



APRIL 2025

A LENTEN REFLECTION FROM THE REV.
MEGAN NICKLES

Lordy, it has been *wild*. We live in the high desert and can expect a certain unpredictability in our daily lives, usually around the weather. The odd mountain lion in a tree down the block, rattlesnakes under the fridge, and a random driver who kills our favorite bear in the Yellowstone ecosystem are also just part of life here in the wilderness.

But it gets harder when tragic violence and sudden death infiltrate our routines and disrupt our communities painful ways. That has been our experience in Big Horn, Park, and Sublette counties this dark winter.

And, of course, the partisan politics that expose the deep divides between rural and urban states can feel like one long bull ride with no buzzer at eight seconds. The pains of betrayal, mistrust, and heartbreak in our diocese can make it feel even worse. And not at all fun.

Well, not all fun is created equal. But it is quantifiable. People who spend a lot of time outdoors and in the wild have created three categories of fun.

Type One Fun is both fun to do and fun to remember, and it calls you back for more, again and again. The sledding trip to cut Christmas trees every year is the most fun our church has, and the group pictures we take every year are amusing to look at.

Type Two Fun hurts a bit and perhaps involves a little suffering. BUT, it is fun in retrospect. This type is most fulfilling in the long run. One of the women's hiking trips I took with Jill Smylie falls into this category. A few of us took a trail that was way more miles than we planned for the day, and we were running out of snacks, water and energy. I won't ever forget how happy I was to see Meagan

Acres trotting up the trail from the parking lot, ready to take my pack. We made it. And I would go again, gladly.

Type Three Fun is not fun to plan, or to do, and is not even fun in retrospect. But it makes a great story.

By the time you read this, you might have had some Type One Fat Tuesday Pancake Fun. It's good to be together to eat rich food and have a last blast of syrup, chocolate chips, and whipped cream. Even the clean-up crew can have its particular enjoyments.

On Ash Wednesday, you may have made a change in your life to embrace some Type 2 Fun. Something planned, something challenging, something meaningful to connect yourself with the wild desert that our brother Jesus experienced for 40 days. This kind of fasting isn't meant to punish yourself or bog yourself down into a kind of self-improvement plan. It is meant to be fulfilling in the long run.

And the long run of Lent is usually only fun in retrospect.

Indeed, Lent takes us right up to the Type
(Continued on next page)



Frosty Morning by Andrea Paulsen

(Continued from the previous page) Three Fun of Holy Week, which is wholly wild, and not fun at all. The feast of rich wine and bread of Maundy Thursday is eaten to the haunting strains of betrayal, mistrust and broken hearts. Good Friday is full of violence and death. And Saturday is just dark. Not fun, even in retrospect.

But it makes a great story. It is our story. A story of death and resurrection—and it's one of the best.

No matter how wild it gets, how fractured our partisan politics become, how many snakes are in our kitchens, how bitter indeed the -22 degree mornings, how deep our disappointment, our story of Lent and the Day of Resurrection keeps us coming back, again and again, for the long run of discipleship and our shared life in Christ Jesus where the deepest joy abides.

And that is all kinds of fun. *The Rev. Megan Nickles, President, Diocesan Standing Committee*

GETTING TO KNOW: JONI MACK



How long have you been attending St. Andrew's? I moved to Pinedale in 2015, and started attending then.

Short bio: I was born in Riverton and lived there in the winter, Bondurant in the summer on a cattle ranch. I spent a lot of my days on horseback. I love animals, and have always had a pet of one kind or another. I attended Central Wyoming College, Laramie County Community College, and the University of Wyoming, studying science, music, and history. I have lived in Evanston WY, Park City UT, my folks' ranch near Daniel and finally Jackson WY for 30 years before moving to Pinedale. In my work life, I have been many things including clothing store owner and Parish Life Coordinator for St. John's Church. I am currently part of the artist's cooperative here, Art of the Winds, with jewelry. I am married to the most amazing man, Scott Davis.

Where would you like to visit? Ireland and a re-visit of Scotland and northern England. Re-visiting Canada, too- perhaps on a scenic train.

What historical figure do you most admire? Boudicca, Queen of the Iceni and leader of the rebellion against Roman tyranny in Britain. Not every story has a happy ending, but the great courage of this woman is remarkable in any time.

Who is your favorite writer? Tough question – I read so many great writers. JRR Tolkien, Ursula K LeGuin, Diana Gabaldon, Patrick O'Brian, Bernard Cornwell and just for fun, the mysteries of Ellis Peters, Sharan Newman, Sharyn McCrumb, Laurie R R King, Lindsey Davis, Anne Perry and the weird Pendergast books by Preston and Child.

What are your hobbies, interests? I am a silversmith and love making jewelry. I also have a life-long love of music and am glad to contribute to the life of St. Andrew's with the choir. I enjoy cross-country skiing, walking outdoors and water-skiing. I also enjoy bird watching and steam engines. Big Boy 4014!

What's on your bucket list? Would love to see *Riverdance*.

What do you love most about Sublette County? The wide-open spaces, the dark skies (for using the telescope Scotty recently gave me), uncrowded roads, awesome scenery, Fremont Lake for skiing.

Tell us about your family: My mom turns 92 this summer, and will spend it at the ranch in Bondurant, hopefully. She is a wildlife artist and always has a painting on her easel. She has been a positive force in my life, as was my dad, who died in 2017, and my mother-in-law Harriet who has also died. I have 2 adult step-children and 2 grandchildren. It's been great to have kids in my life when I didn't think that would happen. Also an ancient cat, Silkie, and a rescue Chihuahua cross who is a total character, Lizzie.

Favorite Bible verse: Old Testament - Isaiah 40: fantastic imagery of the voice in the wilderness calling "make straight in the desert a highway for our God." New Testament -John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give I you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Favorite spiritual leader: Pierre Teilhard de Chardin; John Philip Newell; Brother Roger, founder of the Taizé community

Favorite memory/story about St. Andrew's: to walk in for the first time and receive a hearty and slightly curious welcome from everyone at worship. I will never forget that day, and always try (if given a chance) to offer a similar welcome, for by showing hospitality to strangers, some have entertained angels unawares.



APRIL 2025



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

		1	2 5:30 pm Veterans Talking to Veterans and First Responders	3 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	4	5 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
6 9 am Ante (Before) Communion	7	8 7 pm Marijuana Anonymous	9 5:30 pm Veterans Talking to Veterans and First Responders	10 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	11	12 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
13 Palm Sunday 9 am Holy Eucharist with Rev. Mary	14 5:30 Vestry Meeting	15 7 pm Marijuana Anonymous	16 7 pm Service of Tenebrae 5:30 pm Veterans Talking to Veterans and First Responders	17 7 pm Maundy Thursday, The Watch 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	18 12:15 Good Friday	19 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
20 Easter Sunday 9 am Holy Eucharist with Rev. Mary Caucutt, followed by Easter Brunch	21	22 7 pm Marijuana Anonymous	23 5:30 pm Veterans Talking to Veterans and First Responders	24 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	25	26 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
27 9 am Ante (Before) Communion, Vestry Update	28	29 7 pm Marijuana Anonymous	30 Newsletter Deadline at 5 pm 5:30 pm Veterans Talking to Veterans and First Responders			

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Kendra Cross4/5
 Aaron Belton4/16
 Hannah Liske4/20

Dear Friends at St. Andrew's in the Pines,

I look forward to joining you Palm Sunday through Easter Morning. Your Worship Committee has a week filled with meaningful worship for all of us. I hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to observe the suffering and death as well as celebrate the rising of our Savior.



Jesus said, "If you destroy this temple, I will rebuild it in three days."

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus the dwelling place of God was destroyed and rebuilt in three days. Through our own baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus, Christians now know God's primary dwelling place to be in the body, in your body, in the body of all the baptized past, present, and future.

During Holy Week I invite us to reflect on what it might mean that each of us is a temple of the Holy Spirit as well as that all of us together are Christ's risen body here today.

Peace, Mary+



BAKING WITH JULIA!

You're welcome to come to the church kitchen Wednesday April 9, 10:30 a.m. to make fresh communion bread. Julie Cook leads us.

We will also make some Palm Crosses then, as the palm order should be here. Coffee hour on Palm Sunday is another opportunity to make the crosses - no experience necessary! It's like origami - folding and folding.

APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 6th Sunday Worship - Ante-Communion 9:00am

Lector: Jocelyn Moore
Worship Leader: Sukey Hohl

April 13th Palm Sunday - 9:00am Holy Eucharist,

Rev. Mary Caucutt
Lector: Clay Cundall
Eucharistic Minister: Sukey

PALM SUNDAY - The Passion According to Luke

Narrator: Julie Belton
Jesus: Clay Cundall
Peter: Bob Zakotnik
Servant: Jaycie Cundall
Disciples: Sarah Hixson and room for more!
Pilate: Julie Cook
Soldiers: Teresa Lindenmeier and Andrea Paulsen

Accuser #1: Mad Murdock
Accuser #2: Windy Noble
Criminal #1: Laura Shell
Criminal #2: Kendra Cross
Centurion: Jennifer Wilson
Assembly: The whole congregation

April 16th Wednesday - Tenebrae 7:00pm

Lector: Sukey Hohl
Lector: Kendra Cross
Acolyte: Meganne Acres

Thursday April 17th - Maundy Thursday with Foot Washing 7:00pm

Lector: Julie Belton
Eucharistic Minister: Julie Belton

Good Friday April 18th - Traditional GF Service 12:15pm

Lector: Joni Mack
Worship Leader: Meganne Acres

Easter Sunday 9:00am - Holy Eucharist, Rev. Mary Caucutt

Lector: Susan Brennan
Eucharistic Minister: Mad Murdock

April 27th Sunday Worship - Ante-Communion 9:00am

Lector: Jennifer Wilson
Worship Leader: Open Opportunity

St. Andrew's in the Pines Vestry Minutes
February 10, 2025

1. Call to Order: The meeting started at 5:36. Present: Sarah Hixson (Junior Warden), Joni Mack (Treasurer) and regular Vestry members Sukey Hohl, Erin Hastey, and Julie Belton with Sandy Cenac and Kelley Pearson via Zoom. Guests Father Randy Belton and Dave Hohl were also present for parts of the meeting.

2. Opening Prayer: Sukey led us in an opening prayer for wise decisions and good leadership. **3. Minutes:** Julie moved to accept the January Minutes as presented, Joni seconded. Motion passed unanimously. **4. Business** (in order to accommodate the Rectory Report, the agenda was slightly rearranged. Kelley Pearson led the meeting until Sukey was elected and then Sukey took over.)

a. Election of Vestry Officers: Joni nominated Sukey to be Senior Warden. There were no other nominees. Erin seconded. Sukey was elected unanimously. Sarah Hixson had agreed to continue as Jr. Warden at the Annual Meeting and Julie Belton became the new Clerk.

b. Adopt Google Drive: Sukey suggested that she create a Vestry Google Drive account to share and collaborate on documents more easily, communicate with each other, and save on paper. It was agreed to give it a try. It is a free service and there will be training for Vestry members who are unfamiliar with how it works. **c. Vestry Retreat:** Sukey suggested that in lieu of a Vestry Retreat since we have no new members, the Vestry meet with Rev. Mary Caucutt during her March visit about St. Andrew's transition options. This was agreed on and it will take place after coffee hour at noon on March 2 at Sukey's house and that there will be a potluck lunch.

d. The Transition Process: At the Annual Meeting it was agreed that the Vestry would give regular updates about the transition process. It seems best to do those at coffee hour on the Sundays after Vestry Meetings. The first one will be February 16. It was also agreed that we would ask the parish at large for their input also, starting during the service on February 25. To further prepare, Sukey will contact Jessica Reynolds at the Diocese. She is the Diocesan Transition Officer and can educate the Vestry about proper procedure and steps we can take. Parishioners should be aware that since the Vestry mainly meets monthly this will be a somewhat slow process.

e. Memorial Service for Juli James Spitzer: Father Randy gave us an update on the service, which will take place on February 15 at 11:00 am at St. Andrew's and passed around draft service leaflets. St. Andrew's will pay for the service leaflets. Joni will send out the Zoom invites. The family has asked that donations be made to St. Andrew's in Juli's memory. The chairs have already been moved upstairs and there is a plan to handle the flowers. The reception will be at the VFW.

f. Approve Parochial Report (due March 1, 2025): Joni shared a draft of the report. After some discussion two small changes were made to the draft. Kelley moved, Sarah seconded to accept the Parochial Report as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

g. Worship Plan for February, Lent, Holy Week and Easter: The Worship Team met Sunday, Feb. 9. Meganne Acres has been in touch with Rev. Mary Caucutt to plan services for Sunday, March 2 through March 9. Plans for Lent and Holy Week are coming together. Many details have been worked out and worship services are going well.

h. Mental Health Grant: Father Randy Belton submitted letters from the St. Hubert the Hunter, Bondurant and St. John's the Baptist, Big Piney and Joni will take them and submit the renewal of the Mental Health Grant to the Diocesan Foundation.

i. Rectory Report: Dave Hohl and Jr. Warden Sarah Hixson toured the Rectory with Melinda last week. Dave gave a report saying that the bid from Lone Wolf Construction seems to give an accurate picture of the work needed. He recommended that the house be inspected by a licensed building inspector who would make a more thorough examination of the structure. The house is old but seems to be sound. It would benefit from a modernization/upgrade including new wiring and new siding properly installed in the current manner. There is some confusion about what inspections the Diocese will be doing and when so Erin volunteered to find out more from the Diocese. Joni knows of a local inspector that she can recommend if we decide to go that route.

j. Vestry and Rev. Mary Caucutt. The Vestry agreed that we will take full advantage of Rev. Mary's two scheduled visits to benefit both the Vestry and the parish at large with as many activities as we can reasonably expect from her.

k. Sound System: Joni Mack and Scott Davis have generously updated the church microphone system. We used it during February 9th service and it is a huge improvement.

l. Ratify Email Decision on CD: Sarah moved and Sukey seconded to approve our decision to re-invest matured operating funds CD that we had approved earlier via email. Motion passed unanimously.

m. Newsletter: Sukey reminded the Vestry that she is depending on Vestry members to write cover articles for the newsletter and also be featured in the "Getting to Know" interview articles. Erin volunteered for the interview for March and Sukey will write the cover article. Sukey also begged for pictures and newsy items.

5. Treasurer's Report and Outreach: Joni reported that the changes to the Associate Priest line item agreed on at the last meeting have been implemented. She also reported that we have recently received unexpected gifts totaling \$14,000. With data for only one month so far this year, there was not much more to report. Kelley moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Sarah seconded. Motion approve unanimously.

6. Miscellaneous:

a. Sarah Hixson, Jr. Warden will do a walk through of the Rectory after Rev. Melinda departs March

15. b. Sukey reminded everyone to complete their Safe Church Training.

c. A parishioner has approached the Vestry about doing a Christian Education class on Dietrich Bonhoeffer. This led to a debate on how we should handle Christian Education and we agreed to return to the discussion.

d. We discussed whether we wanted to change date and/or time of Vestry meetings and decided to keep it as is.

7. Closing Prayer

8. Meeting Adjourned: at 7:10 pm.

Action Items:

Christian Education: all

Google Drive: Sukey

Contact Diocesan Building Committee: Erin

Contact: Jessica Reynolds: Sukey

Rectory Walk Through: Sarah

Submit Mental Health Grant: Joni

Treasurer's Report for April newsletter**Joni Mack, Treasurer**

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.

Thank you, everyone for your generous support of St. Andrew's ministries.

Current Assets	As of February 28, 2025
Operating fund balance	3,161.24
Memorial fund	2,064.43
Savings	52,539.66
Building fund	422.60
Priest Discretionary	528.31
Suicide Prevention Fund	17,300.46
Dedicated Funds Checking Account	7,572.83
ECW Checking Account	50.49
Total Current Assets	83,640.02
Edward Jones investment account (building fund)	8,231.56
CD – 9 month (matures 7.23.25)	10,450.00
CD – 7 month (FirstWestern) matures 9/5/25	15,980.09
CD – building fund 9 month (matures 6.11.25)	22,220.56
Total CDs and Investments	56,882.21
Dedicated Funds	
Mental Health Grant	4,575.58
Outreach Fund	1,613.77
Summer Lunch	11,533.94
Youth	885.81
Total Dedicated Funds	18,834.10
Total Revenue YTD February 2025	28,734
Total Expenses YTD February 2025	-21,598
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	7,136

ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES VESTRY

Name	Office	Phone	Email	Term Ends
Julie Belton	Clerk	(307) 231-1856	real125c@outlook.com	2026
Sandy Cenac		(985) 860-8037	SandyCenac@gmail.com	2026
Kelley Pearson		(307) 231-2394	okelley.pearson@gmail.com	2026
Erin Hastey		(608) 228-897	erinhastey@gmail.com	2027
Sukey Hohl	Senior Warden	(307) 231-3030	sukeybook@gmail.com	2027
Sarah Hixson	Junior Warden	(307) 231-9666	sarahmi5@wyoming.com	2028
Joni Mack	Treasurer	(307) 690-0669	joni@ravenscrowne.com	

TENEBRAE - WE WAIT IN DARKNESS

BY MEGANNE ACRES

St. Andrew's has been using a song of praise in our liturgy called "Longing for Light" with lyrics and music written by Bernadette Farrell. One new verse each week, each week a new area of our life that is longing for the light of Christ.

During Holy Week this year, the service of Tenebrae will be offered and has a deep sense of longing for light as candles are extinguished in solemn remembrance of the gradual betrayals and sufferings of Christ as shared through scripture.

Tenebrae dates to medieval times and was first used in the Roman Catholic church from the seventh century until the mid-1950's. Tenebrae or *tenebris* from Latin is defined as darkness or shadows. Several denominations celebrate with Tenebrae now as part of their Holy Week observances.

It is no easy task to consider the darkness enveloping Christ during His final days. This was perhaps the darkest hour of humanity and yet the dichotomy works in these hopeless, fearful days as the disciples (and our) understanding waits and searches for a flicker. Tenebrae invites us into the mystery and paradox of longing for light in our hearts and in the world - alongside believing the victory is God's. Our waiting with joy and sorrow is purified when our ponders and prayers in the shadows of our sin weave with the loving obedience of Jesus to overcome sin and death.

Even more difficult to contemplate is Christ enduring the sins of all mankind on Good Friday. That is when the synoptic Gospels record the shroud of darkness over the land as a supernatural sign of judgement of sin. That shroud surely was inclusive: physical, emotional and spiritual.

The Christ candle of the Tenebrae symbolizes Jesus as the Light of the World and we know from John 1, darkness could not overcome Him. *Strepitus* is another Latin word found in Tenebrae and refers to a loud crashing sound or noise which has many interpretations centering on the earth-shaking events of Jesus' crucifixion, death and burial.

St. Andrew's will journey together during Holy Week following the first steps of Christ on Palm Sunday. We will wave and waive, we will wash, watch and wince, we will wait and worship not fearing the darkness - instead, we will long for Light.



**ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
PO Box 847
PINEDALE, WY 82941**

**PLACE
STAMP
HERE**

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

APRIL 13 - PALM SUNDAY

9 am Holy Eucharist

APRIL 16 - WEDNESDAY

7 pm - Service of Tenebrae

APRIL 17 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

7 pm Holy Eucharist

8 pm Garden of Gethsemane Watch
begins (every hour until 7 am Friday)

APRIL 18 - GOOD FRIDAY

12:15 pm Good Friday service with

Stations of the Cross (church) afterward

APRIL 20 - 9 am EASTER SUNDAY

Service (Potluck Brunch Follows)

Nature's Gift by Andrea Paulsen



Solitude on the green by Andrea Paulsen

