



April 2024

Notes from the Rector



Dear Friends

It is with a heavy heart that I share with you that as a result of an accord between Presiding Bishop-Designate May Gray-Reeves and Paul-Gordon Chandler, Paul-Gordon has been deposed and is no longer ordained clergy. It is a great shock. We have been given no information about any findings.

Having the situation resolved brings us closure and enables us to move forward eventually, but right now we need to sit with our immediate feelings. Having it be Holy Week makes this harder and easier. Harder, because it's like being cut adrift from our moorings in the middle of the most important week of the church year. Easier, because this week is itself a walk through wrestling with upheaval, pain, grief, and loss. Even those in the diocese who did not have personal relationships with the Chandlers are still experiencing the anxiety of what happens next, wondering how all the things we've been working on and toward as the Episcopal Church in Wyoming will continue.

We are called to remember, particularly at this time, that the Way of the Cross is the Way of Love. That even in chaos, pain and struggle God is present and working on us, in us, and through us. We are Jesus' disciples. Even when the world is coming apart at the seams (as it seems to be all over the world), Jesus says he will be with us. When the road seems to lead only to tragedy, God is able to bring new life.

Paul-Gordon says in his resignation letter that he never aspired to be a bishop, but he felt called to serve here in Wyoming with us. (His letter and the letter from the Standing Committee President are below.) During his service he made errors (as we all do), but he also fueled our hope for our own future,

hope that we as a diocese will have a future in continuing to reveal and share the Gospel in our state and to our world. He showed us new ways to walk in Jesus' footsteps, and helped us keep opening ourselves to becoming a new people in Christ. As God says multiple times in scripture, "I am doing a new thing, can you not perceive it?" "I am making of you a new people."

Please pray for all those involved in the incident, including the Chandlers, that they all may find healing and peace. Please pray for all those touched by these events, including all of our congregations. And do not lose heart. Remember, we are a resurrection people. We are not to be afraid of pain and death. Jesus has shown us that even the tomb itself has no final victory over Love.

Melinda+



Male Bluebird by Andrea Paulsen

Update From Paul-Gordon Chandler

Dear Diocesan Family,

Greetings and I trust each of you, as well as your families and loved ones, are doing well. It has been very difficult for me to have been away these last months.

The reason I am writing is that to let you know that I will not be able to continue to serve as your bishop, and that I voluntarily decided to leave ordained ministry with The Episcopal Church. This has of course been heartbreaking for us.

Lynne and I prayed long and hard about all this, and while it will be difficult to understand, this decision allows me to stay true to myself, as well as to continue to be faithful to my calling: "Seeking to enable others to enter a deeper dimension spiritually and experience the beauty of God in fresh ways."

Personally, as many of you are already aware, I never aspired to be a bishop. Rather, for me it was a sense of calling to serve with you in Wyoming. Serving among you has been among the greatest honors of my life. I thank God for the inestimable gift I was given of ministering alongside you over the last three years, as we together sought to follow the Christ of the Wyoming Road, and be open to whatever new frontiers he led us towards.

Thank you for welcoming us with open arms and hearts, for which we are profoundly grateful. We have been deeply inspired by you. I also want to thank you for your prayers that have sustained us during this wilderness time. There are some beautiful desert flowers that have emerged. We have experienced God's presence through this challenging time in profoundly moving ways. And I know what it means to experience the power of grace.

It is important for us all to be reminded that none of us is ever truly defined by what happens to us, but rather by how we respond and who we choose to become as a result of it all. While I understand that this will bring confusion, I encourage us all to feed grace, and not anger or resentment, and cherish anew the spirit of kindness, gentleness and generosity.

You will undoubtedly have some transitional leadership until a new bishop is elected. Whomever they are, they will be blessed by your Wyoming welcome, as we so movingly were. Please know you will be in our thoughts and prayers as you enter into a transitional phase. Thank you for blessing us with the beautiful gift of your presence in our lives over these last three years. As I journey on into this next chapter of life, your love and light will continue to shine in my heart.

"Take Hope, Hold Joy, Be Love - Always Journey"

Your Friend,

Paul-Gordon

Update from Megan Nickles, Standing Committee

President Greetings, Presiding Bishop-Designate Mary Gray-Reeves announced she and Paul-Gordon Chandler have entered an accord which includes the sentence of deposition. This means he shall be deprived of the right to exercise the gifts and spiritual authority of God's word and sacraments conferred at ordination. As of March 26, he is no longer serving as Bishop of Wyoming. The standing committee continues to serve as ecclesiastical authority and will remain in partnership with the Office of Pastoral Development to determine our next steps. We are saddened by this news, yet are thankful for the resolution. Lift up your prayers for the Chandler family and all who are affected by this outcome. We enter into Holy Week remembering the servanthood of foot-washing, the terrors of Good Friday, and the piercing anxiety of Holy Saturday. Our suffering is intimately known by God; our hope of resurrection lies there as well. We belong to this God whose green blade rises from even the most arid field. May we all continue to till and plant as part of God's faithful work in Wyoming.

The April Vestry meeting is on Monday, April 8 in-person and by Zoom at 5:30 pm in the Undercroft.

Please sign up for the weekly St. Andrew's worship ministries. The worship schedule is in the entryway/narthex. Contact Meganne Acres at bacog2day@yahoo.com or 307-262-9886 if you would like to learn how to sign up online.

Stewardship of Faith by Meganne Acres. Each Sunday during Lent, we shared in reflecting and remembering our creeds and vows of the Baptismal Covenant. One parishioner stated, *"This series had made me pay more attention to the Creed, deepening my understanding of what Christ requires of us"*. What was beneficial to you in these coffee hour discussions? Where you inspired into an area of growth or encouraged to continue serving in your walk with God? For me, the questions themselves serve as a check in for following Christ. I also loved hearing others thoughts, questions, and especially their passion. Another participant affirmed what Christ compels us to emulate, *"We are called to strive for justice and peace, that's the job!!"* If you have a comment you would like to share for the May newsletter, email it to me or jot it down on an index card found in the kitchen.

As we move through this election year, we can offer up our church's Prayer for Sound Government (BCP p. 821-22)

O Lord our Governor, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth.

Lord, keep this nation under your care.

To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, Mayors of Cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in States, Cities, and Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To the Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

And finally, teach our people to rely on your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name. For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. **Amen.**





St. Andrew's in the Pines Laundry Voucher Program

During the February Vestry meeting, a concern was raised that there are kids who are not going to school because they have no clean clothes. Their families do not have access to laundry facilities or can't afford the laundromat.

After some brainstorming, the Vestry approved a new outreach program to help families get clean clothes and bedding. The pilot program launches during Holy Week and will continue through the end of the school year. We'll assess how it worked and

how many people used this outreach at that time. We also decided to use funds from Barbara Wise's bequest (received the end of 2022) to start out.

How it works:

School counselors will give vouchers to families needing help, who then bring the voucher to Clean Wash Laundromat. There is no limit on the number of washes/dry, but it is designed to be used by a single family. Laundromat staff will get the machines started and give them detergent pods. St. Andrew's will provide the detergent. Michelle Costello, laundromat owner, will bill St. Andrew's for the usage.

How you can help:

If you'd like to provide detergent, that would be a big help. Detergent pods are the most efficient product for this purpose, and easy to hand out. Any amount of detergent will be appreciated; you can leave it in the church entryway in the laundry basket.

If you'd like to help with funding this program, you can make a donation to St. Andrew's and designate it as "Laundry."

We have been blessed lately with parishioners ready to share their musical talents. Pictured is Becky Crowe playing the flute. Joni Mack accompanied. We have also had Jocelyn Moore on guitar and a small but mighty choir with Laura Shell, Teresa Lindemeyer, Madeleine Murdock, Jocelyn Moore, Julia Cook, Kendra Cross, and Lauren McKeever.



KEEP the Faith: Intergenerational Spiritual Development at St. Andrew's

Submitted by Erin Hasteley

Last week, a family member asked me why I still go to church when so many people my age don't. For context, the 90s and early 2000s were a great time to be a kid in church. As a child, I had puppet ministries and VeggieTales, enterprises so entertaining I can still sing the songs. My youth group years brought worship bands, games too fun to allow anymore, spring break mission trips, and Bibles formatted to look like slick teen magazines, complete with quizzes. It was awesome.

I remember these products of their time fondly, as do my siblings. But those products are not the faith that sustains me today. What keeps me in church, then, when many who came up in the same era have now opted out?

Certainly, my personality plays a role. I am hardwired for religious practice, and going to church is a big part of that. But another factor is more instructive for our purposes: in college, I found Emmaus Campus Ministry.

Emmaus is an ecumenical campus ministry right across the street from the University of Montana in Missoula. When I showed up at Emmaus the first few times, it was unlike any church group I'd ever experienced. The campus pastor seemed more interested in asking questions than giving answers. Many of the students were wholly convinced of God's love for them, and entirely unbothered by the purity culture mandates with which I'd grown up. These were definitely not my kind of Christians. But when I vocally disagreed with biblical interpretations I found way out of line, I wasn't shown the door. I was invited to coffee by one of the peer ministers. Suspect.

Fast forward a decade, and I can now see how central that group was to my spiritual development. The Sunday evening "Dinner and Discussion" meetings stretched and grew my faith. I was exposed to new ways of thinking about Christian practice, and the practice of neighboring faiths. I learned that I could be in Christian community with people of varied perspectives. We could, like Jacob, wrestle with God, and get called and blessed in unexpected ways as a result.

I invited readers last month to help discern what a similar, intergenerational spiritual development ministry might look like at St. Andrew's.

Multiple leaders have stepped up, and the invitation is still open! I'd love for you to join us at one of the upcoming planning parties for The KEEP. We'll meet on the following Sunday evenings at 5:30PM in the undercroft for fellowship, discernment, and prayerfully getting our ducks in a row before launching The KEEP.

April 7: Share possible visions/hopes for what The KEEP might turn out to be.

April 14: Discuss roles, scheduling process, Safe Church training needs, and different opportunities for service.

April 28: Choose the first (few?) round (s) of content/curriculum.

May 5: Develop our plan for getting the word out and inviting participants. I hope you can join us!

My contact info to RSVP or learn more: erinhasteley@gmail.com | 608-228-8972

Kristi Wallin's email for Safe Church training access: kristi@episcopalwy.org

DRAFT: NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION (YET)



The KEEP is:
A safe place to gather and grow

For community members of any age and spiritual background

Characterized by:

- Kingdom hospitality
- Emotional health
- Epistemic humility*
- Persisting hope

The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore. Psalm 121:8

*This means we are willing to admit we could be wrong.

Meets Sunday evenings starting June 2:

- 524 W Pine Street in the undercroft (basement); Enter through lower level door on western side

What to expect:

- 5:30PM: Mindful weekly planning (bring your planner or a notebook!)
- 6:00PM-7:30PM: Dinner (provided) and discussion

Vestry Notes 02.12.24

In attendance: Melinda Bobo (Rector), Joni Mack (Treasurer), Erin Hastey (Vestry), Sukey Hohl (Vestry), Julie Belton (Vestry), Sandy Cenac (Vestry), Teresa Lindenmeier (Vestry) and Kelley Pearson (Vestry - via Zoom),
Becky Crowe (Guest) and Meganne Acres (Guest)

Called to Order: 5:40pm

Affirmation

Treasurer's Report and Outreach – Outreach for January was \$381.78; the total is \$2,046.17. There was a bill paid for \$530 that Melinda had approved. Motion made by Kelley to accept / Sarah second - carried. Discussion happened toward the end of the meeting, that we will be sending back the money left over from the Bozeman Trail game, that was left over from the grant - \$11.23.

Minutes for January 8, 2024 - Handed in at the Meeting. Motion made by Sukey to accept / Sarah 2nd - Erin abstained since she wasn't present at that meeting. Rest carried.

Business - First, we welcomed the new members! Sukey and Erin.

Visioning/Dream - Melinda explained why this is kept on the agenda each month. Some discussion as to what our vision is and that it is still a work in progress.

Worship Leader Trainings - Meganne talked about what it entails and invited the Vestry to the training. It is being held during Lent for anyone interested in Lay duties. Meganne was also asking for the Vestry to be the sponsor for the licenses. Then at Easter asking that the Vestry be a part of the service. *Licensure would be for Worship Leaders, Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor and Lay Preacher. Classes begin 02.20.24. Kelley made the motion / Julie 2nd that the Vestry be the sponsors*

Exercise of Examen for Vestry and others interested - Becky spoke about this being a guided reflection, looking back at 2023. What has been the work of the church and what has been the work of the Vestry over the past year. Bring forward what needs to come forward and leave what needs to be left behind. Becky asked for previous Vestry notes, FB, personal calendars. It would be guided to help. It can be written or drawn. Review a month at a time. What are you grateful for, for that particular month. Sacred threads. Helping to see God's work in our lives. Also seeing where we might have left off. Things unresolved. What to do with that information. Then our intentions moving forward. Expected to take an hour and a half, should get through approximately 4 months. Then to decide if we want to keep going. She is inviting us to do it as a Vestry or do we want to extend it to the congregation. Question for our retreat.

Teresa offered her house for the retreat, allowing for approximately 3 hours. Will email the Vestry with dates.

Christian Education - Erin started the discussion. What does the town need/want, and what does she need? She went over a bit of her history. "We filter coffee, not people". She feels that St Andrews and the UCC have the venue for what she is looking for. Open to everyone at any age. Needs to be participative. UCC does a good job w/ their Youth Ministry, but maybe we can do something like The KEEP. She passed out a flyer for us to review/discuss. Sandy brought up how it is in the schools. This wouldn't just be for youth, this is for everyone. Erin wants to adopt the nursery and refresh it, make it more welcoming. Erin isn't here every week, so before starting The KEEP, she would want to make sure there is someone else that will be willing to help. Discussion about the people involved needing to take the safe church training. Next step is if there is interest, to set a date for it. There is definitely interest, suggested to start after Easter, but making the announcement at Easter. Sarah said she would be willing to help as needed. Kelley asked about what is in the budget for advertising. Able to share the information at the school. Add to March Vestry Agenda. Reach out to Erin if you have any questions.

Parochial Report Questions - Discussion. Increased opportunities for outreach. Movie program, safe place for kids during the summer. Meganne's vibrant stewardship program.

Melinda to send the Parochial Report for review and approval.

Miscellaneous -

On Sacred Ground, 12-week course.

Melinda will be doing Rite II during Lent

Discussion about children not going to school because their clothes are dirty, and not being able to afford to wash them. Further discussion about having St Andrews provide laundry vouchers and detergent at the laundromat for them to be able to do their laundry.

Closing Prayer

Adjourned 7:45pm

If you would like to sit down and have a detailed explanation of our finances, please be in touch. I’m glad to do that.

Current Assets	February 2024	January 2024
Operating fund balance	4,438.76	26,496.03
Memorial fund	2,063.57	2,063.40
Savings	34,501.69	14,500.23
Building fund	1,416.79	1,416.68
Priest Discretionary	158.87	283.87
Associate Priest Discretionary	1,031.99	1,031.99
Grant Checking Account	28,460.09	28,460.09
Summer Lunch Checking Account	4,951.79	4,951.79
ECW Checking Account	295.49	295.49
Total Current Assets	77,319.04	79,499.57
CD – 6 month from operating	10,000	10,000
CD – 15 month from savings	15,000	15,000
CD – building fund	20,000	20,000
Total CDs	45,000	45,000
Dedicated Funds		
Mental Health (formerly COVID) Grant	26,698.03	27,198.03
Bozeman Trail Grant	11.23	11.23
Outreach Fund	969.67	1,664.39
Summer Lunch	4,951.79	4,951.79
Community Thanksgiving	(15.08)	(15.08)
Total Dedicated Funds	32,615.64	33,810.36
Budget Comparison YTD February 2024	Actual	Budget
Revenue	33,881.94	21,016.66
Expenses	(20,369.78)	(21,991.30)
(Deficit) of Revenue over Expenses	13,512.16	(974.64)

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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

UPCOMING DATES IN APRIL

April 4 and 18: Thursday Taizé services in-person and by Zoom at 6 pm.

April 7, 14, 21, 28: Sunday services in-person and by Zoom at 9 am.

April 7, 14, 28. and May 5: Planning parties for THE KEEP.

April 8: Vestry meeting in-person and by Zoom at 5:30 pm in the Undercroft.

April 27: Deadline for the April Newsletter at 5 pm. Please email submissions to sukeybook@gmail.com.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Natalie Wise	4/12
Arlo Mansur	4/14
Aaron Belton	4/16
Hannah Liske	4/20
Braylee Kinney	4/22
Coralee Petersen	4/28



Young bull caught drinking on Tyler Avenue by Rev. Melinda Bobo.