

A Voice in the Wilderness



ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

DECEMBER 2006

The Rector's Remarks

Wes Shields

Several people have asked me lately why I place so much emphasis on the Scriptures. I think that this is an important question for all of us so I thought I would put a few of my thoughts on paper.

First of all as Christians we have to decide whether or not the Bible has meaning for us in our lives. That may sound like a strange question given that we read from it every Sunday and that we call it Holy Scripture, but I think that for many of us this is an important question. Does the Bible contain something that God wants us to receive? I want to give you a bit of history before I continue on.

In the Middle Ages, Holy Scripture was viewed as something that only the clergy were fit to read. Often times, because it was written in Latin, the clergy were the only ones who could read the Bible. This meant

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Senior Warden's Report

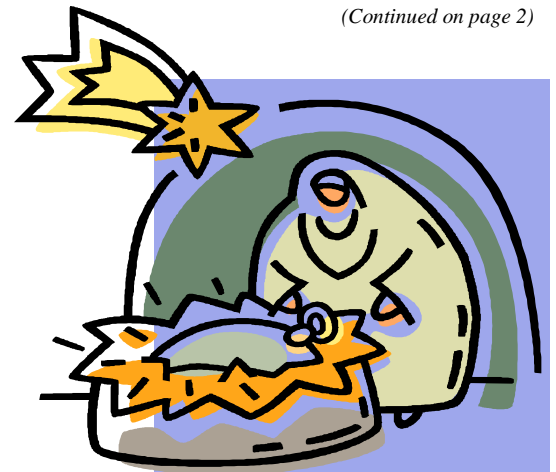
Cally McKee

The time has arrived. I am leaving the vestry, will no longer be the Senior Warden, and although I am sure I will miss it, it feels like I have been on the vestry forever! I started a few years

ago (I think 5 years) when Mary Caucutt was still here. When Mary decided to move on and the vestry moved into search mode, we all agreed to stay on through the process no matter when we had come on. So, when Wes showed up, here we were. And somehow when Wes got here, I ended up staying two more years (or was it 3?). Anyways, needless to say, my term is up. And although I am sure you all will miss me sharing my wisdom every month in the newsletter, I know someone great will take my place!

I have enjoyed serving the church in these exciting and changing times. I have been here through the loss of a priest, the search for a new one, the arrival of a new priest, the purchase of new property, many stewardship

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A Voice in the Wilderness

Rector's Remarks (cont.)

that for many Roman Catholics their prayers were the only means by which they had to know God other than the Scriptures that were interpreted for them on Sunday morning. When the Church of England broke away from the Roman church many Roman traditions came along with the split. One such tradition was the fact that the reading and interpretation of the scriptures was left mainly up to clergy and scholars while lay people found great comfort and discipline in their Prayer Books. This tradition is still a part of our church today. Many people do read their Bibles, but there are a lot of us who freely admit that we know very little about the Bible or what it has to say.

I believe that the Bible was given to us as a gift from God. A source of comfort, challenge, strength, and wisdom. Furthermore, as it says in our Catechism, "The Bible contains all things necessary for Salvation." In other words everything that we need to know to be in right relationship with God, is contained in the Bible. That's a pretty amazing gift.

Unfortunately the Bible is a controversial topic in our society right now. This is partly to do with the misconception that everyone who reads and studies the Bible is a "fundamentalist" or a "Bible Thumper". This attitude strips countless numbers of Christians from one the greatest gifts we have been given; the Holy Scriptures. The Scriptures were intended for all of God's children as a guide and beacon on our journey.

So I'll raise the question once again, does the Bible have meaning for us in our lives? If not, then we have a tremendous amount of thinking to do about who we are as Christian people and where we go to find our standards and our truth. If so, then why wouldn't we want to emphasize its importance as a guide and a standard for our lives? The Bible is full of Truth and Wisdom and we need to take advantage of that. One of the prayers in our Prayer Book asks God to help us "read, learn, and inwardly digest the Word of God." In other words we are praying to make the Holy Scriptures a part of our very being. To let it guide us into the men and women that God has called us to be. That's why it's important to me and that's why I place a great deal of emphasis on it.



Sr. Warden's Remarks (cont.)

drives, lot's of new members, the loss of treasured members, changing of services and the list goes on. It has been a rewarding experience and one I would encourage all of you to participate in given the opportunity.

It seems that not only has the church changed and grown during these times, but I have also. I stared out five years ago living in the first house I had purchased on Madison, I moved to the house I have now on Spruce, and started building a new home this last summer. I have left one job with a company that moved me home to go back to work for a company I started out with. Some things have gone full circle and some things have just changed. I guess this is the story of life, organizations, corporations, churches, and everything else. Everything changes and everything changes.

So, the vestry will be changing with the coming of the new year. Three vestry members will be leaving and three new folks will be taking on the challenge of serving the church. This is great for the vestry as it infuses them with new ideas and new energy. I want to thank the church and congregation for asking me to serve and having faith in me and I look forward to continuing to be involved in the church in other ways.

Cally McKee
Sr. Warden

DECEMBER 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Community Choir presents "A Festival of Lessons & Carols" 3:00 pm at the Lutheran Church	4 Retirement Service 10:45 am ECW Christmas Party Norm & Barb Pape's	5 Prayer Hour 12-1:00 pm	Youth Group Church 67-8:30	7	8	9 Community Choir presents "A Festival of Lessons & Carols" 3:00 pm at the Heritage Room of the Retirement Center
10 Retirement Service 11 10:45 am Vestry Mtg. 7:00 pm	11 Prayer Hour 12-1:00 pm	12 Youth Group Church 137-8:30	14	15	16	
17 Retirement Service 18 10:45 am	19 Prayer Hour 12-1:00 pm	Youth Group Church 207-8:30 Service of Solace 7:00 pm	21	22	23	
No Morning Services	25 Prayer Hour 12-1:00 pm	No Youth Group	28	29	30	
24 Services at 5:00 pm & 10:30	26	27 Youth Group				
31						

A Voice in the Wilderness

Music Notes, Coralee Petersen

Advent is my favorite liturgical season. Truly observed, it is the perfect antidote to the Christmas craziness that begins a bit earlier in the world around us each year. It is a season of quietness, of waiting, of preparing. Many years ago, when I was quite new to the Episcopal church, a priest pointed out to me that there are three distinct ways we look forward to Jesus coming. The first is to the celebration of the arrival of the historical Jesus in that stall in Bethlehem 2000 years ago. Another is looking forward to the second coming of Jesus in great glory, and yet another is preparing for the coming of Jesus daily in our hearts. It is this last aspect that has come to be the most meaningful to me. I get the same warm fuzzy feelings about the baby in the manger as everyone else, but it is mostly nostalgia. And I frankly don't relate well to the "end times" stuff. But Jesus with me, in me every day, taking time to cultivate a heart that is open to his love - that is something that touches me.

So, what does all this have to do with "Music Notes"? Not much, really except that it colors my musical choices for the season, and it seemed like a good chance to share it.

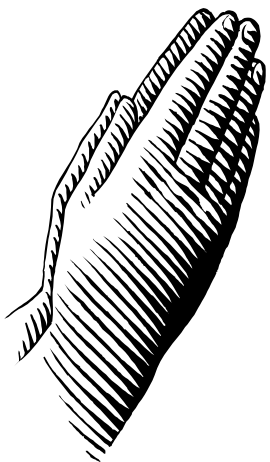
Since I have not made the deadline with this column for several months, there are many people to thank for sharing their musical talents. Jennifer Petersen has played for services (and if you think this is a small accomplishment for a young pianist, count up how many pieces of music we sing at a Sunday Service!). String players Fred Petersen, Dessa Dale, David Hohl, Ryan Mckee and Matt Mckee provided prelude, communion and postlude music. Tayln Costello, Mary Margaret Grassell, Lily Jensen, Talyln Hutta, have all played at services. Many of these same young people will be participating in music at church over the coming month - **please, please**, talk to these kids when they play! They need your encouragement and appreciation.

The choir is working hard on music for the service of carols before the late service Christmas Eve. There will also be some congregational singing and some instrumental music. I hope you will be there at 10:30 Christmas Eve, taking time to be quiet, to wait, and to prepare, making your heart open to the love of God.

Coralee Petersen



A Service of Solace



Have you ever had a Christmas season in your life when you were hurting? Feeling distinctly "un-jingle bell-y"? Wondering where the face of God was in all of this? On Wednesday Evening, December 20 at 7:00 pm, we will have a Service of Solace. There will be prayers, scripture, candle lighting and simple Taize music. If you have suffered the loss of a loved one or the loss of health, or are grappling with divorce, serious illness, or altered economic circumstances, or if you don't even know why, but are feeling low, this service is for you. It is an opportunity to offer your sorrow to God. For all the rest of you whose lives seem to be perking along just now without too many difficulties, this is your opportunity to come and pray with and for the members of your church family and your community who need your support. Tell your friends in the community about this service, and bring them along.

A Voice in the Wilderness

ECW Notes, Laura Shields

ST. ANDREW'S MERCHANDISE NOW AVAILABLE!!!!

As you recall, ECW voted last summer to donate all of the proceeds from the Pie Sale. This left us enough funding in our checking account for approximately one year's worth of expenses. In order to continue to operate and support the services we are currently committed to, **ECW is selling St. Andrew's shirts, blankets & aprons for you, your family & friends.** Samples, along with order forms are in the parish hall. We will take orders thru December 10th to ensure delivery prior to Christmas.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Aprons.....	\$12
Fleece Blankets	\$18
T-Shirts	\$15
Sweatshirts.....	\$18
Button-up Shirts	\$22

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

Health Night coming in January

When: January 22nd @ 6pm

**Where: Patty Washburn's
(Go south in Tyler 1.7mi,
right onto Remembrance
Lane, first house on right
past New Fork River
Bridge)**

Speaker: Marilyn Huffman

Patsyelu! By Meghan Carrier

Ya loublyou Vas! The Massenkoff Russian Folk Festival provided a time of fellowship, laughter, entertainment, and culture for the ECW of St. Andrew's. A night that began with friends gathered around a dinner table exchanging stories, ended with singing, dancing and clapping to Russian folk songs. Imagine young enchanted girls twirling in the isles imitating the beautifully adorned Russian women on stage. Picture a medium-size Russian man proudly donning a full-length fur coat as he captures his audience with his rich melodic voice. These along with the folk musicians and the Russian lesson taught before intermission, culminated into a night of enjoyment for all attendees.

DON'T FORGET THE CHRISTMAS PARTY...

The Annual ECW Christmas Party will be
December 4th @ 6pm @ Norm & Barb Pape's.

*Please bring a side dish to share
& an ornament for the Ornament Exchange!*

Directions to the Pape's are:

From Pinedale, head north on Highway 191, past Daniel Junction to mile marker 114. Turn left onto the hatchery road. Go .8 miles and turn right. Follow the road until it ends at Norm & Barb's.



A Voice in the Wilderness

Honduras, Betty Golden & Marilyn Huffman

Hola! We would like to extend a very special GRACIAS to all of you at St. Andrew's for all of your prayers, donations, and the scholarship to attend the Mission of Mercy VII to Honduras. The experience was truly rewarding and we all came home with more than we expected. You all should be very proud of St. Andrew's and the entire Wyoming Episcopal Diocese, as we surely are. The school program there is nothing less than remarkable and it is so heart-warming to know that we help provide for this wonderful outreach program in Copan, Honduras. We hope many of you will also have the opportunity to serve on the mission and know you will find it as worthwhile and rewarding as we did. Gracias, me amigos!



Marilyn Huffman
Betty Golden

Pictures
from
Honduras



A Voice in the Wilderness

Youth Group, Katie McClure

The youth had a fun time collecting canned food on November 15! We had a great turn out for the night. The "Sheep" Team led by Jordan Vana won the point's show-down based on many considerations, such as, number of items collected and the most unusual items collected. JOB WELL DONE to our youth for their participation in the night. Thank you to those who supported them in this endeavor.



For December the youth will meet on December 6, 13, and 20 at 7-8:30. We will have a Discovering Jesus Night. This will include the walk thru CD tour that we did last year. We will also have a Christmas Party. December will be a fun month for us, so please come join the group! Just a reminder that there is no youth group December 27 and January 3, we'll see everyone back in the New Year on January 10!

SENIOR APPRECIATION DINNER

The Youth Group will be hosting a dinner for the "Seniors" of the church. You are invited!! Please call the church or Katie to sign-up or you can sign-up downstairs on the bulletin board.

Location: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Date: January 24, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

RSVP - Katie McClure: 537-5055

Church Office: 367-2674



A Voice in the Wilderness

November Vestry Minutes, Cheryl Essington

Vestry Minutes
November 13, 2006

Present: Cheryl Essington, Gail Grubb, Donna Skinner, Cally McKee, Shane Costello, Wes Shields, Jon Boroff, Fred Petersen

Action items listed in red.

Gail Grubb opened the meeting in prayer.

Minutes of the last meeting: Cheryl needs to amend the minutes that Donna was not present. Shane moved to accept the minutes with that change, Jon seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed.

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

Senior Warden: Cally has taken over the newsletter and will continue to work on the website.

Rector's Report: Wes was out of town during the family night but everyone had a great time and the attendance was good. There has been great enthusiasm for the ECW service project, which is providing 40 baskets for needy families for Thanksgiving. Wes also extended a thank you to Gail Grubb and Cally for sharing during Stewardship. Wes asked the Vestry to be aware of counseling/pastoral care needs and keep him informed of the congregation's needs.

Master List: Bleeder lines have been taken care of, the furnace has been serviced, and at the next months' meeting the Vestry will need to discuss the housing allowance, and decide on new members.

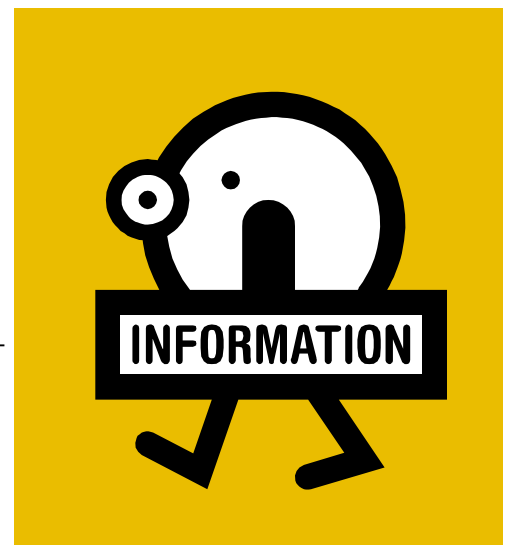
Old Business:

1. **Dance.** This item will be tabled until next meeting.
2. **Shirts.** ECW has St. Andrew's products to purchase and they will be available Sunday.
3. **Website.** Cally will continue to update the website.
4. **Second Service.** The average attendance at the second service continues to be steady at 15 people.
5. **Stewardship Campaign.** Pledge cards are slowly coming in, please remind people that they need to turn in their pledge cards by this Sunday, the 19th.

New Business:

1. **New Vestry Members:** Cally and Wes will approach people about being on the Vestry and will report back at the next meeting.
2. **Outreach and budget goals:** Wes reviewed the money budgeted for outreach this past year and where that money has gone. The Vestry will consider where to focus our funding goals and a clear plan will be made during the budgeting session next month.
3. **Phil's Request:** Phil requested, per the Vestry's prior decision, to make a mortgage payment. Shane moved to approve Phil's request, Jon seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. In addition, Shane asked if we had considered opening a money market account at Rocky Mountain Bank. Cheryl will relay this information to Phil.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.





ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

DECEMBER 2006

St. Andrew's in the Pines Episcopal Church
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Web: www.standrewsinthepines.org
E-mail: standrewsinthepines@centurytel.net



Dates to Remember:

Dec. 4th @ 6:00 pm
ECW Christmas Party
Norm and Barb Pape's

Dec. 9th @ 3:00 pm
Community Choir presents
A Festival of Lessons & Carols @
Retirement Center Heritage Room

Dec. 10th @ 3:00 pm
Community Choir presents
A Festival of Lessons & Carols @
The Lutheran Church

Dec. 11th @ 7:00 pm
Vestry Meeting

Dec. 20th @ 7:00 pm
Service of Solace

Dec. 24th
NO SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE
Services @ 5:00 pm and 10:30 pm



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