



February 2022

Notes from the Rector

This time last year we were preparing for the consecration and seating of our new bishop-elect, Paul-Gordon Chandler. His seating in the Cathedral was on Valentine's Day, and we joined in worship with people around the state and around the world to share the love and faith that has been entrusted to us. One year later, we are continuing that practice of sharing our love and faith as we embrace the fullness of our past and look forward into the future: the New Frontier, as Bishop Chandler and others have termed it. The New Frontier is less of a place and more of a space.

It is that space in front of us where Christ always stands, inviting us to come with him and make the kingdom of heaven—the kingdom of God—real and present in this world for every person and all of creation. As Bishop Chandler says, the frontier is always scary, because by definition it's somewhere we've never been before. We don't know what will happen to us or where we'll end up. We don't know who we will become on the journey. But we do know Jesus has promised to be with us if we'll only have the courage to come with him.

"Follow me," is what Jesus says to all of his disciples. We know from the Gospels that none of the disciples know what is going to happen next. They bring with them all kinds of ideas of what following the Messiah should look like: comfortable, familiar ideas that they've grown up with their whole lives. And Jesus leads them on a road that looks nothing like they expected. Every single one of them will run away when it gets too scary, too risky, too alien to what they know in their heart of hearts should be happening. Jesus' closest friend, Peter, will even deny knowing him at all.

Yet, not long after they see their friend executed as a criminal and buried in a borrowed tomb, they will see for themselves the truth of the

path on which they were being led. They will see for themselves the unconquerable power of Love, which defeats even death itself. Here is the description of *Christ of the Frontier*, the iconographic painting by Melissa Strickler of Lander, WY.

The painting symbolizes the Episcopal Church in Wyoming's "frontier" vision of the future—seeing the message of Christ taken to new "frontiers" of our hearts, our minds, and our communities. The painting includes numerous symbols of



Wyoming, Native American spirituality and the Episcopal Church in Wyoming:

- Eagle feathers in Jesus' hand – representing holiness, and high honor, and a connection to the Creator
- Western Sky – reflecting God's amazing daily canvas
- Wyoming flora of Sage and Indian Paintbrush in Jesus' hand
- The Grand Tetons Mountain Range
- Pick and Shovel symbols in the nimbus (halo) – representing industry from Wyoming's natural resources (mining)
- Wyoming State Map (at Jesus' feet) – focusing on mountains, forests, grasslands, prairies, rivers, deserts, cities and towns
- American bison – silhouetted on the Wyoming State Flag and a sacred animal in the region
- Mission House – the oldest standing Episcopal Church in Wyoming, located on the Wind River Reservation

Christ of the Frontier is a visual representation of how Christ transforms our understanding of who we can be by bringing together all that we have been and teaching us to see it in new ways, ways that bind us together in love and hope. If we are willing to walk with Jesus into that scary new frontier, into that new vision of ourselves and our world, we cannot help but become apostles of the Gospel of Love.



Artus Wolffort (1581-1641), "Saint Andrew" (photo: Public Domain / Public Domain)

To Be Like Andrew

By Jocelyn Moore

Prior to becoming one of the earliest followers of Jesus, St. Andrew was a disciple of John. He was present when John, baptizing people at Bethany, spotted Jesus near the Jordan River and exclaimed,

"Look, the Lamb of God!"

John had insisted that he was not The One but his role was to alert people of the coming of the Lord. In John's gospel, Chapter 1, verse 40, he relates that Andrew understood the significance of John's remarks and left John to approach Jesus. "Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus."

But Andrew did another remarkable thing as John conveys to us,

"The *first thing* [emphasis mine] Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus." (John 1:41-42)

Andrew is the first to address Jesus as the Messiah, and to invite others to meet Christ. He hadn't graduated from seminary or was an ordained spiritual leader. Andrew wasn't a paid evangelist, didn't start a Bible study or star in a religious TV show, and he never wore an ecclesiastical collar. (Re-read those last six words...)

He was pretty much like you and me; family-oriented, living in a rural area, working a demanding job; just a regular guy who invited people to meet Jesus. In essence, Andrew is not only our patron saint, but also our role model on how to live the Christian life. We can all recall someone in our past who was an "Andrew" for us and introduced us to Jesus and God's love. In 2022, let's step out on faith and, like Andrew, extend invitations - to family, to friends, to acquaintances, to anyone whose path crosses ours - to meet Jesus at St. Andrew's in the Pines Episcopal Church. And yes, ALL are welcome!



Music Notes by Joni Mack

Our Ranch mass started a joyous collaboration with the Pinedale Community UCC in singing songs appropriate to a special occasion, which was continued with the Blessing of the Animals in November and The Festival of Lessons and Carols in December. Now, a number of people in both churches wonder when we will do it again.

I had a brain-wave for the February 20 service, which we will host at St. Andrew's at 9 am. The music focuses on old hymns, many of them from publications called *The Southern Harmony*, *The Union Harmony*, *The Mennonite Hymnal* and other traditional sources. Most of them ended up in our 1982 hymnal, and some are in LEVAS. A couple of them are in Songs for Celebration but not in more modern song-books.

We will have a "Hymn Sing" 15 minutes before the service, which will be led by our group of wonderful singers, then continue with some lovely hymns for the service.

Here's the song line-up:

9: *Awake, Awake to Love and Work*

304: *I Come with Joy to meet my Lord*

470: *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

529: *In Christ There is no East or West*

Songs for Celebration #H-321: *I Will Arise and Go To Jesus*
(Southern Folk melody Arise)

#H-315: *And Can It Be?* (Charles Wesley Hymn Sagina)

Prelude: 439: *What Wondrous Love is This* (round)

Opening Hymn: 554: *Simple Gifts*

Song of Praise: 693: *Just as I Am*

Offertory: 671: *Amazing Grace*

Doxology: 380

Communion: 689: *I Sought the Lord, a cappella*

686: *Come Thou Fount of Ev'ry Blessing*

343: *Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless*

Closing: LEVAS 188 *It is Well with my Soul*

If you'd like to be part of this, please come to a rehearsal after our coffee hour February 13. There are a couple of the hymns that are awesome a cappella, and another as a round, or canon. If you'd like to be a soloist, or lead singer, or play the flute, bagpipes, or guitar, please do join in!



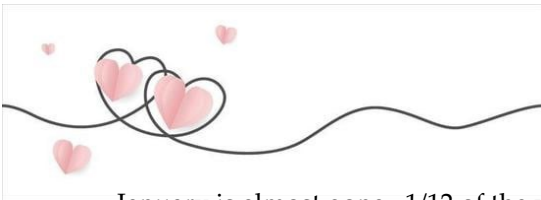
Bulls feeding at Green River Lakes

Andrea Paulsen



Feeding the Elk at Green River Lakes

Andrea Paulsen



RESOLUTIONS by Pat Leidy

January is almost gone. 1/12 of the year gone in a flash. January can be a very busy month. Decorations are put away. Getting back into a daily routine, sorting things for taxes, keeping track of tax documents coming in the mail, etc.

By now many of those New Year's resolutions have gone by the wayside. Why resolutions for New Year's? Why not a different month? Why not one every month? All good questions.

Many moons ago, I got the idea when I got the best valentine ever. A valentine expresses love. My valentine was from God—it is the Bible. I had an idea. Why not start reading the Bible through on Valentines' Day?

I heard a pastor say one could read the entire Bible in just 84 hours. One man doubted this and questioned the pastor. This man was challenged to prove it wrong. A couple weeks passed. The pastor met up with the man and asked, "Well, did you read the Bible in 84 hours?" The man replied, "No—I read it in 72 hours." Point is, reading the Bible from cover to cover is not an insurmountable task.

There are three synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark and Luke. They tell Jesus' story in a similar way. As you read them, you will notice they are from earth to heaven. If we accept Jesus and are obedient to all, we will be with Him in heaven.

John's Gospel is written from heaven to earth. "The Word became and dwelt among us..." John 1:14. "For I have come down from heaven..." John 6:38.

Therefore, I start with the synoptic Gospel of Luke, then John, and proceed through Revelation and go to Genesis. This way I read about the prophecies fulfilled. In the Old Testament, I read about the prophecies to come. This emphasis on the prophecies is embedded in my mind several times. The Bible comes together in a new way and it is easier to remember more as the scriptures are read on Sundays.

"The Word works for those who work the Word"—Cindy Jacobs. Read, pray, sing, ponder and research the Scriptures. Enjoy your Valentine from God.

St. Andrew's in the Pines Episcopal Church
PO Box 847
Pinedale, WY 82941

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UPCOMING DATES IN FEBRUARY

February 1, 8, 15: Seeking the Way in Our Time: An Epiphany Study in person and by Zoom at 6:30 pm.

February 5, 12, 19, 26: Saturday Taizé services in-person and by Zoom at 6 pm.

February 6, 13, 20, 27: Sunday services in-person and by Zoom at 9 am.

February 14: Vestry meeting in-person and by Zoom at 5:30 pm in the Undercroft.

February 23: Deadline for the March Newsletter at 5 pm. Please email submissions to Sukey at:
sukeybook@gmail.com.

February 26: First Annual John Roberts Festival at St. David's Church, Shoshone Episcopal Mission in Fort Washakie at 11 am.

February 27: St. Andrew's Annual Meeting and Potluck Brunch after the 9 am service.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Iyanna Belton-Crowell	2/3
Kelley Pearson	2/10
Liam Raney-Fallon	2/13
Maxwell Rife	2/17
Charlease Elzenga	2/18
Donna Skinner	2/20
Susie Blaha	2/21
Jo Crandall	2/25
Elliott Seehafer	2/25
Sharon Wiley	2/26

St. Andrew's Annual Meeting and Potluck Brunch will be held on Sunday, February 27 after the 9 am service. The vestry will provide the meat.

Sublette County COVID Update. As of January 28, Sublette County Public Health has had 98 new cases and another death from COVID-19 in the past week bringing our total to 25. As of January 24, 3,382 people have been fully vaccinated in Sublette County, which means that 34.40% of our population has been vaccinated.

Seeking the Way in Our Time: An Epiphany Study continues on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm through February 15 and will be in person in the Sanctuary and on Zoom. The study is centered around our 2021 diocesan convention speakers' presentations. Each talk lasts about an hour without interruption, so each session will last 90 minutes or so depending upon the amount of discussion by the group.



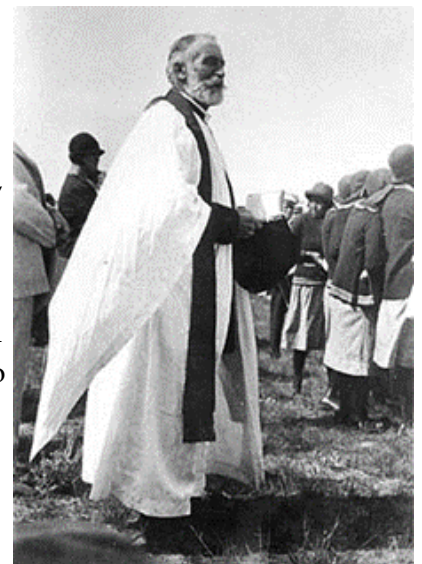
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The Displaced, Nizar Ali Badr, Pebble-Stones. This artwork has been delicately composed with stones by Syrian artist Nizar Ali Badr. Nizar scours the seashore for small stones and pebbles, in different colors, shapes and sizes, near the Syrian-Turkish border. His stone art has become his way of expressing the emotions that have kept him awake at night and sharing those feelings with the world. His most prominent theme is that of displaced persons, who have ended up as refugees, as has happened in his home country of Syria due to civil war. Nizar says, "When I saw all these families being forced to leave their homes, I feel pain. Why should anyone be forced to leave their home?" Through his pebble-stone art, he tries to highlight the sacrifices people make and the risks they take to escape war and persecution. Most of his images depict families and children. He attempts to convey the suffering of the most vulnerable and the burden of being on the move.



First Annual John Roberts Festival. The Rev. John Roberts was a remarkable figure, serving in our diocese for many years—founding our ministry on the Wind River Reservation, as well as many of our other churches in the state. He cultivated close friendships with tribal leaders, including the renowned Eastern Shoshone Chief Washakie and Northern Arapaho Chief Black Coal. He was referred to with deep affection by their peoples as "White Robe" and "Elder Brother." The Episcopal Church honors him every year in our Lesser Feasts & Fasts liturgical calendar, with a feast day on February 25.

In honor of him, the Episcopal Church in Wyoming will host an annual John Roberts Festival on the Wind River Reservation on the weekend closest to February 25. For 2022, this celebration will be held on Saturday, February 26, 11:00 am, at St. David's Church, Shoshone Episcopal Mission in Fort Washakie. We will have a special address by Willie LeClair, Eastern Shoshone tribal member and celebrated cultural presenter, a short service of commemoration, and a "lunch feast." We encourage everyone to join us for this first annual John Roberts Festival.



Treasurer's Report: November 30 report: not accepted; the discrepancies in Outreach (see below) prevent approval. The Vestry agreed that year-end 2021 is a good and necessary time to switch to the church-specific financial software approved by the Diocese. Joni Mack will visit with Jessica Reynolds, Canon for Finances and Administration about getting this done.

Outreach YTD: 1,294.79 income. MSPd to approve the outreach request for a community member's furnace expense for \$496.14 out of Melinda's discretionary. Melinda will ensure there are funds in outreach by meeting with the current treasurer and re-expensing anything that isn't expensed correctly.

COVID update: 12 new cases in the county; total of 23 deaths. Our vaccination numbers are up to 32%.

Grant updates: Suicide Prevention Coalition is reminding people about mental health funds and suicide funds, so word is out there. We will apply in January for another \$50,000 COVID relief grant from the Diocesan Foundation. Community awareness is high, that we support people from the whole county with funding, not just our congregation.

Due to a misunderstanding of financial responsibility, some of the school's counseling invoices for which they have a federal grant were billed to us; this will be changed for the future.

Possible assistance for HCBH patient and SAFV client: two referrals for extensive dental work needed but not sure if it's for one person or two different people. Will check with SAFV to be sure if it's the same person. HCBH client's employer is contributing half (\$2,700); we agreed to give \$500 from outreach and ask people to donate to this specific outreach need.

Christmas ornaments in honor or memory of a loved one: hang a treasured ornament on the tree during the season, from the 21st through Epiphany. This is an opportunity for people to take a moment while in church to remember loved ones during the Service of Solace on the 21st.

Christmas Eve Services at Sublette Center: 1:30 at the Heritage Room.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner report: many take-away dinners, and served over 100 people. Church of the Resurrection will host next year. Special thanks to Jocelyn Moore for being our representative to the committee and for her hard work.

Diocesan Epiphany Study: the excellent presentations from convention will be on Zoom as class-sized programs, prayers, discussion questions, starting in January.

Homeless Shelter donations: Lauren McKeever is heading up an ingathering for the homeless shelter in Casper.

Card ministry: Jocelyn Moore is sending out Christmas cards as well as birthday cards. She is working to get the addresses for new people. Sheryl Boroff and Andrea Paulsen are still sending cards to Sublette Center residents.

Children's Ministry: we currently have no teachers for children's classes; it was suggested that we start by announcing the need for teachers in church. We're really in need of new ideas of providing children's ministry. We could have a story-telling version of the first reading, for example. We would have to decide ahead of time when we would do a special version, like the first and third Sunday. Think about who we could re-engage to work with children, particularly the parents of youngsters. What would work for their children to be part of the church? We could also do a retreat solely on the topic of children and youth ministries, after the first of the year. Vestry agreed that this is a good idea.