

A Voice in the Wilderness



ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

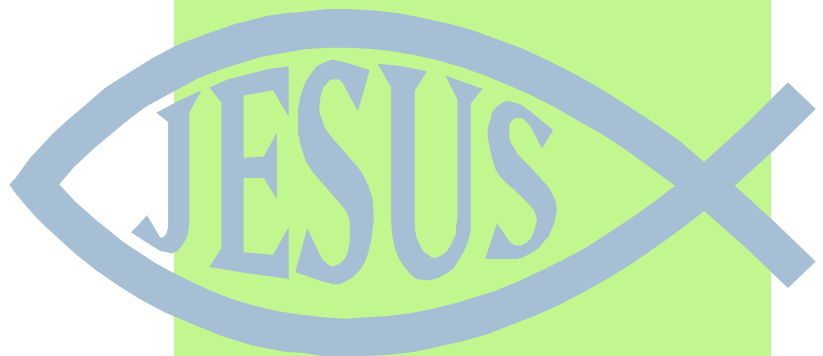
FEBRUARY 2007

The Rector's Remarks

Wes Shields



My favorite quote from C.S. Lewis is, "Christianity is a statement which, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The one thing it **cannot** be is moderately important." He is right in saying that by its very nature our faith cannot be of moderate importance, but I think that is how many of us, myself included, treat our faith. We say it's important. Some of us even go so far as to say it the most important thing in our lives, but the question for me is whether or not that is evident to the world around me. If I met a stranger and they were to watch me for several days without my collar, would they guess that I was a Christian? Would they be shocked to hear me say that my faith is the most important thing in my life? I hate to think what some of the answers might be, and if you have an answer to these questions please don't tell me. But seriously, I often wonder if our lives reflect our faith. I know that I have asked these questions in one form or another before, but I believe if we are going to strive to grow and to examine our lives, these are questions we have to ask. If you are like me and you don't always like the answers that you come up with when you ask these questions, then a simple question follows. What are you going to do about it? Simply asking the questions doesn't do anyone much good, unless we do something about it. For me the simple answer is that I have to make my faith my number one priority. That means that when



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Rector's Remarks (cont.)

I look at my resources, my time, my energy, my passion, my money, that my faith must get first choice. That's not the way most of us treat our faith. We don't read and study because we're too tired or there is just not enough time, but putting my faith first means that I study before I go to work, before I go snow machining, before I do my chores around the house. Putting my faith first means that I treat study and prayer the way I treat eating or sleeping. They are things that simply have to be done in order for me to live. I know that sounds extreme, but the very act of placing that kind of emphasis on our relationship with God, will in and of itself force us to grow and to come closer to being the women and men that God is calling us to be. We will all have experiences or times in our lives where God reveals himself in new exciting ways, and our faith will grow by leaps and bounds, but it's the everyday discipline that prepares us for those times. Faith is not a sprint, but rather a journey, and like any journey we have to make up our minds to keep moving ahead, to keep preparing and working towards on our relationship with God in the good times and in bad.

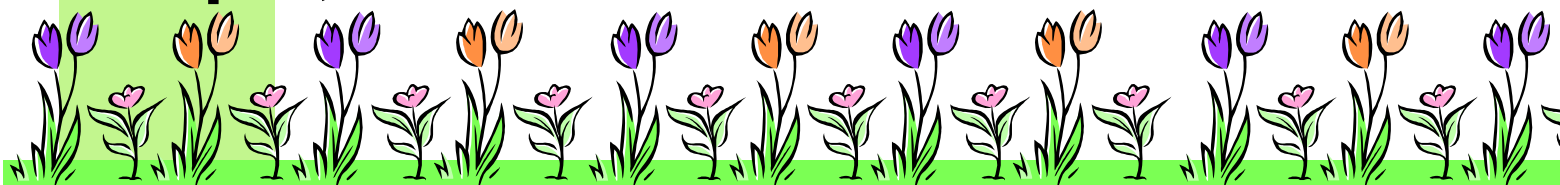


ECW SPRING CONFERENCE

**Spring conference
of the Episcopal
Church Women
April 13-15, 2007
Casper, WY**

Save the Date!

**Dean Marilyn Engstrom will be
our guest speaker and the
theme for the conference will
be "Laughter is the Language
of the Heart".**



FEBRUARY 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Retirement Center Service 10:45 am	5 Retirement Center Service 10:45 am	6 Prayer Hour 12-1:00 pm	7 Youth Group Church 7-8:30	8	9	10
11 Retirement Center Service 10:45 am Vestry Mtg. 7:00 pm	12 Retirement Center Service 10:45 am	13 Prayer Hour 12-1:00 pm	14 Youth Group Church 7-8:30	15	16	17
18 Retirement Center Service 10:45 am	19 Retirement Center Service 10:45 am	20 Prayer Hour 12-1:00 pm	21 Youth Group Church 7-8:30 Ash Wed. Service 6:00 pm	22	23	24
25 Retirement Center Service 10:45 am	26 Retirement Center Service 10:45 am	27 Prayer Hour 12-1:00 pm	28 Youth Group Church 7-8:30			

A Voice in the Wilderness

ECW Notes, Laura Shields

ECW Health Night This Month (Tentative Reschedule Date)

When: February 19th @ 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

A soup supper will be provided

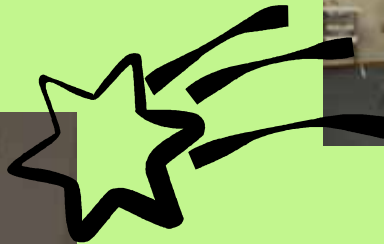
A HUGE thank-you to Jason & Cheryl Essington for spearheading our Cribbage Tournament! We hope all of you who came out enjoyed the fun & competition!



Coralee and Windsor
"The furriest
cribbage player"



Mary and Nico
"The youngest
cribbage player"



Cheryl and Patty



Sofia and Rachael
I don't know
how much
cribbage they
played!!



Dave and Laura
The Competition is Fierce!



A Voice in the Wilderness

THANK YOU FROM FRAN AND IRENE

We are grateful to have been members of St. Andrew's for the past five years. We have learned so much through confirmation, Centering Prayer, ECW workshops on Spiritual Journey and Symbols, and Adult Education. We have had fun at blessing of animals, coffee hour and ECW--health nights, bowling, Christmas parties, trip to Jackson, and pie sales. The Ranch Masses have been uplifting and powerful.

We thank you for your assistance in support of the health ministry. May it continue to thrive. Gratitude also goes out to the many folks who helped in the newsletter. We are happy to see it in good hands with Cally.

We have appreciated the celebratory nature of the Episcopal church and St. Andrew's. The prayer, support, and friendships you have given us have been the highlight of our five years.

God bless all of you and keep in touch. We will see you this summer or you are invited to visit us in Fort Collins!

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THE CHURCH GOSSIP

Mildred, the church gossip, and self-appointed monitor of the church's morals, kept sticking her nose into other people's business. Several members did not approve of her activities, but feared her enough to maintain their Silence.

She made a mistake, however, when she accused George, a new church member, of being an alcoholic after she saw his old pickup parked in front of the town's only bar one afternoon. She emphatically told George (and several others) that everyone seeing it there would know what he was doing.

George, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and then just turned and walked away. He didn't explain, defend, or deny... He said nothing.

Later that evening, George quietly parked his pickup in front of Mildred's house... Walked home... And left it there all night.

You Gotta love George.



A Voice in the Wilderness

Youth Group, Katie McClure

The youth group had a great start for the new year!! We had a game night, studied the bible and had a fantastic Sock-Hop with the Seniors (over 55) of the church. For the Sock-Hop the youth decorated the downstairs with records, candles, and crepe paper. We served our guests a dinner of hamburgers and french fries with



their choice of root beer floats or ice cream sundays for dessert. We also cleared a dance floor and turned on the du-wop. There aren't pictures to prove it, but Barb and Norm Pape, Monte and Donna Skinner, and Morgan, Fred Petersen, Talyn, Hattie, Wes and Katie "cut a rug". Thanks to the seniors who came as our guests for the dinner!

In February we will meet on the 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th. For this month, we have scheduled a scavenger hunt, a night to make valentines and deliver them, and a fun night activity. Please come and join us! We have a super group of youth and would welcome newcomers and friends to join us!

ATTENTION PARENTS OF YOUTH - Please make note that we will not allow the youth to bring their cell phones to youth group if they are turned on. We feel that cell phones are a distraction to the youth whether they get a call or are texting someone during our activities. If you need to get in touch with your child while they are at youth group you can call the church phone number. Thank you for your help and cooperation in this.



PARKING

As St. Andrew's grows, we occasionally having growing pains. One of the issues brought up recently is parking. We have many folks, young and old, who have trouble getting over the snow hump in the middle of Pine Street, issues herding children across traffic in the summer, trouble walking long distances, may be carrying small children or toddlers, etc. We would ask that if you can and are able, to please park on the north side of Pine Street. This would free up the south side of Pine Street (the church side) for folks who need to be a little closer.



Thanks for helping!!

A Voice in the Wilderness

December and January Vestry Minutes, Cheryl Essington

Vestry Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2007

Present: Wes, Donna Skinner, Gail Grubb, Fran Milde, Jon Boroff, Gail Randall, Carla Sullivan, Fred Petersen, Cally McKee, Cheryl Essington

Action items are listed in red.

The meeting was opened in prayer.

Minutes of the Last Minutes: We need to clarify that the Vestry decided to add two Sundays of vacation time to the current 5 Sundays off per year. Gail Randall moved to accept the minutes as amended; Carla seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: There is more than a \$5,000.00 surplus in the operating budget for 2006. We were over our expected amounts in pledges and plate offerings. The progress on paying down the mortgage is good. Jon moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Gail Randall seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Sr. Warden's Report: Cally is continuing to work on the website.

Rector's Report: Big Piney is maintaining. Jon has trimmed the log on the access ramp to allow for wider passage. Wes reminded everyone that we need to check the dumpsters each week and make sure they get taken to the curb. The feedback on the reserve parking sign has been positive. The annual meeting is coming up on January 28th. Each committee member needs to submit his or her annual meeting report by the 22nd. Cheryl will check with Phil on W-2s.

Old Business:

- 1. Dance:** Tabled until next meeting
- 2. Website:** Cally has changed the service times and the newsletters are updated. Cally is still working on putting the new Rota on the website.
- 3. Altar Guild:** Wes spoke to some members of the Altar Guild and they do not find the second service burdensome. The Vestry discussed the second service and has decided to continue holding two services for the time being.

New Business:

- 1. New Vestry Members.** Jordan Vana and Dave Lankford agreed to serve on the Vestry and Cally will continue to try to fill the remaining positions.
- 2. Budget.** The Vestry discussed the budget deficit. Fred moved to pass the budget with the amendment to increase the plate offerings to \$18,000.00, Jon seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously.

Open Discussion. The Vestry discussed upcoming events. The annual meeting is January 28th after a shortened 11:00 a.m. service. The church cleaning has become a problem. We will resume the monthly clean up, and announce in the bulleting. The Vestry discussed a donation request from the Crisis Pregnancy Center of Sublette County. Cally moved to donate \$500.00, Donna seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Vestry Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2006

Present: Wes, Cally McKee, Donna Skinner, Jon Boroff, Gail Randall, Cheryl Essington, Shane Costello

Action items listed in Red.

The meeting was opened in prayer.

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

Senior Warden's Report: Cally reviewed a letter she'd received from a parishioner concerning 2 services and the difficulty it created for the Altar Guild. Wes will speak with the Altar Guild.

Rector's Report: Big Piney is going well. Wes asked that we keep the handicap access clear for Stan and that we have ordered a reserved parking sign. Also, we need to make an effort to remove the trashcans when they are empty. Wes is organizing helpers to give a Madeleine a break. The volunteers will be scheduled through the office.

Old Business: Old business is tabled until next meeting. Cally will update the website this week.

New Business:

Budget: The Vestry discussed increasing the clergy salary to 3.5%. Shane moved to accept the increase, Jon seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Vestry also agreed to give ownership of the lawn equipment that came with the Neely Property to Wes as well. The Vestry discussed keeping the current time off but adding 7 Sundays per year vacation time. Shane moved to make the amendment; Jon seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was closed in prayer.



ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2007

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Dates to Remember:

**Feb. 12th @ 7:00 pm
Vestry Meeting**

**Feb. 19th @ 6:00 PM
ECW Health Night
Patty Washburn's House**

**Feb. 21st @ 6:00 pm
Ash Wednesday Service
St. Andrew's**



The printing of this newsletter
generously supported by
Allan and Mary Rutherford Ferguson