

A Voice in the Wilderness



ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2008

The Rector's Remarks

Wes Shields

We are rapidly approaching the season of Lent in our church calendar. February 6 is Ash Wednesday and we will be having a service that day. One will be at noon and the other will be at 5:15 pm. I hope that everyone will make a point to attend one of these two services.

I mentioned that we will be having an Ash Wednesday service this year and I want to give you a little background on this service. The first records that we have of Ash Wednesday services come the seventh century. The general purpose of the service was very much the same as it is today. Ash Wednesday was a day of fasting, which as you know was preceded by Fat Tuesday which was a day of indulgence and partying. Ash Wednesday was, and still is, intended to be a very clear break in the church calendar and in the everyday lives of Christians. These two extremes, Fat Tuesday and Ash Wednesday, help to illustrate this division. Ash Wednesday, which marks the start of Lent, is the churches way of letting us know what Lent is all about.

There are many definitions as to what Lent really is, but I think that there are three words that best de-

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Senior Warden's Report

Roz Leslie

Greetings!

Accepting the position as Senior Warden is a privilege and honor. Thank you ,Wes! and St. Andrew's for allowing me to serve in this capacity! It is also a leap of faith, as this is an undertaking in which I have no experience, but I'm sure during the next year I'll get some! I am going to have faith (Forsaking All ! Trust Him) in Jesus during my tenure as Senior Warden and do the best job I can do. Also, let's all give thanks and praise to God for the banner year we had in 2007 and keep it going in 2008! There are a lot of unsung heroes that work in front of and behind the scenes to keep St. Andrew's flowing smoothly—kudos to you all. The ECW needs someone to step up and lead us this year. I know folks have lives crammed with work, family obligations, school, et cetera, BUT, I know that one special woman is out there and just needs a little shove. So—here's your push—GO FOR IT GIRL!

God's peace be with you all...

Roz

A Voice in the Wilderness

Rector's Remarks Cont.

scribe Lent for me. Those words are repentance, discipline, and anticipation. Repentance means confessing our short comings and wrong doings to God and then turning our lives around in the direction God is leading us. This is a word that has taken on a lot of extra baggage for many people over the last 50 years in America. There are lots of reasons for this, which I won't get into, but I do want to stress the importance of penance during Lent and in the everyday lives of Christians. Often times repentance is associated with an angry God, a God of rules and punishment and I suppose there is some truth to that, but more importantly, repentance is about us. It is about our willingness to recognize our own weakness, to recognize the ways in which we pull away from God. Repentance is about so much more than appeasing God. It's about us understanding who and what we really are so that we can recognize what we would like to be and what we are called to be. Repentance is absolutely vital for healthy Christian living.

The next word that I used to describe Lent is discipline. Many of you know that church members have a tradition of giving up something for Lent. Some people give up chocolate, some people give up soda, but self denial is not the point of Lent. Lent is about refocusing ourselves towards God. It's about the discipline of making God a part of our everyday lives. Giving up soda is fine, but we give it up in order to ask God for help. Maybe we give it up to donate that money that we would normally spend to a worthwhile cause. The point of Lent is to turn our attention towards God in a new and challenging way.

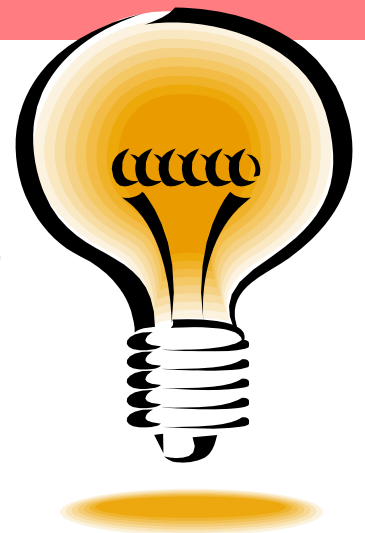
The final word that I used to describe Lent is anticipation. All of the inward reflection, the repentance, the new discipline; it's all intended to focus our attention towards Holy Week and the Passion story. Lent is our time to step back and prepare our souls for the death and resurrection of the Lord. It would be very difficult for me to describe exactly what this means or how to go about it, because I believe that it is different for everyone, but if we keep these three aspects of Lent in mind, then I think we will do a good job of preparing ourselves.

We will also be distributing Lenten meditations for families and individuals at church. There are many ways that the church can assist you beyond the few that I have mentioned, but at the end of the day, this decision is yours to make. Will Lent be just another forty days or it will it be a time of holy preparation for the coming of the Lord?

RECYCLE YOUR BULBS!

The Wed Church School Group would like to have you help us collect 'burned out' light bulbs for our Tree decorations for next year. We would like all bulbs, except the long fluorescent ones..... We will place a box in the downstairs Church Hall to collect the bulbs. We will also notify if we are overwhelmed and need to stop our collection. Thanks so very much.....may the light of the Christ illuminate your life forever!

**Patty Washburn and the Wed School Group
p.s. However, we encourage you to use in your homes the new environmental bulbs that will prevent us from EVER having burned out bulbs for our decorations!**



FEBRUARY 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
Vestry Mtg. 7:00 pm ECW Christmas Party 7:00 pm	4 Retirement Center Service 10:30 am	5 Prayer Hour 12-1:00 pm	6 Ash Wednesday 5:15 pm	Wednesday School 3:15 pm Adult Christian Ed 5:45 pm Middle/High Youth 7:00 pm	8	9
10 Retirement Center Service 10:30 am	11 Retirement Center Service 10:30 am	12 Prayer Hour 12-1:00 pm	13	15	16	
17 Retirement Center Service 10:30 am	18 Retirement Center Service 10:30 am	19 Prayer Hour 12-1:00 pm	20	21	22 Youth Group Famine Overnight	23
24 Retirement Center Service 10:30 am	25 Retirement Center Service 10:30 am	26 Prayer Hour 12-1:00 pm	27	28	29	

A Voice in the Wilderness

January Vestry Minutes, Cheryl Essington

Vestry Meeting
January 14, 2008

Present: Wes, Gail Grubb, Jon Boroff, Donna Skinner, Cheryl Essington, Roz Leslie, Jordan Vana, Barb Wise

Action items listed in Red.

The meeting was opened in prayer.

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

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

Senior Warden: Gail reported on potential new Vestry members and expressed her thanks for the opportunity to serve on this Vestry.

Rector's Report: Big Piney attendance is growing. The Vestry discussed various benefits used and unused in the Rector's benefit package. Wes is looking into a 12 week sabbatical and will update the Vestry as needed. Roz accepted the Senior Warden's position on the Vestry.

Old Business:

Sound System. Barb presented a bid to install a sounds system. Jon moved to accept the bid, Jordan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- 1. Directory.** Barb will look at current directory and be in touch with Cheryl.
- 2. Budget:** The budget was discussed and tidied up for presentation at the annual meeting.
- 3. New Members:** Potential members have been approached and a ballot has been prepared.
- 4. Annual Meeting:** January 27th immediately following service. Committee heads will need to submit reports to be presented.
- 5. Workplan:** Wes submitted a workplan for the Vestry's information. Jordan moved that the Vestry will review every few months to ensure that Wes' goals for his time are being met, Barb seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Respectfully submitted by Secretary, Cheryl Essington

Music Notes Coralee Petersen

In these years when Easter is early, Epiphany is short, and it feels to me that the jump from Christmas to Lent is way too short. Ash Wednesday is February 6th and the 10th is the first Sunday of Lent. A few years ago I read an article on Lent that proposed we quit thinking in terms of giving something up for Lent, and think about taking something on - adding something of devotion or service to our lives; to think during these forty days of Jesus' life lived for us, and to add something to our lives that reaches out to others. Perhaps for some of you that could be a seasonal participation in choir. Come join us for Lent and Easter. We would love to have you.

A Voice in the Wilderness

World Vision's 30 Hour Famine

The Youth Group @ St. Andrew's will be participating in World Vision's 30 hour famine February 22-23rd. Our group goal is to raise at least \$1000!!! Please talk with a youth group member about why they are participating in this world wide activity and consider sponsoring them as they fast for 30 hours!!! Every little bit helps!!!

Kids! Did you forget to give your folks the info? Here it is again:

When: February 22nd—23rd

Why: To help children around the world
To be hungry so others can eat
Change a life through child sponsorship

Group Goal: \$1000

Who to ask:: parents, relatives, teachers, church members,
people at work, neighbors, community members

Important Dates:

February 10th & 17th– Share with congregation,, talk about what we will be doing
February 22nd - Community Service & Fun night @ church
February 23rd - Youth Group Breakfast @ church
February 24th– Famine Sunday—We will be sharing our experiences with the congregation

To you it's:

\$1 downloading 1 song
\$30 eating out w/ family
\$180 less than what you'll
Spend on soda this year
\$360 what you might pay for
a new gaming system

To a hungry child it's:

food for a whole day
food for a month
food for 6 months
food for an entire year



A Voice in the Wilderness

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



Youth Group Kids



A Voice in the Wilderness

Youth Group, Elizabeth Miller

Happy New Year!

I hope that the flipping of the calendar has been great for everyone. Christian Education at St. Andrew's is back in full swing! There are many things going on for people of ALL ages, so find your age group and please give us a try!

Adult Christian Education started up again on January 16th. We are just beginning a study of the 10 Commandments. This past week, the people in attendance were asked to name the commandments and put them in order. This turned out not to be as easy as they thought it would be and provided us with a lot of laughter! As the weeks progress, we will look at one new commandment each week. There is a week by week schedule posted downstairs on the bulletin board. Please consider joining us for one or all of the weeks as we look at how these commandments really impact us in our day to day lives. We would love to have you!

The Youth Group at St. Andrew's has a great group of kids! We still meet every Wednesday night from 7-8 at the church. Anyone who is between 6th grade and 12th grade is welcome! Unlike the adults, we are just finishing our studies of the 10 commandments! We have really tried to stay connected to our theme of "Bridging the Gap" to see how the commandments can help and guides us on a daily basis. The kids have done a fabulous job of looking deep into their every day lives in order to better themselves and learn how God can make an impact for them. We have a few activities on our calendar this month including cleaning the church as our service project, having a pre-super bowl party, playing broomball, and a wrap up session with the 10 commandments. In addition to these activities, our Youth Group Members will be participating in World Vision's 30 hour famine February 22nd and 23rd. This is where we fast for 30 hours to help raise money to feed children around the world. If you are interested in sponsoring a youth group member to help us reach our goal of \$1000, please contact a youth group member or look on the bulletin board downstairs for details!! We would love to have as much support as possible from the congregation!! Also, watch for details of our rescheduled ski weekend in the bulletin!

Ever wonder what goes on at Wednesday school??? Well just keep reading to learn about all the exciting things our pre-school – fifth grade kids have been up to!! In December, the kids worked really hard to put on our annual Christmas Pageant. Thanks so much to everyone who helped out with the play, the costumes, and everything else that needed to be done in order to put this on. After our Winter Break, we began talking about prayer. We are learning about when and what we can pray about. It was interesting to hear what the kids new about prayer and watch their expressions as they heard stories about what people in the Bible prayed for! We would love for you to check out our prayer wall on the bulletin board downstairs! It is made of "rocks." On every rock there is something that we thought it was important to pray to God about. If you would like to add to our prayer wall, you are more than welcome to!

If you or someone you know is interested in attending any of these activities but needs further information, please don't hesitate to contact me and I will happy to answer any questions that you may have!

In Christ,

Elizabeth Miller





ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2008

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Dates to Remember:

Ash Wednesday Service
Feb. 6th, 5:15 pm

Vestry Meeting
Feb. 11th, 7:00 pm
St. Andrew's

Youth Group Famine Overnight
Feb. 22nd, 23rd
St. Andrew's

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

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

Wednesday School
(4 years to 5th Grade)
Feb. 6th, 13th, 20th, & 27th
3:00-5:00 pm, St. Andrew's

Adult Christian Ed
Feb. 6th, 13th, 20th, & 27th
5:45 pm, St. Andrew's

Middle & High School
Youth Group
Feb. 6th, 13th, 20th, & 27th
7:00-8:00 pm, St. Andrew's

