



# A Voice in the Wilderness

ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Volume 10, Issue 1

January 2005

## The Vicar's Voice



**Wes Shields**

I hope that everyone has had a blessed and joyous holiday season and that everyone's

resolution is to be at Church every week this year. Either way, I still hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas season. I do want to talk with you about church attendance, but I want to begin by sharing a letter that was sent to a pastor about 5 years ago.

Title: A New Year's Letter  
Dear Pastor:

You often stress attendance at worship as being very important for a Chris-

tian, but I think a person has a right to miss now and then. I think every person ought to be excused for the following reasons and the number of times indicated: Christmas (Sunday before or after), New Year's Day (Party lasted too long), Easter (Get away for holidays), July 4 (National holiday), Labor Day (Need to get away), Memorial Day (Visit hometown), School Closing (Kids

*(Continued on page 3)*

### Check it out!

- JANUARY WOMEN'S RETREAT
- ECW CHRISTMAS PARTY A SUCCESS
- PHOTOS GALORE!
- STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN A SUCCESS!

## Senior Warden's Report



**Fred Petersen**

Our huge stewardship success this year is very rewarding to me. During recent years, we have averaged approximately \$60,000 per year on our pledge amount. And as you are probably aware, our present stewardship drive is now in excess of \$100,000.

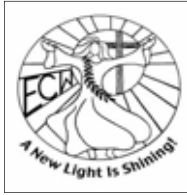
In reflecting, it was just two years ago when we experienced a minor financial crisis. At this time, I had been requested to become your Senior Warden. I had doubts about my role in this type of a position. However, I realized that the church had done a great deal for me and had influenced my life considerably. It was, and is, very special to me. At this point, hoping that I could give something back, and feeling that I had some expertise in financial matters, I accepted the Senior Warden position. Therefore, this wonderful success is

extra significant to me. Aside from the leadership of the church, the main reason for our recent successes in many areas, including stewardship, is you the members. It is you directly, that caused the increase in our pledge amounts, whether by becoming a new pledger, continuing your pledge, or increasing your pledge. I wish to commend all of you for your thoughtfulness and support. Thank you, thank you.  
Submitted by:

Fred Petersen, Sr. Warden

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## A Voice in the Wilderness

### ECW Annual Christmas party, Michele Costello

Let me start by saying that this was my first year attending the ECW Christmas Party. My mom, Darla Hunter, asked me several years ago if I would like to go with her but I didn't take her up on the opportunity and I am sorry that I didn't. But I am thankful that I now feel a part of this long tradition. It became apparent from the second Barb and Norm's warmly decorated house came into view that this was a night loved by many with years of fond memories from the past. I believe I heard towards the end of the evening that 46 people were in attendance.

Dinner was served followed by dessert and it was delicious to say the least. As many of us joyfully complained of being beyond full, the fun continued. I knew that it was my first year attending but I didn't realize the number of people

who shared in my first timers' feelings until we were all asked to gather in another room. While we nervously wondered what was next, the others planned how they were going to make us feel welcome in yet another annual tradition. I really shouldn't say more about this because I would hate to ruin it for all of you who may attend next year for the first time.

The Christmas music by Sydney and Logan Pape, two of Barb and Norm's granddaughters and three of their little friends, was a treat and put everyone in the mood for singing. Coralee brought her well traveled keyboard and led the group in requested Christmas Carols and then a surprise visitor, although many were not surprised, Santa Claus. Santa told us stories and then distributed ornaments to each of us. He also gave a special gift to Laura and to Coralee for all they have done to support us women

and the church throughout the year.

The night came to a close as we all formed a circle and prayed the Lord's Prayer and sang Silent Night. It reminded me of the young and old coming together in a circle of friendship. The entire evening was full of traditions, the old teaching the young so that the traditions may continue for many more years to come.



### ECW Upcoming events, Laura Shields

#### JANUARY

#### *ECW Winter Retreat:*

#### *"Understanding Christian Symbols"*

Guest Speaker: The Rev. Ann Fontaine  
St. Andrews in the Pines Episcopal Church

#### *Tentative Schedule*

January 28<sup>th</sup>: 5:30-9:30 pm

January 29<sup>th</sup>: 8:30 am-1pm

\$10 (checks made out to ECW)

Questions or to RSVP: Laura Shields at [shields@wyoming.com](mailto:shields@wyoming.com), 367-6282 or send in the reply card you will receive in the mail early January.



**FEBRUARY 16<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm**

**ECW BUNKO!!!**

(a simple dice game)

Juli James' home

(more information in February newsletter!)

## Angels in the Undercroft, Gail Grubb and Cally McKee



The ECW Christmas service project was a great success! December 19th ECW members gathered to fill their six angel tree angel's stockings and wrap gifts for those six children. When the call was put out for gifts we had no idea what we would get, (except Pat

Jackson, she knows how generous you all are). The Episcopal Church Women of St. Andrew's came through with flying colors. We ended up with mounds of beautiful gifts for these children.

After their stockings were properly filled, Gloria Carrier brought to our attention eight more children in need of support this year. So their wishes were filled also and we still had several sacks of toys left over that went to the Toys for Tots program to be distributed to other children in Pinedale who might not have many toys under their tree. The response was heart warming and we all had a great time choosing from the beautiful things donated by everyone at St. Andrews. Everyone had fun shopping for these little ones and then filling the stockings. We look forward to doing it again next year!! Thank you for your most generous support of this project.

## The Vicar's Voice Continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

need break), School Opens (One last fling), Family Reunions (Mine & wife's), Sleep late (Saturday night activities), Deaths in Family, Anniversary (Second honeymoon), Sickness (One per family member), Business Trips (A must), Vacation (Three weeks), Bad Weather (Ice, snow, rain, clouds), Ball games, Unexpected Company (Can't walk out), Time changes (Spring ahead; fall back), Special on TV (Super Bowl, etc.).

Pastor, that leaves only two Sundays per year. So, you can count on us to be in church on the fourth Sunday in February and the third Sunday in August unless providentially hindered. Sincerely, A Faithful Member

Obviously this letter is somewhat of a joke, but there is a lot of truth in it as well. It's very easy to come up with lots of reasons why we don't need to be in church, but I want to give you a few reasons why I feel that you do.

First of all, whenever you hear me talk about the members of this church, you will hear me say "church family." That's not a phrase that I use by accident, but rather it is the best description of what a church community should be. As with any family, it is important for all its members to

spend time together on a regular basis in order to feel connected to one another. The family must spend time together worshiping and enjoying each other's company. The second reason, and most important reason for coming to church, is that it gives us the chance to worship God and refocus our lives for the week ahead. Many of us have experienced God's awesome power, through the beauty of creation and in the love that we share with others, but these things don't take the place of worshiping with fellow believers in the Lord's house. It is that connection with God's people that helps to inspire, encourage, challenge, and strengthen us. Being in God's presence at the start of each week is truly a blessing. It's a time to slow down and refocus our lives on the things that truly matter. There are many, many things that pull us in all kinds of directions, but my hope for all of us in the new year is that we will be able to make church attendance an important priority in the ever growing and ever changing list of things that we are involved in. I feel like I can say with all sincerity, that it will make a difference in your life. This church will lift you up and strengthen you to do God's work in the world. Please make it a priority.

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# A Voice in the Wilderness

## Health Ministry News



Fran Milde, RN Ph.D

### New Beginnings:

It's that time of the year when we look at ourselves and make resolutions to change in the New Year. Most of us make these resolutions, in fact over 88 percent of us do. But the problem is that most of us in the past have not kept these resolutions to establish new patterns of behavior. Research indicates that 63 percent of us will keep our resolution for two months and 20 percent of us will establish new behavior patterns.

So, what is the secret to successful resolutions? One of the most important considerations when making New Year's resolutions is to decide if you are willing to make the effort to kick a bad habit or start a healthy one. Lasting change means being committed to the change and the willingness to do the necessary work to accomplish the change.

Some tips to help us get started and to reach our goal include:

1. Choose an attainable goal. Be realistic. The surest way to fall short of our goal is to make the goal unattainable. For example, for me to resolve to look like a super model would not be realistic; it would take far more than I am willing to expend. Instead, the goal could be to include daily physical activity in my daily life.
2. Create a game plan. Plan ahead. Write out a detailed plan to achieve the goal. For example, if I want to lose 10 pounds, I would address both food intake and exercise in my plan. Also, in the plan decide how to deal with temptations such as skipping exercise, having a cigarette, or eating a luscious dessert. Ideas to plan for these temptations include calling a friend for help and practicing positive thinking and self-talk.
3. Break the plan down and make it less intimidating. Rather than one big goal, break it down into smaller goals. For example, if the goal is to complete a 10K race, smaller goals would be running 1K then 5K.
4. Talk about your resolution. Ask friends

and family for help. Don't keep the resolution a secret. Get the support you need to change. However, set limits so that their help does not become more irritating than helpful.

5. Reward yourself. Celebrate the attainment of smaller goals. Be careful of the reward type. For example, if the smaller goal was to lose 5 pounds, the reward would not be to eat an entire box of chocolates. Instead celebrate the success by treating yourself to something non-food related, like a professional massage.
6. Track your progress. Keep track of each small success. Small accomplishments will help motivate to the long term goal.
7. Don't beat yourself up. The occasional slip often undermines all of our successes. Don't focus on the negative, rather focus of the successes and each day is a new day.
8. Stick to it. Experts tell us that it takes 21 days doing a new activity, such as exercising, for it to become a habit. It takes about 6 months for it to become part of our personality.
9. Keep trying. If your resolution has totally run out of steam by mid-February don't despair. Start over again. You can make New Year's resolutions any time of the year.
10. Limit your number of resolutions. Multiple changes in your life lead to failure. Focus on attainable goals.

The five areas that we focus our resolutions include stopping smoking, eating more healthily, losing weight, exercising more, and drinking sensibly. This year let us add a sixth area to our resolutions that is developing our spiritual life. Research on older adults demonstrated that individuals who had an interest in cultivating their spiritual lives tended to experience fewer hospitalizations and require less long-term care compared to peers who were not spiritual.

This year let us truly have a new beginning. Let us not lament another year gone by without attaining the goals we want. Let us be closer to God and to others. Have a Happy & Healthy New Year. Fran

LET US NOT  
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ECW Project



Stewardship Dinner



ECW Christmas Party



# A Voice in the Wilderness

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## Bishop's Committee Minutes, Cheryl Essington

### *Bishop's Committee Meeting, December 12, 2004*

**Present:** Randy Belton, Carol Chidsey, Sarah Hixson, Caroline Brazell, Dennis Peters, Cally McKee, Wes Shields, Juli James, Gail Randall, Fred Petersen, Cheryl Essington

### **Minutes**

Caroline Brazell moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting, Juli James seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Everything is looking well. November was a good month for income. Cally moved to accept the treasurer's report, Randy seconded the motion and the motion passed.

### **Senior Warden:**

There was no official report from the Senior Warden.

### **Rector's Report:**

St. Andrew's parish status has been accepted by the Diocesan office and the Bishop is coming January 2 to celebrate with us. Attendance is up and the average attendance for the second half of the year so far is 74. We need to work on welcoming newcomers in the upcoming year.

### **Outreach Committee:**

There will be a Christmas dinner at 6 PM for the community on Christmas Day after the 5:00 service.

### **Old Business:**

1. Committees:

- a. Randy has a committee for building and grounds consisting of Audrey Petersen, Jon Boroff, and Colin Carrier and they will have their first committee meeting in January.
  - b. The Outreach Committee consists of Betty Golden, Carol Chidsey and Sarah Hixson and their first meeting will be at the beginning of the year.
  - c. Gail has asked Wendy Boman to join the Worship Committee, and she has agreed.
2. Phone Tree: The machine is here and Cheryl is working on adding everyone's names and phone numbers.
  3. The new Prayer Books and Hymnals have arrived.
  4. Parish Status: The Bishop will be here January 2 and we are officially a Parish, and Wes is officially a Rector.

### **New Business:**

1. The date for the annual meeting and election of Vestry members is January 23. For the election of a new member Wes envisions a slate of candidates beforehand and also open nominations during the meeting. We need to be open to people being elected to the Vestry not just filling a certain position. We are looking for 3 qualified leaders to step up to serve on the Vestry. Check with Wes if you have someone you would like to nominate.
2. Lenten Dinners--The Worship Committee, Rite 13, ECW and the Vestry will make simple meals, soup and bread. There will be a 45 minute program

after each dinner, which will be held on Wednesday nights at 6 pm. Wes will contact the groups and designate what to bring. The J2A will not host a Lenten dinner as they are hosting a Mardi Gras dinner.

3. Budget-Our pledge total is now over \$101,000 plus about \$3,000 more in verbal pledges. We have 51 pledging units which is up from 44 pledging units last year.
4. Budget proposals—
  - a. Wes would like to see us set aside \$250 for music education for Coralee. She does a lot and this would be a small token of our appreciation. Carol moved to accept the increase, Sarah seconded the motion and the motion passed.
  - b. An increase for outreach was budgeted for a total of \$2,500. This is a \$2,000 increase which is wonderful. Fred made a motion to accept the increase, Carol seconded the motion and the motion passed.
  - c. Wes would like to see a youth coordinator hired for the fall to assist in planning and to spend time with the youth. This would help to decrease the burden on youth workers. This would be a paid position and \$1,000 would be budgeted. Cally made a motion to accept, Carol seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Minutes, cont.

(Continued from page 6)

- d. Wes would also like to see \$500 set aside for a senior's group for miscellaneous activities or trips. Caroline made a motion to accept this addition, Randy seconded the motion and the motion was passed.
- e. The new budget for Wednesday school will be \$1,000. Carol made a motion to accept the increase, Cally seconded the motion and the motion was passed.
- f. Cally made a motion to set aside \$500 for adult education, Caroline seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

### Next meeting:

The next meeting will be held the second Monday in January of 2005 at 7:30.

### Closing

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR 3 QUALIFIED LEADERS TO STEP UP TO SERVE ON THE VESTRY.

**JANUARY**  
*ECW Winter Retreat:*  
*"Understanding Christian Symbols"*  
Guest Speaker: The Rev. Ann Fontaine  
St. Andrews in the Pines Episcopal Church  
*Tentative Schedule*  
January 28<sup>th</sup>: 5:30-9:30 pm  
January 29<sup>th</sup>: 8:30 am-1pm

## The Bishop is coming!

The Bishop is Coming!  
Bishop Bruce Caldwell will be here to celebrate St. Andrew's becoming a Parish. This is a very exciting time for this congregation and I hope everyone will be able to attend. There will be a potluck lunch following the service, so please make every effort to attend. Wes



# A Voice in the Wilderness

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## Music Notes, Coralee Peteresen



I have to confess that I have had trouble figuring out what to write about this month. As I mulled it over, I began to think about the blessings my role at St Andrew's brings to my life. It is a privilege to work closely with our clergy in planning services; it affords me an opportunity to develop both

a professional and personal relationship and to be influenced by their years of study and their insights. I am thankful for the necessity of looking at the lessons for each Sunday ahead of time as we look for and plan music that reinforces the theme found in the scripture; it has led me to get beneath the surface of the lessons we read. It makes me appreciate our lectionary and the "3-year tour" of the Bible that we take. Planning and practicing for services keeps me in touch with the seasons of the church year, allowing my life to be influenced by the emphases of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent,

Easter, and Pentecost; it makes me appreciate our liturgy and the balance and structure it brings to our worship. And then there are the people of St Andrew's; though there are times when I am less than pleased to be so conspicuous, it does afford me opportunity to interact with many of our church family, and, particularly, to make contact with new members. My "job" here at St Andrew's impacts my life deeply and I am grateful for the privilege of being a part of planning and participating in our weekly Eucharist, where, as the song Weave, Weave describes it, "the Christ in me greets the Christ in thee".  
Coralee Petersen

## Lenten Dinners, by Gail Randall, Worship Committee



During Lent this year we will be having Lenten Dinners on each Wednesday night (except March 2) at 6 pm. These dinners will start on February 8, 2005 with the Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras celebration. The Worship Committee will be doing the meal on February 23, 2005 and it is hoped that the other committees will step up and take February 16, March 9, and March 16. These will be simple supper-type meals with a program to follow. It is hoped this will help us feel like a close community during the important Lenten season.

**Bishop's Committee** of St. Andrew's  
Senior Warden, Fred Petersen  
Junior Warden, Randy Belton  
Treasurer, Caroline Brazell  
Clerk, Caroline Ferguson  
Worship, Gail Randall  
Outreach, Sarah Hixon  
Communications, Cally McKee  
Chris. Ed/Youth, Carol Chidsey  
Hospitality/Evan, Juli James

**Mission Statement:** "St Andrew's strives to provide a welcoming, diverse and inter-generational fellowship of worshippers, united in the Anglican tradition, serving the body of Christ, and committed to personal responsibility in our ministry."

## The Book Corner, Jeanne M. Raney

Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith by Jon Krakauer

In the world of organized religion, every major sect seems to have a fundamentalist faction. In Under the Banner of Heaven, Jon Krakauer explores Mormon fundamentalism. Through a series of interviews and intensive research, Krakauer narrates the beginnings of Mormonism, and the splitting off of the fundamentalist sects which still hold the practice of polygamy to be one of the prime tenets. This book goes back and forth in history, narrating the story of Joseph Smith and Brigham Young, as well as contemporary members of fundamentalist doctrine.

This is a fascinating study of fundamentalist belief. It shows the narcissistic focus of extreme fundamentalism and the dangers inherent in the belief that fundamentalist doctrine allows one to rise above other moral teachings and law. The LDS Church is not the only religion to have its ideas taken to fundamentalist extremes, and although this book is centered on Mormon fundamentalist ideology, we can certainly see similar aspects in other extreme fundamentalist groups and even cults.

It is important to note that the mainstream LDS Church does not recognize these factions as part of the Mormon Church, and many fundamentalist followers even identify themselves as followers of a different doctrine and name.

I found this book interesting, not only for the historical narration of the evolution of the LDS church, but also from a psychological standpoint of entering in the minds of people who are so convinced of their divine "rightness" that the moral "wrongness" of their actions totally escapes them.

## Stewardship Campaign a Great Success by Wes Shields

Thank you to everyone who took part in our stewardship campaign. St. Andrew's really responded to the challenge that was laid before you and I think you should be very proud of yourselves. We experienced over 50% growth in our pledges. That's absolutely amazing. The Vestry has already decided where to put some of this extra money. Programs such as Wednesday School, youth, music, and most importantly outreach will receive much more funding. Also,

we have added a new line item to the budget that I am excited about. We are allotting some money for a Senior's Group. This money is set aside so that our mature crowd can gather for lunches, sight seeing opportunities, or other social programs sponsored by the parish. This new program will take shape as the year progresses. All in all there are a lot of exciting opportunities opening up with these new funds. That said, we still have lots of work to do in

terms of stewardship and mission, but I am truly excited about our future. You all have certainly demonstrated your willingness to do what it takes to grow and spread God's love to this community and the world. I am very proud of this parish and I thank you for allowing me to be a part of this church community.

Sincerely, Wes

## Worship Committee Report by Gail Randall

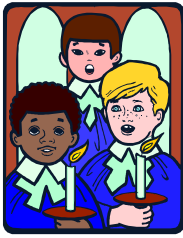
On December 14, 2004 the Worship Committee talked about dates for the Lenten dinners and the big celebration on January 2, 2005 for our Parish status when

Bishop Caldwell will be here to celebrate with us.

We are hoping to add a few new people to the Worship Committee so if you are interested in

being part of the service planning, please let Gail or Wes know.

I hope everyone has a blessed Christmas season.



## A Voice in the Wilderness



### Youth and Children's Corner

## Wednesday Family Night, Katie McClure

Family Night on December 1 was hosted by Jason, Cheryl, and Rachael Essington. The evening had an Asian flair, with California Rolls, Asian noodles, and chicken nuggets. The fish in the California rolls were shipped from Hawaii that day just for the meal. Cheryl and Jason showed how to roll the California rolls and the order of ingredients. The guests enjoyed fellowship and at least everyone tried a roll. They were delicious and I liked the spicy ginger on the side. We attempted to fold a crane, tulip, or fish from origami paper. Davey Hohl was successful and tried to show many of us how to do it. It was another successful family night. Thank you to the Essingtons for their hard work and all the rolling they did so that we could enjoy this unique

fair. Thank you also to them for the trip to Jackson to pick up the fish, which made the rolls so good. Please come

to the next family night— young or old, family or not, single or married, it is a fun opportunity for fellowship!



## Children contribute to Christmas programs, Barb Wise

Twenty-one church school kids presented the Nativity story in a series of tableaux on Sunday the 19th. As children formed each scene, the congregation closed their eyes and listened to the scripture passages. At the chime, the congregation viewed each scene. Very old, tired costumes were discarded, some were refurbished and most of the shepherd and angel costumes are new. Those who helped with the pageant are Sukey Hohl, who did the program for the children's pageant, George Rahm who made the boxes, teachers Lynn Grassell, Nancy Feck, Katie McClure, Caroline Ferguson, Fr. Wes and Barb Wise. Children who participated were: Gus Holz,

Megan Grassell, Garrett Bartlett, Cap McClure, KC Brewer, Matazie Brewer, Garret Lozier, Wes Hathaway, Jordan Costello, Will Grassell, Heidi Feck, Bailey Lozier, Macey McClure, Abby Williams Mary Margaret Grassell, Jamie Rellstab, Jake Hathaway, Talyn Costello, Hattie McKay, Steven Winer, and Tristan Reese. Morgan Holz and Jayne Thompson were the camel. Sue Holz played for this service. This was the children's gift to the congregation with the hope that a new way of telling an old and glorious story was pleasing. Thanks to the Moms and Dads for their support and dedication!

A Family Service was held at 5:30

on Christmas Eve. The church school choir sang "The Happy Birthday Song," "Away in a Manger," and "The Friendly Beasts." Coralee Petersen and Barb Wise were music directors. Again, thanks to the parents who make the participation of our kids in church life possible.

Rite 13 and J2A's met Sunday the 19th at Cally Mckee's home for good snacks and drinks and to watch the movie "Santa Claus" with Tim Allen in the lead role. The movie is about a young boy who learns about the spirit of Santa through his Dad. Cally, Randy, Mike, and Barb were there to help celebrate the two groups being together at this pre-Christmas meeting time.

# January 2005

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 11 am Service & Bishop visit & potluck J2A Rite 13 5-7 pm	3 10:45 am Sublette Center Service	4	5 Noon Service	6	7	8
9 11 am Service J2A Rite 13 5-7 pm	10 10:45 am Sublette Center Service 7:30 pm Vestry	11 6:45 am worship cmt	12	13	14	15
16 11 am Service J2A Rite 13 5-7 pm	17 10:45 am Sublette Center Service	18	19 Noon Service Family Night	20	21	22
23 11 am Service & Annual Meeting	24 10:45 am Sublette Center Service	25	26	27	28 ECW Retreat	29 ECW Retreat
30 11 am Service	31 10:45 am Sublette Center Service					

Tom Davenport donated funds for the printing of this newsletter. Thank you Tom!





Celebrating Christ in Community

ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Advertisements and  
Sponsorships available for  
the newsletter and web  
page. See Irene!

## Nominations for three Vestry members, Wes Shields

At our annual meeting on January 23rd we will be electing three new members of the vestry. These are for three year terms and nominees should meet the following criteria. According to the by-laws of the parish nominees "shall be 15 years of age and over who are baptized members of the Episcopal Church in good standing and who are on record for financially supporting the congregation at least three months prior to the election." Being a baptized member of the church simply means that you have been baptized at some point and are now an active member of our church family. If you have specific questions about these qualifications, please see Wes. Also, if you would like to nominate someone, please talk with Wes.

Happy New  
Year to  
everyone!

