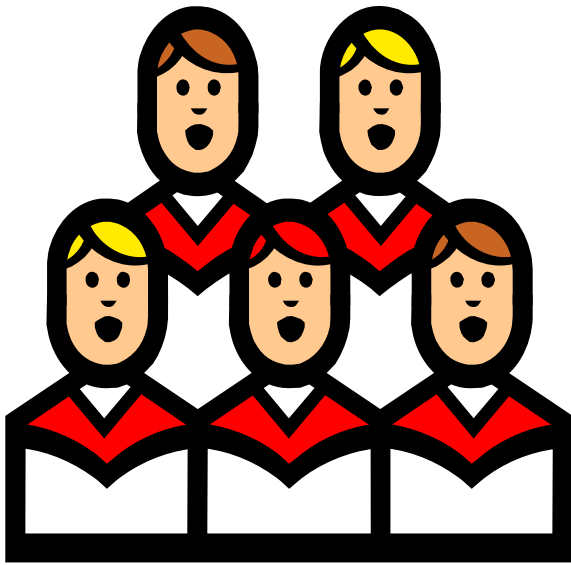
for the lighting of the candles in the Advent Wreath each Sunday, and the service music (Lord, have mercy, Sanctus and Lamb of God) will use the music of Franz Schubert and his Deutche Messe. And each Sunday, we will sing some of the great hymns of Advent. You will hear some new music, too, because the composers and poets of today are just as eager to add to the traditions as the composers and poets of the past, who gave us the music we so cherish. There will be a Taize service (see the article on that for more info) - a quiet, meditative service with time to reflect on Christ coming to earth those many years ago and Christ coming into our lives here and now. The choir will be singing anthems that anticipate the coming of Christ, and, of course, on Dec. 16th, the Wednesday School children will bring us their version of Jesus' birthday. The Late service Christmas Eve will begin as it has for many years with carols for all to join in singing, interspersed with special music from the choir and some of our instrumentalists. Revel in the beauty of the season and the music and remember that truly, it is the time to sing "Glory to God in the Highest". Gloria in excelsis Deo!

A Voice in the Wilderness

A COMMUNITY TRADITION

For the 30th (I think!) year, the community choir will present the Festival of Lessons and Carols. This year the Community United Church of Christ will be hosting the performance on Sunday, December 16 at 3:00 PM. The singers have been rehearsing since October and come from several churches throughout the community. A variety of music is interspersed with scripture readings to tell the story of the prophecy and coming of Christ.

The tradition began as a collaboration between the Community, Catholic and Episcopal churches. It soon expanded to include anyone that liked to sing! And that is still the only requirement for participation. Early on, for the first 9 or ten years the program was spearheaded by Patty Kerback; then Coralee Petersen put in 18 years directing the choir. Now, this is Sue Briggs second year leading the choir.



Several churches take turns hosting the event; this includes hosting the dress rehearsal and performance, allowing the choir to rearrange their worship space for performance, and serving a reception after the program. In addition to the Community Church, the Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran, and LDS churches take turns hosting the choir. Most of the rehearsals are now held at the library.

This is a service put on totally by lay persons; no clergy are involved (unless they like to sing!). Part of our mission is to make this a gift to the clergy of the community – a service at which they can worship without having to be responsible for what is going on.

So, be part of this long-standing Pinedale tradition; Come join in this service of seasonal song and scripture .

UPCOMING YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

December 5th: Wednesday School 3:00-5:00 pm
Youth Group 7:00-8:00 pm
Bring something to put in the shadow box that represents honoring your father and mother

December 7-9: Winterfest @ St. Andrews
St. Andrews is hosting a skiing weekend that is open to all kids grades 6-12. The weekend begins with dinner at 6 pm on Friday night and ends with church on Sunday morning. Registration forms are available at the church.

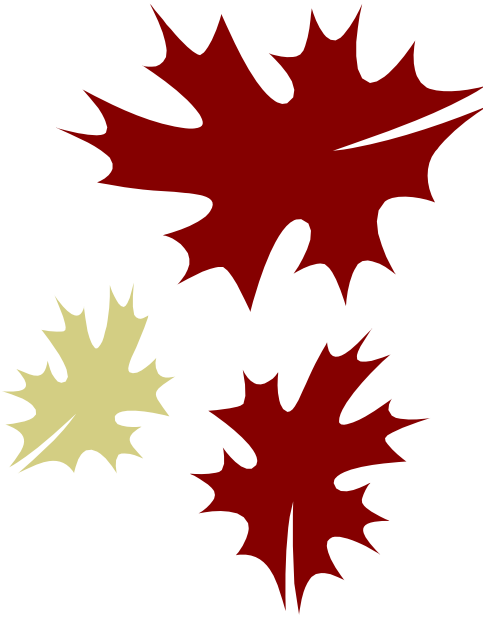
December 12: Wednesday School 3:00-5:00 pm
Youth Group - Sledding and Dinner in Jackson. Leaving St. Andrews @3:45pm
Returning around 9pm

December 19: Wednesday School 3:00-5:00 pm
Youth Group 7:00-8:00 pm Bring something to put in the shadow box that represents "Do Not Murder."



A Voice in the Wilderness

Youth Group, Elizabeth Miller



It has been a busy fall for the youth at St. Andrews! Please take a moment to read about what we have done and about our upcoming events. Overall, it has been a great fall and I believe everyone involved has learned a lot and had fun along the way!

Wednesday School students have been busy learning about how God calls everyday people to serve him. We have been learning about many different ways that we can serve God in our everyday lives. In addition, we have talked about the blessings in our lives. In one of the songs that we sing each week, there is a verse that says "The blessings will come down as the prayers go up." We took some time to really think about what blessings God has brought into our lives. Each student wrote 10 blessings on different leaves. Once they were finished they hung them from the ceiling to symbolize the blessings coming down from

God. It was an amazing experience to see what each child thought was a blessing in their lives.

In youth group this fall, the students (and teachers!) have been working on "Bridging the Gap." We have been focusing on bringing the Ten Commandments into a more prevalent position in our lives. Each week we examine one commandment. Through games, discussions, skits, and more, we try to illustrate how important these rules God gave us are and how many times a day we act without thinking about what God would have wanted us to do. The following week, we open a shadow box (one for each commandment) and place items in it that personally represent that commandment. For example, Commandment number one states "Thou shall have no other Gods before me." One student brought a cross to add to our shadow box to help them remember this first commandment. As the weeks have progressed, we have discovered that some commandments are harder to represent than others. Please take a moment to look at our shadow boxes as you venture downstairs for coffee hour after church.

Overall, it has been a great fall and I believe everyone involved has learned a lot and had fun along the way! We look forward to the upcoming Christmas season and ask God to watch over us as we learn about His presence in our daily lives.

In Christ's name,
Elizabeth Miller





ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

DECEMBER 2007

St. Andrew's in the Pines Episcopal Church
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Pinedale, Wyoming 82941

Phone: 307 367-2674
Web: www.standrewsinthepines.org
E-mail: standrewsinthepines@centurytel.net



Dates to Remember:

Winterfest @ St. Andrew's
All Kids Grades 6-12
Dec. 7-9, Starts 6:00 pm Friday

Vestry Meeting
Dec. 10th, 7:00 pm
St. Andrew's

ECW Christmas Party
Dec. 10th, 7:00 pm
Patty Washburn's

Taize Service
Dec. 12th, 7:00 pm
St. Andrew's

Christmas Pageant
Dec. 16th, 11:00 am Service
St. Andrew's

Festival of Lessons & Carols
Dec. 16th, 3:00 pm
Community United Church of Christ

Christmas Eve Services
5:00 pm and 10:30 pm

Bible Study
Mondays at Noon
St. Andrew's

Music Selection Group
Tuesdays at 11:00 am
St. Andrew's

Prayer Group
Tuesdays at 12:00 pm
St. Andrew's

Adult Christian Ed
Dec. 5th & 12th
5:45 pm, St. Andrew's

Wednesday School
(4 years to 5th Grade)
Dec. 5th, 12th, & 19th
3:00-5:00 pm, St. Andrew's

Middle & High School
Youth Group
Dec. 5th, 12th, & 19th
7:00-8:00 pm, St. Andrew's