

A Voice in the Wilderness

St. Andrew's in the Pines Episcopal Church



Volume 11, Issue 8

August 2006

Finding Happiness

Wes Shields

Page 2

ECW News

Laura Shields

Page 3

A Sacred Place

Irene Wherritt

Page 4

Book Report

Cheryl Essington

Page 4

The Rector's Remarks



Wes Shields

I want to take a moment to tell you all about our newly formed prayer group here at the church. Every Tuesday from noon till approximately 12:30 we will be

gathering in the sanctuary for prayer. This is a drop-in affair and you can stay for ten minutes or an hour, whatever works for your schedule. We have a little two page guide to help structure the prayer time, but there is also a great deal of opportunity to interject your own prayers as well.

The whole point of this time is for us to have an opportunity to slow down and take the time to pray for ourselves and the world around us. As a part of this ministry we have also placed prayer request cards in the pews. These

cards provide an opportunity for our members to make specific requests for us to pray for on a weekly basis. I think that this is an absolutely vital ministry for our parish. It is our opportunity to actively engage the needs and concerns of our church family and to be a source of strength to those who are in need. I hope that you will all try to make this a part of your weekly routine. I truly believe that this will benefit not only our church family, but each of you as individuals.

Sr. Warden



Cally McKee

Well, we are in what appears to be the hottest part of summer. I keep telling myself to be happy about that since before we know it

we'll be back in the coldest part of winter. The church and its members are busy preparing for the ranch mass at the Pape's, ECW is working on service projects with lone and out at Murdocks, the church is taking on the task of having possession of the Nursery, teachers are being gathered for youth group next year, and the list goes on and on. The list of "to do" items never ends. In many ways, the church is no different than all of us in that regard. Our lists of "to do" items never ends either. And

don't you wonder sometimes how we ever get it all done? As I am sure many of you know, the boys (as in Ryan and Matt) are gone for 3 weeks up in Alaska with my Dad. One would think that would leave me with a ton of free time: time for me and time to think and time to sit around and do nothing. But strangely enough, the "to do" list seems to be just as long when they are not here as when they are. And it reminded me that I have to quit saying that I'll make time for that later. Whatever "that" is and

(continued on page 2)

(Book Report continued from page 1)

whenever “later” is. If we don’t make the time now for the things in our lives that are important, the time and energy won’t magically appear “later.” So, I could sit here and spend more time writing and editing this newsletter article or I can go out and do something that I

could put off until “later.” I’m going to learn to fly fish (with a little help), I’m going to drive over McDougal Pass (I might take a friend), I’m going to have friends and family over for dinner, and I’m going to sit at home on the back deck and throw the dog’s ball with a cold one in my

hand. Don’t worry, I don’t plan on doing all these things at once, but I do plan on doing them all soon. And I hope that you all will remember to do the same. Have a great summer. Don’t get too hot and don’t say “I’ll make time for that later” too often.

Finding Happiness

Wes Shields

I hope that you all are having a wonderful summer and enjoying this warm weather. I received the following joke via email and I thought it had a pretty good message.

The pastor entered his donkey in a race and it won. The pastor was so pleased with the donkey that he entered it in the race again, and it won again. The local paper read: PASTOR’S ASS OUT FRONT

The Bishop was so upset with this kind of publicity that he ordered the pastor not to enter the donkey in another race. The next day, the local paper headline read: BISHOP SCRATCHES PASTOR’S ASS.

This was too much for the bishop, so he ordered the pastor to get rid of the donkey. The pastor decided to give it to a nun in a nearby convent. The local paper, hearing of the news, posted the following headline the next day: NUN HAS BEST ASS IN TOWN. The bishop fainted. He informed the nun that she would have to get rid of the donkey, so she sold it to a farmer for \$10. The next day the paper read: NUN SELLS ASS FOR \$10.

This was too much for the bishop, so he ordered the nun to buy back the donkey and lead it to the plains where it could run wild. The next day the headlines read:

NUN ANNOUNCES HER ASS IS WILD AND FREE

The bishop was buried the next day.

I think that there is a great deal of wisdom in this story. Worrying too much about other people’s business or too much about what other people think brings nothing but misery. Not worrying about what other people think is only half the battle. As individuals we could all do a better job of not giving others so much to worry about.

I spend a lot of time talking with people about what others think of them or what others have said about them. We’ve all heard the phrase, “Sticks and stones can break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” Each of us knows all too well that there is no truth in this saying. Physical wounds can heal, but everyday I see the open sores that words have left on people’s hearts and souls.

When Jesus was confronted with questions about ritual cleanliness in regards to food he said, “Listen and understand; it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” Our Lord knew that no food or drink could defile us nearly as much as the hurtful words we say. Sometimes we don’t even realize we’re doing it. It’s easy to convince ourselves that we’re not being mean or gossiping; we’re just telling the truth. I’m a big believer

that just because we are telling the truth doesn’t mean we aren’t gossiping or being hurtful. My point is this, if we will all worry more about our own business and less about everyone else’s, we’ll all be a lot happier.

Announcement

Belden Lane, PhD and professor from St. Louis University, a well-known scholar of wilderness spirituality will be at Christ Church Cody September 16 - 17 for the Fall Forum. This year’s forum is entitled: Desert Spirituality and the Power of Place.

Session I Friday 7 pm
Session II and III Saturday beginning at 9 am.
Session IV 9 am Sunday
Christ Church, 825 Simpson Ave.
Cody.

Everyone (churchy or not) is welcome. This event is co-sponsored by the Education Trust Committee at Christ Church and the Wyoming Association of Churches.

For more information watch next month’s Spirit of Wyoming for an article from Warren Murphy or contact Christ Episcopal Church at info@christchurchcody.org
Hope to see you in September,
Mary Caucutt

ECW Summer Camp comes to an end

Here is a recap of what we did

Laura Shields

On June 26th we met for a Prayer Workshop. This event was led by Wes and we discussed different types of prayers, the importance of prayer to both our relationship with God as well as our connection to our family, friends & church congregation, and shared personal experiences. We closed with prayer in the sanctuary. This was also the kick-off for the Tuesday prayer group which will meet around noon in the sanctuary for silent prayer that will include personal thanksgivings and petitions, as well as prayer for others through the prayer cards which are in the pew racks.

July 6th, 7th & 8th were extraordinarily busy as many worked their fannies off for the Pie Sale. This was a huge success. We sold around 175 pies allowing us to donate \$1601.22 to Episcopal Relief & Development, \$686.23 to the Rectors Discretionary Fund and retain \$1,922.96 in our ECW account

On July 16 we hiked to Sacred Rim where we had a worship service and celebrated God's love shown through His creation. It was a beautiful day for exercise and fellowship!

As I write this we have not yet completed our Service night which is July 24th. More details of what we did will follow in the next newsletter...

Thank you to all who participated in Summer Camp. We hope this was a meaningful experience for you as we explored four aspects of our Christian living thru Personal Spirituality, Fundraising, Outreach & Fellowship,, Worship & Service! Please submit your feedback on any of these events to the church office.

ECW Summer Camp,





A sacred place
Irene Wherritt

I just returned from a week of solitude in the Winds. Fran and I camped in a beautiful spot facing the continental divide overlooking Mt. Bonneville and Raid Peak.

These majestic and beautiful mountains in the Pinedale area in some way touch all of us here. In my case, about 40 years ago I spent an entire summer here and I never forgot the draw that the place had for me. Some twenty years later Fran and I began sharing the experience of these lovely mountains, first by back packing, then with



llamas, and finally on horse. On this trip, the wildflowers were very prolific and colorful, especially in comparison to other years. We must have seen at least five shades of lupine. The columbines were hid-

ing at every turn. And the queen's crown and elephant's trunks crowded every moist area.

After spending what I would call, these sacred moments, I ask myself, what about those who do not, nor have ever trekked into the Winds. All one needs to do is look down Pine Street from the front of the church, go up the bike path, or drive up Skyline Drive to appreciate this beauty. Even our new church lot takes advantage of



views of the Winds. They are here for all of us as God's gift and presence. We all can enjoy them from our own perspective and experience.

May we all continue to appreciate and preserve the

uniqueness that St. Andrew's offers because of where we live.



Book Report
Cheryl Essington

Girl Meets God by Lauren Winner

In this modern memoir, we meet a 20- something girl, who converts to Christianity only a few years after a whole-hearted conversion to Orthodox Judaism. She found herself "courted by a very determined carpenter from Nazareth." Her spiritual journey is full of both Jewish and Christian tradition and her struggles to blend the two.

Lauren takes us from her 8th grade English report on the Book of Deuteronomy to her essays in high school on the ridiculous nature of Christianity. She shares some of the clues God provided on her path to Christ. For example, after coming across a novel about a bachelor of a small Episcopal church, she bought the book and spent the next week re-reading it, absorbing the stories about "ordinary Christians working out ordinary faith in their ordinary lives." Soon she purchased her first Book of Common Prayer and then her Judaism "broke." However, Judaism proved harder to divorce. Her conversion is complicated; "about family, geography, politics, psychology, economics...it is also about God."

Lauren is honest about her reluctance to claim Christianity to her fellow Cambridge University intellectuals. She explains her own attacks on the Christian stereotype saying, "I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord, but I also wear fishnet stockings and drink single malt scotch."

Girl meets God is only the beginning of a difficult and rewarding journey and the peace that she has found in both faiths and in the realization that God does not cause our suffering but He uses it.



Butternut Coconut Pie

This was a popular pie this year at the pie sale

Buttermilk Coconut Pie

Mix:

- 1 ¼ cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon flour

Add:

- 3 eggs
- Mix well

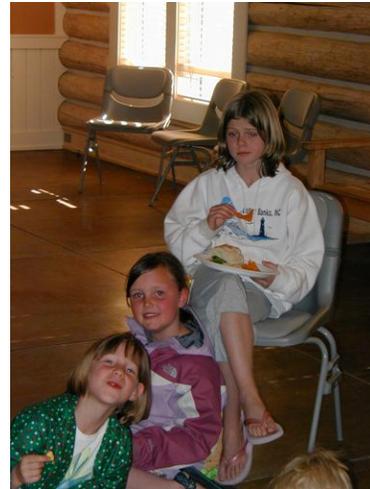
Add:

- 1 ¼ cups buttermilk
- ½ cup butter, melted

Stir in:

- 1 to 1 ½ cups coconut

Roll out single batch of crust. Fit into pie plate. Flute edge. Pour filling into unbaked pie shell and bake at 350 F app 45 min. It should be set up like a fairly firm pudding.



Wrap up for Wednesday School

Vestry Meeting minutes, Cheryl Essington

June 12, 2006

Present: Wes, Cheryl Essington, Gail Grubb, Donna Skinner, Jon Boroff, Gail Randall, Fran Milde, Carla Sullivan, Shane Costello, Cally McKee

Jon led the opening prayer.

Minutes of the last meeting: Gail Randall moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting, Fran seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed.

Treasurer's Report: St. Andrew's is still ahead in the budget for the year. Gail Grubb moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Shane seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed.

Senior Warden: Cally received a letter from a man in Kelly, Wyoming that is looking for information from the Episcopal Churches in the state and is trying to compile a book. Wes, Cally, and Cheryl will work together to gather as much information as possible.

Cally also received a letter from Pat Coleman, our Diocesan Representative, regarding the alcohol policy guidelines. Jon moved to accept the national guidelines, Carla seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Also, Cally was able to open the Scottrade account and it is ready should we receive gifts of stock.

Rector's Report: Big Piney-the attendance is good. Wes would like to see the Christian Education groups organized during the summer for the coming fall. Wes will be gone July 2nd, Suzanne Harris will substitute that Sunday. Also, Wes will be at HR camp from June 18-23.

Other reports:

Master list-Highway clean up needs to be scheduled.

Ranch Mass will be at Norm and Barb Pape's this year.

Carla will set a date for the newcomer's picnic and notify the Vestry at the next meeting.

Old Business:

1. Dance: Cheryl has gathered information on different DJs with costs from \$350.00 to \$500.00. The Vestry will need to choose a date and Cheryl will follow up to book entertainment.
2. Shirts: To be discussed at next meeting.
3. Website: Cally is working on the website.
4. Second Service: The second service has grown from 9 to 20 attendees. Half of those are people who do not typically attend the 9:00 main service. Moving the winter service to 9:00 as well will be discussed at a later date.

New Business:

1. Property Payment Plan: Shane moved to pay the mortgage in installments of \$25,000.00 or quarterly, whichever came first, with a report following each payment. Cally seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

There was only one written proposal to rent the nursery. Shane will research the value of the buildings and will email his findings to the Vestry so that a decision can be made prior to the next meeting.

2. Audit Review: Gail Grubb and Barb Pape completed the audit review and everything balanced.
3. Outreach: Melanie Sampson has been out of town so there will be more information on the SAFV project at the next meeting..

*Allen and Mary Rutherford
Ferguson donated funds for the
printing of this newsletter.*

Thank You!

Vestry Meeting minutes, Cheryl Essington

July 10, 2006

Present: Wes, Jon Boroff, Gail Randall, Fran Milde, Gail Grubb, Donna Skinner, Cheryl Essington, Shane Costello, Fred Petersen

Gail Randall led in opening prayer.

Minutes of the last meeting: Fran moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting, Shane seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed.

Treasurer's Report: We are still ahead of the budget this year. Jon moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Fran seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed.

Senior Warden: No Senior Warden Report.

Rector's Report: Big Piney is maintaining their attendance. Wes would like to see renewed energy this fall with new Christian Education programs.

Other Reports: The second service has been successful. The overall numbers are higher than prior to the additional service. The attendance at the early service is 15-25, many of who are people who don't typically attend the 9:00 service. The attendance has been consistent with June and July of years past.

The church clean up day was a success. Jon will make another attempt to power wash the church at a later date.

Old Business:

1. Property Plan:

a. Nursery Rental: Shane moved to accept the bid to rent the nursery with the proposed contingencies (maintaining the yard, rent negotiation, insurance, notice to termination of contract.) Jon seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed.

Big Equipment: Shane moved to keep the tractor and mower, selling the rest of the big equipment, Gail Grubb seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed.

b. Gail Grubb and Gail Randall will paint the kitchen to prepare for rental.

2. Convention Delegates: Several delegates were suggested. They will be contacted and will be voted on next meeting.

3. Outreach: There will be an SAFV meeting Wednesday to get ready to present life skills courses, finances, parenting job skills, etc.

4. Prayer Group: A prayer group has been meeting in the sanctuary on Tuesdays at Noon. Prayer request cards are available in the pews and anyone interested may come and go at their own leisure.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Thanks to Laura Shields for all
of her creativity and work for
ECW!

Notes from the editor:

- You may view the newsletter in color at our website: www/standrewsinthepines.org
- Anyone who has contributions (text, pictures, suggestions monetary donations) for the newsletter please see me.

Irene Wherritt

**St Andrew's in the Pines
Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 847
52 W Pine Street
Pinedale, Wyoming 82941
307 367-2674
www.standrewsinthepines.org**