

A Voice in the Wilderness



ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2007

The Rector's Remarks

Wes Shields



Someone brought me a newsletter article recently and I thought that it might be interesting to some of you. I have edited out a few sections for space, but I still have the whole article if you would like to see it. Some of this you may agree with, and some you may not, but I hope that all of it will make us think about secularism verses our faith and what we can do about it. Again I would love to talk to anyone who has questions or comments about this article.

Christian influence nil in U.S.

If there ever should be a war of civilizations, it will not be a war between Christianity and Islam. It will be a war between secularism and religious faith.

(Continued on page 2)



Senior Warden's Report Gail Grubb

Where did that month go? This time of year the days fly by, our calendars fill up and time becomes very precious to us all. Last weekend the congregation of St. John the Baptist in Big Piney invited us to over to their darling church to share in an evening and a morning of sharing and learning. "A Hitchhikers guide to the Episcopal Church" was worth the time we took to take part in it. We covered mounds of material, biblical and non-biblical. The facilitator was Bruce Henne and he prepared a program full of interesting theology and information. My background isn't full of facts, or history, so I found this discussion very interesting and it put a lot of information in order for me. But for me the best part of the weekend was getting to know the people of St. John the Baptist. During the first break in the action we were thanked for sharing Wes with them. When Wes approached the vestry about the opportunity to help St. John's get on their feet there wasn't a second of delay in saying of course. His time has been well spent down there, and I am proud of the vestry for opening their hearts to them. I think there is opportunity to combine our efforts in Sublette County and share our talents with this congregation. I know there is a Big Piney - Pinedale rivalry going back for years. I see a great opportunity to join with our brothers and sisters down there. There was talk of a combined Episcopal Woman's cook book, and I am sure there are other projects that we can work on together. I look forward to seeing these two congregations grow together. I loved the time I spent in their darling church and the time spent getting to know the people. So when you fill your calendar this holiday season do it carefully and leave room for really important things. Things that help you grow, not just things that take up your precious time.

Respectfully submitted

Gail Grubb
Senior Warden

A Voice in the Wilderness

Rector's Remarks (cont.)

Despite the hullabaloo about right-wing Christian influence on the U.S. government, the truth is that we are secular s all get-out. True, we have a lot of nominal Christians who still go to church, but there is nothing at all Christian about either our culture or our government policies.

Islamic leaders don't fear Christianity or Judaism. These are, from an Islamic point of view, "people of the book," and Muslims are instructed to treat them as they would treat themselves. What Islamic leaders fear is secularism-greedy materialism, pornography, sexual promiscuity, destruction of the family and violence.

The basic conflict between all the religious faiths and secularism is easy to see. The religions ask people to live disciplined lives of honesty and compassion toward their fellow man, of fidelity to their spouses, of responsibility to their children, of peace with their fellow man, of obedience to their religion's teachings.

The secularist message inevitably becomes hedonism-eat, drink, grab what you can, indulge your desires and look out only for Number One.

How can anyone look at the levels of corruption, both public and private, and say this is a Christian nation? We swim in a sea of lies. Preachers with a six figure income, mansions and private jets are about as n-Christian as an ignorant cannibal in Borneo. Warmongering Christians and Christians who preach hate are naturally contradictions of everything Jesus Christ stood for. Multimillion-dollar churches whose shadows fall on the poor are a contradiction of Christianity.

The last thing Americans have to worry about is Christian influence. It is practically nil in the United States. I imagine all the true Christians in America would fit into one of those 5,000-room hotels in Las Vegas, where, by the way, you can find thousands of nominal Christians seven days a week. Las Vegas is the capital of hedonism.

One ought to be able to tell a Christian by his behavior, demeanor and conversation, and I don't mean mouthing slogans like "praise Jesus." I challenge you to see if you can do that.

The essence of Christianity is love, humility and compassion. There hasn't been much of that around ever since a Roman emperor decided to make Christianity a state religion.

ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS NEEDED!!

The Altar Guild is looking for new members. If you are interested in this fulfilling, "behind the scenes" ministry, please contact Pat Coleman at 367-4143 or Mary Lankford at 367-4820. Thanks for your help! Pat Coleman Altar Guild Director



NOVEMBER 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
Vestry Mtg. 7:00 pm	5 Retirement Center Service 10:30 am Bible Study 12:00 pm	6 Music Planning 11:00 am Prayer Hour 12-1:00 pm	7	8	9	10
11 Veteran's Day Celebration 11:00 am Service	12 Retirement Center Service 10:30 am Bible Study 12:00 pm	13 Music Planning 11:00 am Prayer Hour 12-1:00 pm	14 No Church School No Adult Ed	15 Wednesday School 3:15 pm Adult Christian Ed 5:45 pm Middle/High Youth 7:00 pm	16	17
18	19 Retirement Center Service 10:30 am Bible Study 12:00 pm	20 Music Planning 11:00 am Prayer Hour 12-1:00 pm	21	22	23	24
25	26 Retirement Center Service 10:30 am Bible Study 12:00 pm	27 Music Planning 11:00 am Prayer Hour 12-1:00 pm	28	29	30	

A Voice in the Wilderness

October Vestry Minutes, Cheryl Essington

Vestry Meeting
October 8, 2007

Present: Wes, Gail Grubb, Barb Wise, Cheryl Essington, Jordan Vana, Roz Leslie, Jon Boroff

Action items listed in Red.

The meeting was opened in prayer.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: Jon moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting; Jordan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Jordan moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Roz seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Senior Warden: No report.

Rector's Report: The Vestry was encouraged to discuss Deaconate opportunities with the congregation. Wes gave an overview of the Annual Convention. Beginning Mondays Wes will be leading a Bible study at Noon.

New Business:

1. Stewardship: the Vestry discussed new ways to approach stewardship this year and what St. Andrews' goals should be. Stewardship will begin October 28th and end with a celebratory potluck on November 11th.

Open Discussion: Barb will bring information to the Vestry to investigate a microphone system for the next meeting.

Jordan would like to work with Wes on an annual work plan to be discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.



Laughter is the Best Medicine

A minister was completing a Temperance Sermon. With great emphasis he said, "If I had all the beer in the world I'd take it and pour it into the river."

With even greater emphasis he said, "And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river."

And then finally, shaking his fist in the air he said, "And If I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river."

Sermon complete, he sat down.

The song leader stood very cautiously and announced With a smile, nearly laughing, "For our closing song, Let us sing Hymn #365, "Shall We Gather at the River"

Smile, life is too short not to!!

A Voice in the Wilderness

Veteran's Day Celebration, Katie McClure

On Veterans Day, November 11th, during the church service we will be honoring the veteran's of the church. We would like to have as complete of a list as possible! So if you are a veteran or know of a church member who is a veteran please call the church office with that information. We would greatly appreciate your presence at this service if you are a veteran. Thank you Veterans for you service!



Music Notes

Roz Leslie

Music selection will take place at St. Andrew's every Tuesday at 11:00 am. If you are interested in choosing music for Sunday services come out and make your choices known. We usually choose music that correlates with the Psalm, 1st and 2nd lessons and the Gospel. If you have a favorite selection let Coralee or I know and we'll fit it in where appropriate during the service. Don't be shy, if you've got the time, come on out...

A Voice in the Wilderness

Thanksgiving

We are talking about a Thanksgiving Day worship service again. We will be inviting other churches to help plan, execute, and possibly even host the service. Help with the planning would be welcome. Also, it has been proposed that there is a need for a free, open to anyone, community meal on Thanksgiving. This can only happen with willing organizers, donations, workers and participants. Could you consider making this your family's Thanksgiving Day meal? Call the office and let Wes or Cheryl know if you would like to be involved in either of these Thanksgiving Day projects.



CALLING ALL SINGERS



Community Choir is rehearsing for the annual Christmas season presentation of the Festival of Lessons and Carols.

It's not too late to join us!

For information call Sukey Hohl at 367-2078 or 367-4114 or Coralee Petersen at 367-4627.

A Voice in the Wilderness

A Voice from Morocco, Meghan Carrier

Hello Everyone!

I hope this email finds you all well. I am excited to report that I have figured out how to change the French keyboard from French commands to English. Although this might seem like a trivial accomplishment for most people, here in Peace Corps we celebrate the little successes;)

As the last email stated, I have been in Morocco for one month, and I think that my time here is finally beginning to move faster (or my perception allows me to believe this) now that I am feeling more comfortable in my surroundings and beginning to gain a better grasp of the language.

This past Saturday, Morocco celebrated Eid, the ending of Ramadan. Upon getting the official word Friday night (which I think comes from Saudi Arabia) that Ramadan was officially over, there was much celebration throughout the country. I was told by my family that I would need to wake up at 7:00 a.m. the following morning in order to begin the Eid festivities. Following my family's directions (I have become use to being ordered around like a puppy-told when to eat, shower, do my laundry, etc.), I woke up promptly at 7:00 and began the Eid day. At 9:00 a.m. I met the other PC volunteers in my village to parade around to each others host family's house in order to wish Eid Mubarak (Happy Eid) to everyone. At each house we were fed with Morocco's infamous sweet mint tea and bizzaf (lots) of cookies. Because we had six houses to visit, we decided to develop a rating system to determine whose family made the best tea. By the last house, which we did not drink tea at but instead were fed coke, sugary juice, cake and cookies, we were all sure that our bodies had been shocked with more sugar than any successful Halloween could have provided. About the time the greeting session ended, we were all ready for long naps with the hopes of healing our sugar induced bodies. Although, we were able to get a little protein later in the day, the evening meal as well as breakfast the following morning included, tea, bread and cookies.

Besides the increased sugar intake on Eid, family members gather from all corners of Morocco to spend time with each other on this special holiday. The men, and some women, attend the Mosque during the day and give thanks to Allah. Some very pious individuals even continue to fast six days after Eid, supposedly hoping for increased blessings.

Ramadan is over, Eid has passed....Currently the other volunteers and I in El Manzel are preparing to teach English at our Dar Shabab this week. As part of the preparation process, we are trying to recruit students, particularly girls, to attend the sessions. Taking every opportunity to build up our classes, I worked hard last night convincing a group of neighborhood girls, whom I have built a strong rapport with, to

attend our English sessions. As they painted henna on my

hands I, at first slyly and then quite blatantly, told them to come to the Dar Shabab and to bring their friends. I think I will go over to a their houses tonight to have tea and handout fliers....integration Moroccan style!)

That is about all for now. I hope you are all doing well and enjoying the fall! Take care!

Love,
Meghan





ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2007

St. Andrew's in the Pines Episcopal Church
P. O. Box 847
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Pinedale, Wyoming 82941

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Web: www.standrewsinthepines.org
E-mail: standrewsinthepines@centurytel.net



Dates to Remember:

Vestry Meeting
Nov. 12th, 7:00 pm
St. Andrew's

Bible Study
Mondays at Noon
St. Andrew's

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

Prayer Group
Tuesdays at Noon
St. Andrew's

Adult Christian Ed
Nov. 7th, 14th, & 28th
5:45 pm, St. Andrew's

Wednesday School
(4 years to 5th Grade)
Nov. 7th, 14th, & 28th
Please pick-up kids no later than
5:00 pm at the church

**Middle & High School
Youth Group**
Nov. 7th, 14th, & 28th
7:00 pm, St. Andrew's

