

A Voice in the Wilderness



ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MARCH 2008

The Rector's Remarks

Wes Shields



I want to take a minute to talk about something that I feel is pertinent to the Easter Season. Lately I have been noticing just how fragile life can be. Sound like a joyous Easter topic? I certainly intend it to be, because I want to talk about appreciating the simple joys of life. In the last month I have been with people dealing with the death of a loved one, aging and all that goes along with that, divorce, serious medical scares, and a number of other issues that all have me thinking just how precious life really is. The common denominator in all of these situations is people trying to cope with the idea of living in close relationship with another human being, or in some cases thinking about living without those relationships. What I am beginning to realize is that all the great memories and fun times in my life are truly great because of the people that I shared them with. Many of those memories are with Laura, but there are also many with my family and friends in North Carolina. I have made some great memories with many of you as well. Most of these memories happened in the process of just living my life. Granted they tended to occur when I put myself in a situation to have some fun, but none the less, most of them weren't on some grand trip to Europe, or back-packing in South America. They happened with the people I see all the time. My point is that living a life that is aware of the fact that life is precious, doesn't mean doing grand things, or fulfilling all your dreams, it means living every day as through it is precious. It means appreciating and reciprocating the love of those around you, and it means not always thinking about what we would like to do, but rather thinking about how much we like what we are doing.



Senior Warden's Report

Roz Leslie

Greetings!

My first month as Senior Warden has been pretty uneventful. We'll see as time marches on if this pattern continues! I have been attending the Wednesday evening Adult Christian Education study on the Ten Commandments—thought provoking, to say the least! Join us at 5:45 p.m. if you can—you won't be disappointed (there are no wrong answers either J). I haven't heard of any takers for the ECW presidency, yet. I think it may ride off into the sunset—keep prayin' for that special woman though. The Rendezvous pie sale is still in the works as of this writing and many hands will be needed to pull it off. Holy Week and Easter will be here before ya know it. There are events and services planned; your attendance and support would be greatly appreciated. Keep Patti and Phil Washburn in your prayers as he is recovering from a stroke. I happened to be in Salt Lake City on 2/7 and 2/8 and did get to visit him at University Hospital.

Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance...

Roz

A Voice in the Wilderness

Suitcase Tango, Coralee Petersen

I am sure that the grapevine has provided most of you with the info that Fred and I recently went on a trip to South America. As we prepared to be at least semi-informed tourists, we read about Argentina and encountered the legend and traditions of the tango, considered the national dance. Then I received an email from Mary Caucutt about the "Suitcase Tango". She, of course, knew of our planned trip, and told us of a man named Russell Johnson who is a member of their church; he lives part-time in Cody and part-time in Buenos Aires and owns an import business. She said he had become involved with a soup kitchen that feeds children in one of the poor neighborhoods on the outskirts of the city, and they were collecting clothes for the children and their families. The Tango Suitcase Project asks tourists coming into Buenos Aires to bring a suitcase full of clothes to give to the soup kitchen, and then you have the empty suitcase to take home the treasures you buy while vacationing. (And nobody pays shipping!) It sounded like a great idea to me, so we rounded up a suitcase full of children's clothes (courtesy of Ana and Steve) and raided our closets for a suitcase full of adult clothing. We made email contact with the young woman, Sarah, who works for Russell, and set off on our adventure. Mid-flight to Buenos Aires, I realized that I had not brought the contact information with me, and had no idea how to get in touch with these folks (i.e. how to unload all these clothes we were dragging around). With a couple international phone calls and Cally's assistance breaking into my computer and getting the info I needed, my panic was relieved: I had an address and a phone number.

Our visit to the loft where Russell lives and runs his business (and entertains the 136 children from the soup kitchen for Christmas!) was very interesting. Sarah is delightful, and Marita the housekeeper and cook who has been the inspiration behind Russell's involvement, greeted us warmly. Marita has extended family who live in La Matanza, the neighborhood the soup kitchen serves. The name of the kitchen is Volver a Empezar and it feeds 136 children every day, and for most of them it is the only meal they get. As Marita shared her concern, Russell decided a couple years ago to throw a Christmas party for the children. From there, their involvement has grown, and in October of 2007 they formed a non-profit organization called the Buenos Aires Children's Fund. They work with just the 136 children at Volver a Empezar. The goal is to improve their lives and help them actualize their potential. Buenos Aires Children's Fund would love to connect with organizations in the US who can help them achieve their goals of sustainability for Volver a Empezar, and I am hoping that St Andrew's might be interested in becoming involved. I have a pdf computer file about the Buenos Aires Children's Fund which I would be thrilled to share with anyone who is interested. Some of you who were lucky (?) enough to be in my email address book have already received it!

As Fred and I planned our big adventure to south America, we had no idea that we would discover anything like this. I was so struck by one person's willingness to see the need in one corner of the world and to try to do something about it, and also to give other people a chance to help do something about it. I know that I frequently feel overwhelmed by the incredible need in the world and feel powerless to do anything. This program allows us a way to become involved and it provides an example for us to look around and see what is needed in our corner of the world. Saving the world is not our job. It is God's. He just needs our help, one corner at a time.

Let me (and/or Wes) know what you think.



MARCH 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
Vestry Mtg. 7:00 pm ECW Christmas Party 7:00 pm	3 Retirement Center Service 10:30 am	4 Prayer Hour 12-1:00 pm	5 Wednesday School 3:15 pm Adult Christian Ed 5:45 pm Middle/High Youth 7:00 pm	7 Youth Group Ski Weekend	8	
9 Retirement Center Service 10:30 am	10 Prayer Hour 12-1:00 pm	12	14	15		
Ski Weekend Cont. 16 →	17 Retirement Center Service 10:30 am	18 Prayer Hour 12-1:00 pm	19 Maunday Thursday Seder @ 5:30 Service @ 7:00	21 Good Friday Service @ 7:00	22	
23 Easter Sundy Regular Service Times	24 Retirement Center Service 10:30 am	25 Prayer Hour 12-1:00 pm	26	27 Easter Vigil 7:00 pm on Thursday to 7:00 am on Friday	29	
30	31					

A Voice in the Wilderness

February Vestry Minutes, Cheryl Essington

Vestry Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2008

Present: Wes Shields, Katie McClure, Donna Skinner, Roz Leslie, Jordan Vana, Cheryl Essington.

Action items listed in red.

Roz opened the meeting in prayer.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: Jordan moved to accept the minutes as presented, Donna seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Due to Phil's hospitalization, Jon Boroff will take over Treasurer duties until Phil is home. Cheryl will get Quick-Books files and bills to Jon. Roz moved to have Jon Boroff added to the signature card at the bank for St. Andrew's in the Pines Episcopal Church account number 206350, Katie seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Senior Warden: Nothing to report this month.

Rector's Report: Big Piney continues to grow. Wes asked the Vestry to continue to pray about the ECW and it's current status.

Old Business:

- 1. Sound System.** Barb was not present to update the Vestry on the sound system. Roz will contact Barb to follow up.
- 2. Directory.** Barb has not been in touch with Cheryl, Jordan will follow up.

New Business:

- 1. Easter Brunch:** Donna Skinner will take care of organizing the Easter Brunch. She will also schedule regular potlucks to be announced in the bulletin and newsletter.
- 2. Honduras Application:** Sarah Hixson's application was discussed. Jordan moved to award her the fund, Roz seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roz will contact Sarah to let her know.
- 3. Planned Giving:** Jordan will pursue how to approach interested members and report back to the Vestry.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Respectfully submitted by Secretary, Cheryl Essington

Mission Trip

St. Mark's Casper invites all, age 16 and up, skilled and unskilled, to join the mission trip to Camp Coast Care, Gulfport, MS, June 6-14, to work on renovating homes. Includes a day-trip to New Orleans on June 7 and Sunday Eucharist at St. Mark's, Gulfport on June 8.

Cost about \$700, including airfare from/to Denver.

Deadline for signing up is March 15.

Contact St. Mark's office 234-0831 or Leigh Earle 258-2524.

A Voice in the Wilderness

Update from Morocco

Hello dear family and friends!

Happy Valentine's Day, Happy New Year, Merry Christmas, and Eid Mubarak!

It has been quite a long time since I have sent out any updates-how the time has flown by! I believe the last time I wrote it was nearing Eid al-Adha and Christmas. Since then I have switched host families, celebrated the holidays, welcomed in the new year, and am now living in my own pad. With the chaos of all the moving that has taken place, I have had little time to access the Internet; however, I am now living the high life and have Internet in my house (probably not what you expected to hear from a Peace Corps volunteer:). Mahrababikum (welcome everyone), to come visit and see dari (my house), but be sure to send advanced warning if you are coming because I currently only have one single bed and one plastic chair:.) Work at my dar chabab (youth center) has been relatively inconsistent with the many student and national holidays. Hopefully now that a new school semester has begun and all major holidays have passed, attendance will be on the rise, enshallah (God willing). Currently I am teaching two classes of madrassa students (elementary students 4th-6th grade) one day a week, which has proven surprisingly successful. When I first made the decision to teach young students, I thought that a good way to advertise for the class would be to visit elementary schools. I had originally planned to visit several of the schools (there are about five in Rommani), but after a kind teacher in the first and only school I visited, paraded me through every classroom in his school (while his class went unsupervised for the duration of my visit) announcing my English class and then asking the students who would be coming to my first session (all the students raised their hands each time of course), I decided one school visit was enough. To illustrate how successful my first advertising ploy was, 54 students, ages 7-12, attended my first class. Humdulla (thanks be to God), that number has decreased to an average 10-12 in the morning session and 20 in the afternoon session. These young, enthusiastic students are always eager to learn and feel no shame in practicing their faltering English. Each class they are waiting for me at the dar chabab bubbling over with energy and ready to learn. Their interest in learning and having some place to hangout is so great that they have begged me to teach more classes. Because my schedule is fairly full at this point, I don't have any openings to teach another class; however, we made arrangements for them to come a second day a week where they are able to read books, play cards, or chess in the classroom, or play ping pong, basketball, or Frisbee while I tutor older students. As you would expect, the young students never miss a day of class or activities at the dar chabab and are all keen to beat Miss Meghan at ping pong. Needless to say, I am thoroughly worn out after a day full of youngsters. Another class I teach twice a week is with association leaders, four adults in their late 20s to early 30s, who are interested in learning English. These young men, much like my madrassa students, are very eager to learn and never miss a session. When I first began this class, I explained to the young men that although the class was theoretically "free of charge," my tamen (price) for them would consist of me calling upon their assistance with future events at the dar chabab. Because of their connections with youth and the community, having them as friends may come in handy:.) My other classes I teach include two beginner and two intermediate classes for college (middle school) and lycee (high school) students. These classes prove much more challenging because attendance is sporadic and many times advanced students come to beginner classes and beginner students attend the more advanced classes. Often, depending on whether students come and their level of English, I am forced to revamp lesson plans at the last minute or throw them out the window if students need help with school assignments. Nonetheless, I have enjoyed these classes and have become relatively close with a core group of students that attend on a consistent basis. Currently the older students and I have planned a movie night at the dar chabab, which, enshallah, will become a regular activity once or twice a month. Also, I have begun a "cultural" contest of sorts with the older students where they have to guess the names of four relatively famous African individuals' whose pictures and bios (without their names) are posted on my English board. The ideas behind this contest are to get the students to use information from the bios to perform research and to become acquainted with important leaders from their continent. The individuals by the way are Nelson Mandela, Kofi Annan, Desmond Tutu, and Paul Rusesabagina. I'll let you know if my idea of disguising learning into a "fun competition" is successful or not. I have promised a "zwin" (very nice) prize to motivate the students:.) Between dar chabab shenanigans, hanging out with the local shepherds, frequenting the souk (local, open air market), being ripped off by store owners, and watching random donkeys wonder aimlessly through the neighborhood, I would have to say life's not too bad at the moment:.) Enshallah, I will be sending out a few more short emails recounting a few fun stories over the past few months including the lovely Eid al-Adha holiday. Along with these emails will be photos, enshallah. Also, if you are interested, I have created a wish list of sorts of items that might be nice to fill my dar chabab with. There is no obligation of course. Perhaps if any schools' student counsel/senate or organization is looking for an activity over the next few months, a book drive for middle school and high school readers in Morocco could be one idea:.) If you're interested, the list is below. Thanks again for all the support, emails, Christmas cards, letters, prayers, etc. I appreciate it all!

Thalla f rask (take care),

Meghan

P.S. Thanks so much to Debi Dutta and Sherill Hudson for all the 6th grade Language Arts training! I am using the *Handy Pages Set Up to Writing*, graphic organizers and other handouts with my English students!

P.S.S. Maura and all other math teachers, you can let your students know that ratios are important in the "real world," without them I wouldn't be able to cook here! (there are no measuring cups-everything is measured by whatever device you have on hand and then the rest of the ingredients are added in proportion to this:.)

WISH LIST

- *Decks of playing cards
- *Uno cards
- *SET (card game based on finding patterns)
- *Ping pong balls
- *Ping pong paddles
- *Small atlases
- *Board games (perhaps there are small versions): Monopoly, Scrabble, Connect Four, etc.
- *Books (most needed are for students in middle and high school, but any will do:)
- *Crayons
- *Colored pencils
- *Coloring books
- *Coloring/workbooks (they have activities like connect the dots, go through the mazes, crossword puzzles, etc.)
- *Construction paper

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A Voice in the Wilderness

GOSPEL OF JOHN

The Gospel of John (20:7) tells us that the napkin, which was placed over the face of Jesus, was not just thrown aside like the grave clothes. The Bible takes an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded and was placed at the head of that stony coffin. Early Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, 'They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put him!'

Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb to see. The other disciple outran Peter and got there first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying to the side. Is that important? Absolutely! Is it really significant? Yes! In order to understand the significance of the folded napkin, you have to understand a little bit about Hebrew tradition of that day.

The folded napkin had to do with the Master and Servant, and every Jewish boy knew this tradition. When the servant set the dinner table for the master, he made sure that it was exactly the way the master wanted it. The table was furnished perfectly, and then the servant would wait, just out of sight, until the master had finished eating, and the servant would not dare touch that table until the master was finished. Now if the master was done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers and mouth with that napkin and toss it on to the table. The servant would then know to clear the table. For in those days, the wadded napkin meant, 'I'm done.' But if the master got up from the table, and folded his napkin, and laid it beside his plate, the servant knew that the folded napkin meant, 'I'm not finished yet.' The folded napkin meant, 'I'm coming back!'

Easter Vigil Sign-up

"St. Andrew's needs volunteers to help celebrate Easter Vigil this year! Vigil will take place from 7 PM on Thursday, March 20 until 7 AM on Friday, March 21 in the church nursery. Volunteers can sign up for one-hour (or more!) slots by contacting Jordan Vana at 231-2636 or jordan_vana@hotmail.com. Slots are first come, first served, so sign up now to be a part of this peaceful, spiritual celebration!"

**I have a sign up sheet that I'll keep on my computer.
Please let me know if you have any questions.**

Thanks, Jordan

A Voice in the Wilderness

Youth Group, Elizabeth Miller

Is it the end of February already? Time is flying by and the snow is still on the ground! I encourage everyone to think about joining us for at least one activity this month.

In Adult Christian Ed, we are still working with the 10 commandments. We have studied commandments 1-6 and will be starting on the 7th next week! As Father Wes says, if you don't know which commandment we are talking about, it might be a good idea to join us on Wednesday night from 5:45-7pm.

Our Middle School and High School kids have finished studying the 10 commandments and have begun learning about people in the Bible. We started learning about Ruth last week and will pick a new person to learn about each week. Several of our members joined us for a fun night at the new Pinedale Aquatic Center. We were able to try out the new waterslide, lazy river, hot tub, climbing wall, and even enjoyed a few games of basket ball before we called it a night. This weekend, our Youth Group Members will be participating in World Vision's 30 hour famine. This is where we fast for 30 hours to help raise money to feed children around the world. If you are interested in sponsoring one of our youth group members, it is not too late!!! In addition, we have rescheduled our ski weekend for March 14-16th 2008. We will be inviting kids from all over Western Wyoming to spend the weekend at St. Andrew's to enjoy Pinedale and the great skiing that White Pine has to offer.

Last month, at Wednesday school we worked on projects for others. One of the main things that we worked on was making Valentines for the residents at Sublette Center. The kids really enjoyed doing something nice for someone else after we learned about the Golden Rule. We also visited the aquatic center and had a blast splashing around in the new pool as well as testing out the slide.

Once again it is time to start thinking about next fall. I know, I know, it's only February but we are already planning for the fall classes of each of these very distinct groups. If you are interested in helping with Adult Christian Ed, Youth Group, or Wednesday School, please let me know! We'd love to have help and can work around schedules!!! As usual, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me!!!!

In Christ,

Elizabeth





ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MARCH 2008

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Dates to Remember:

Vestry Meeting
March 10th, 7:00 pm
St. Andrew's

Youth Group Ski Weekend
March 14th thru 16th
St. Andrew's

Easter Vigil
Starting March 20th at 7:00 pm
And ending March 21st at 7:00 am

Maunday Thursday Service
March 20th
Seder Meal at 5:30 pm
Service at 7:00 pm

Good Friday Service
March 21st
Service at 7:00 pm

Music Selection Group
Thursdays at 11:00 am
St. Andrew's

Prayer Group
Tuesdays at 12:00 pm
St. Andrew's

Wednesday School
(4 years to 5th Grade)
March 5th, 12th, & 19th
3:00-5:00 pm, St. Andrew's

Adult Christian Ed
March 5th, 12th, & 19th
5:45 pm, St. Andrew's

**Middle & High School
Youth Group**
March 5th, 12th, & 19th
7:00-8:00 pm, St. Andrew's

