



Celebrating Christ in Community

ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Thank you!!

A special thank you goes out to Randy Belton, Juli James, and Sarah Hixson for their service to the Vestry. Your time and energy are much appreciated and we thank you for helping to shepherd this community through these busy times. Thank you and God bless each of you.



Volume 11, Issue 2

A Voice in the Wilderness

ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

February 2006

The Rector's Remarks



Wes Shields

There are several important dates coming up this spring that I want to make sure everyone gets on their calendars. The First date is Ash Wednesday

which will occur on March 1st. This is the first day of Lent and an important day in our church year. It is a day for us to remember our own mortality and to give thanks to God for the gift of life. It is a somber day, emphasizing our need to repent and marking us with the burnt palm ashes as a sign of our mortality. I hope that everyone will make a point to attend one of our two services at noon or 5:30pm. The next set of dates for your calendar is for our Lenten dinners. These will occur on Wednesday evenings during

Lent from 5:30 – 7 pm. Those days are March 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5. We will be studying one parable from the New Testament each night. All you need to bring is a Bible. The food will be provided. I will also be conducting a Baptism class for any one, or the parent and godparents of anyone who would like to get baptized. The dates for this two part class are April 5 from 7-8pm and April 12 from 5:15-6:30. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or would like to sign up for the
(Continued on page 3)

Check it out!

- ANNOUNCEMENTS
- ECW
- PICTURES!
- SEVEN AT 6

Senior Warden's Report



Gail Randall

Dear Friends in Christ,

With Annual Meeting coming up on the 29th of January, I know that I will no longer be Senior Warden. I have to say, I am very proud to have been your Senior Warden and hope I did an okay job.

St. Andrews is a warm, caring community based in our love for Jesus Christ

and I know that Pinedale is better off for having us in it. We, however, need to be ever mindful of what we can do for our community and keep our eyes and ears open for opportunities to help our fellow man.

Thank you for being patient and open minded with me and I am sure we will have a wonderful 2006 and beyond.

Peace,

Gail Randall

To Gail;
Thank you for your service to this parish. You have been faithful to your office and to the people of St. Andrew's. I thank you on behalf of the Vestry and myself. God bless.

Sincerely,
Wes

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A Voice in the Wilderness

ECW News; New Schedule of Events

There are a few important scheduling changes that we want to make sure everyone has on their calendar. Sorry to switch things up, but due to some other activities going on at the church this will be the new schedule

1. March 1st at 6:30 pm- Health Night at Cally's house. This will consist of a meal and presentation by Fran on Heart Health. This event will immediately follow the Ash Wednesday Ser-

vice at the church which begins at 5:30. You will receive a flyer in the mail with directions.

2. The evening of April 14th and the morning of the 15th we will have the ECW retreat. This years retreat will be focusing on our individual spiritual journeys through writing of spiritual biographies and exploring our own spiritual gifts and how we can put those to use in God's service. There will also

be several opportunities for worship during the retreat.

We hope that you will get these two events on your calendar and make plans to attend. Both of these events were very well attended last year and the feedback was excellent for both gatherings. We hope to see you all there.



United Thank Offering, Sukey Hohl

For the new year, ECW will be sponsoring a United Thanks Offering (UTO) drive. Although St. Andrew's has participated in UTO in the past, it has been a few years, so let me give you some background.

UTO has been around since 1889 as a ministry of the Episcopal Church. It is not a fundraiser or a stewardship campaign; instead, it encourages acts of thanksgiving in the form of prayer and small offerings. A short prayer of thanksgiving, accompanied by a small gift of coins to your UTO box is a way to encourage naming our daily bless-

ings, large and small. UTO boxes will be available in the Undercroft in the new year. Keep it somewhere you can see it. I keep mine on the window sill above my kitchen sink, since there are always dishes.

We will gather the offerings at Easter and forward the money to the Diocese, which will forward it to the national church which administers UTO offerings. One hundred percent of UTO money goes to grants that meet "compelling human need and expand mission and ministry." Administration costs are already paid for. Every year millions of dollars of UTO funds are disbursed

around the world to help people in need.

The UTO Prayer:

"Source of all creation, all love, all true joy, accept we pray, these outward signs of our profound and continuing thankfulness for all of life. Bless those who will benefit from these gifts through the outreach of the United Thank Offering; and keep each of us ever thankful for all the blessings of joy and challenge that come our way; through him who is the greatest gift and blessing of all, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen"

Winter/Spring ECW Events

Keep your heart healthy: A Gift for yourself, Fran Milde PhD, RN, Mar 1, 6:30 pm (light dinner at Cally's)



Spiritual Retreat April 14-15

Labyrinth Walk/Shopping, May 13

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Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 Noon Eucharist	2	3	4
5	6 Sublette Center Service 10:45	7	8	9	10	11
12	6 Sublette Center Service 10:45	14	15 Noon Eucharist	16	17 Youth Happening Event	18 Youth Happening Event
19 Youth Happening Event	6 Sublette Center Service 10:45	21	22	23	24	25
26 Intergenerational Service	6 Sublette Center Service 10:45	28 Mardi Gras Celebration 5:30				

Upcoming Events

January 30- February 12- Wes is gone on Vacation

February 28- Mardi Gras Celebration 5:30 pm

March 1st- Ash Wednesday Services at noon and 5:30

March 1st- ECW Health Night at Cally's House 6:30 pm

March 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29, and April 5th- Lenten Dinner and Study of New Testament Parables

April 5th Baptism Class 7-8 pm

April 12th Baptism Class 5:30- 6:30

Mission Statement: "St Andrew's strives to provide a welcoming, diverse and inter-generational fellowship of worshippers, united in the Anglican tradition, serving the body of Christ, and committed to personal responsibility in our ministry."

Vestry of St. Andrew's
Senior Warden, Gail Randall
Junior Warden, Randy Belton
Treasurer, Sam McClure
Outreach, Sarah Hixon
Outreach, Gail Grubb
Communications, Cally McKee
Hospitality/Evan, Juli James
Education, Fran Milde
Education, Shane Costello

Adult Christian Education

Winter/Spring 2006 Adult Christian Education has begun.

If you are currently a member of a group, the groups will continue to meet at the same times and you do not need to register again.

If you are not a member of a group, now is the time to let Wes know that you want to participate.

The Winter/Spring program will have the small group meetings and a large group meeting during Lent.

The small group meetings will meet the weeks of January 15, February 5 and 18, and May 7 and 21 either on a Sunday or a Wednesday.

The large group meeting will be during the Lenten season. It will run 5 weeks

from Wednesday March 8 to April 5. Everyone is encouraged to attend and no sign up is required for the Lenten Session.

The focus of the Winter/Spring Program, both small and Lenten group, will be the study of New Testament Parables. It's not too late to sign up!

THE FOCUS WILL BE NEW TESTAMENT PARABLES



Testing out our teamwork abilities during Church Family Night!



The Rector's Report, Continued

(Continued from page 1)

I will also be conducting a Newcomers/ Confirmation class this spring as well. This is an exciting opportunity for new members to learn about our church and for anyone who is interested to prepare for Confirmation. We are fortunate to be having the regional confirmation here at St. Andrew's this year on May 13th, so for anyone who would like to get confirmed in our church building, this would be a good time. This class will go through church history, the scriptures, the prayer book and our services, as well as looking at the impact of an individual's faith on this community and vice versa. I invite not only newcomers and confirmands to attend, but also anyone who would like to come and learn and to share their experience of the church. This class is a large commitment, but I think it will be worth it. The class will meet on Sunday morning at 9:45 am for about an hour on April 2, 9, 23, 30, and May 7th.

I know that I have thrown a lot of dates at you, but there is a lot going on. Please mark these on your calendar and make a point to attend. All of these classes and dinners are important for our community. It provides us an opportunity to get to know one another and to express our ideas in a safe and supportive environment.

The last thing that I want to share with you is a brief recap of my report at the annual meeting for those of you who were unable to attend. We have a great deal to be proud of here at St. Andrew's. In the past year and a half our attendance has grown over 30% and our stewardship has grown over 115%. That's incredible, but those are not the numbers that I am most proud of.

There has been a great deal of growth in our Christian Education programs as well. We have gone from having no Adult Christian Education programs to having one in which 30 or more people are regularly

involved. Our Wednesday School program is regularly seeing between 15 and 22 kids. Our youth programs have revamped and are working hard to grow. One night we had 18 high school kids here at the church.

There is a great deal going on and we are working hard to manage all of the new challenges and opportunities that come along with that growth. One area where this could be seen in the past year was in looking at the purchasing the Rivera Lodge property next door. There was a whirlwind of activity around this subject at the time and I appreciate everyone's input on the matter. We were able to form a property review committee that studied the property, cost and income producing potential, and they found that it would not be in our best interest to purchase that property. They further suggested that the Vestry look for property elsewhere to insure that this church would have room to grow in the future. That certainly doesn't mean that we would be going anywhere soon, but the Vestry is taking working through all of this to see what needs we might have and what kind of property might address those needs. We have been able to take our time with this process, unlike the Rivera Lodge, because there are no time constraints. I think this is an exciting opportunity for the parish.

There is a great deal more going on, but I am running out of room. I would like to end by saying that all of the growth and the classes and all of that are wonderful, but what's most important, and what we must continue to work at, is that we as individuals are growing in our relationship with God. This is what separates the church from other social action clubs or groups. Our goal is to know the Lord and to spread that knowledge and love with the world around us. At the end of the day, that's what really matters.

Our goal is to know the Lord and to spread that knowledge and love with the world around us. At the end of the day, that's what really matters.

Music Notes, Coralee Peteresen



A special invitation goes out to all of you to come join us in singing in the choir. We will begin practicing again on February 12th. Rehearsals will be at 10:00 AM on Sundays. We will be preparing music for Lent and Easter, and as always, we will be looking at the hymns and service music we sing each Sunday, so it is a great way to become more familiar with the congregational music. You need not be an experienced choir singer to be part of this group - everyone is welcome.

Thanks to the people who have helped with music for services recently: Mariah McKay, Morgan Holz, Sue Holz, Hattie McKay, and Tayln Costello.

In this new year, I hope that many of you will continue to participate in our musical offerings at St Andrew's. I would be glad to hear your suggestions, and welcome your sharing of your musical gifts.

Coralee Petersen



January Vestry Minutes, Cheryl Essington

Vestry Minutes
January 9, 2006

Present: Wes, Shane Costello, Fred Petersen, Gail Grubb, Cheryl Essington, Gail Randall, Sarah Hixson, Juli James, Randy Belton

Gail Randall led in opening prayer.

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

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

Senior Warden: Gail waived her report in lieu of other business to discuss.

Rector's Report: Wes explained that he had not received any additional word from Big Piney and that he would send out one more notice to see if there is indeed interest from the congregation over there.

Wes was asked if it would be possible to move the Vestry meetings up by half an hour to begin at 7:00 p.m. The members of the Vestry agreed to move the meetings to 7:00 p.m. and Cheryl will send out a reminder prior to the next meeting.

Wes also noted the lull in energy and enthusiasm with the coming of the New Year, which is normal. He asked that we all be aware and make sure that the energy increases with the beginning of the spring Christian Education program.

Old Business:

1. Dance: Juli suggested that we discuss a

Christian Youth dance, including other churches as a possibility. Cheryl will research the cost of a band/DJ for such an event.

2. Shirts: Wes will get a logo to Juli.

3. New Vestry: Jon Boroff has agreed to the position as Jr. Warden. Carla Sullivan has also agreed to run for the Vestry, and Wes is still in contact with Donna Skinner.

4. Honduras Application: Gail Grubb has prepared an application for Financial Aid for those interested in assisting the Diocesan Mission. Please encourage anyone interested to turn in an application.

5. Vestry Retreat: The Vestry will meet downstairs after church on February 26th. We will have lunch and discuss church size and growth. Also, Phil Washburn will come and clarify the financial reports.

New Business:

1. Future Plans: Shane and Fred will get together and continue to discuss property options.

The Vestry discussed at length their visions for the future. For the next meeting, the Vestry will bring back written answers to these questions to share. Cheryl will send out a reminder prior to the next meeting.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Hello! I hope everyone is well and has had a good start to the new year! January has passed by quite quickly and unfortunately the winter is coming to a close and the hot sun is beginning again.

The latest news from me is that I bought a new set of wheels! - classy red, equipped with a bell and handy-dandy basket;) I have noticed that no women ride bicycles in my town is I decided it was time they started. Before my purchase I received the usual stares and comments that all volunteers get, but now EVERYONE takes notice when I fly by ringing my bell and my orna flapping in the wind;) The questions I seem to receive the most is "where did you learn to ride a bicycle?" or "you know how to ride a bicycle?!" One teacher at my all boys' school even told me I should ride a bike. When I asked why not, he said the road is very dangerous, which it is. Between dodging rickshaws, pedestrians, cows, goats and trying my best not to be run off the road by a bus, I often find cycling for 5 km quite exhausting. I was never one in the US to have very much road rage, but find driving in Bangladesh has brought out a more aggressive side in me: 'What was that guy thinking when he did a U turn in the middle of traffic', 'Come on! you have a bell, so use it!', 'what are you breaking for?!', 'Learn to stay on your own side of the road' - :) I really don't say any of these things, but some times I would like to:)

In the beginning of January I celebrated the Muslim holiday of Eid with my family. This Eid originates from when God commanded Moses to sacrifice his son, but in the end provides a ram for Moses to sacrifice instead since he had proven his love to God. All the Muslim families buy an animal at this time of year to sacrifice. Depending on the economic situation of the family it could range anywhere from a goat to several cows (I heard that some very wealthy Muslims even sacrifice camels). When my family brought our cow home I made the mistake of falling in love with its big brown eyes and gentle nature.

The family even named it Lolly (lol meaning red) because it was a reddish brown color. Anyhow I won't continue about how cute the cow was...however one funny story before the Lolly's big day: The first night we tied Lolly just inside our gate of our house. This area is small and is the entrance to the house. To one side there are about 24 haphazard stairs that lead up to our flat roof. Well, somehow during the night Lolly untied himself and headed up all 24 stairs and decided to hangout on the roof. When my host parents woke up for the early prayer around 5:30 a.m. my host mom said to my host dad that she thought the cow was on the roof. His reply was that she must have been dreaming. However, when they went to check on ol' Lolly, he was no where in sight. My host dad went running up the roof and found him. Ever so carefully he grabbed him and dragged him down the stairs. There were no more episodes after that.

Two days later everyone woke up early to celebrate Eid. The men off to Mosque while the women prepared to begin cooking. After my dad and brother returned they, along with a few other men sacrificed our cow. The whole day is quite interesting because the idea is that since God provides for our every needs we must trust that by giving away to others what he provides to us we will not have to worry about material possessions. After the meat is cut, 1/3 is given to the poor (who come throughout the day to receive the meat), 1/3 is given to friends and neighbors, and 1/3 is kept by the family of the animal. The day was spent entertaining many visitors, giving away meat, sweets and enjoying lots of yummy food.

The longer I live here and begin to understand the Bengali culture and Muslim religion, I begin seeing so many parallels to Christianity and to people back home. Not everything is the same, but is truly amazing to find so much love and faith in the different circles of people I a part of.

Well, this is long and there is a woman waiting to use the phone line

Love,

Meghan