

# October 2013

a voice in the  
wilderness



Thy bounty shines in Autumn unconfined and spreads a common  
feast for all that live.

- James Thomson

**St. Andrew's in the Pines Episcopal Church**

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# ST. ANDREWS

IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## PASTOR'S PEN

**"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead."**

**James 2: 14 & 26**

The clip board with sign-up sheets for Volunteer Ministries at St. Andrew's has now been passed around for three Sundays and an AMAZING 55 adults and 16 youth have asked to be included in some sort of ministry within this congregation! What a gift to all of us. What a witness and dedication to putting faith into action. Over the next month we will celebrate some of these ministries by formally commissioning or licensing them with the Diocese. In other instances, there might not be much public notice and yet the work will go on and hopefully everyone will be thanked at some time.

At our September Vestry meeting the formation question was about our expectations for a priest and for ourselves. In both categories, vestry members listed community involvement as an expectation. Community involvement – we who attend St. Andrew's in the Pines go forth and serve on community boards, take on organizing community events and fundraisers, watch out for their neighbors and witness to God's presence by the way we live our lives. We cook meals, we share firewood, we provide rides, we donate funds and goods. We are a people showing our faith by the works that we do.

In August I traveled to Jackson to listen to Diana Butler Ross speak at St. John's Episcopal Church. Ms. Ross is a historian with a focus on church life in the United States. She has published seven books, the most recent being "Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening." In her talk she provides lots of statistics about worship trends and impact trends of religion in our society and she talks about past history and predictions for the future. There were a couple of comments she made that I find very heartening. She presents workshops and talks all over the United States which includes presentations to many different Christian denominations. What she told us gathered at St. John's is that she finds the Episcopal Church to be the denomination most involved in serving outside of our church walls. We have a theology that calls us to care for those not sitting in our pews. I have certainly found this to be true in Pinedale as we continue to open our doors to people needing shelter and we maintain a discretionary fund to be shared with any who ask for help. We see community involvement as our faith in action.



Her other observation about Episcopal theology was our willingness to live with differences. The traditionalists and the explorers, the young and the old, the liberal and the conservative, the irritating and the timid, all of us can be together – in worship and in work. I believe our *Via Media* approach of looking for and accepting what is good in each of us and in the church and in the world works together for our salvation.

Thanks be to God for our faith, for our works, and for our witness.

*Pastor Jami*

YOU ARE FEARFULLY AND  
WONDERFULLY MADE

PSALM 139:13-14

Looking for a daily meditation? Look no further: Forward Day By Day is the place for your daily prayer and meditation. Just go to:

<http://>

[prayer.forwardmovement.org](http://prayer.forwardmovement.org)

[/forward-day-by-day.php](http://prayer.forwardmovement.org/forward-day-by-day.php)

to see what's in store for each day. You can

see motivational

Christian books for

purchase at their parent

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[ForwardMovement.org](http://ForwardMovement.org)

Take a look!



If you would like to volunteer in the nursery, for refreshment duty, or another ministry, please let Pastor Jami or Betty know and you will be added to the ROTA. Thank you!

## Senior Warden Report

September has been a busy month for St. Andrews. The Childrens Chapel on Sunday mornings and Wednesday Church School have begun. These are headed up by John Anderson and Julie Belton with help from other volunteers. Pastor Jami is leading an adult bible study on Monday nights and Sunday morning services are back to the 9am and 11am schedule with the choir meeting at 10am.

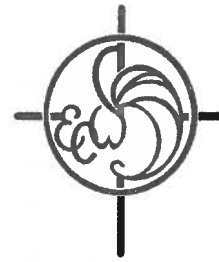
A big thank you goes out to Kay and Dee Morris for hosting the family campout on Sept. 14 & 15. We all enjoyed their hospitality and beautiful outdoor chapel. Also thanks to Barbara Wise for her service to St. Andrews as a vestry member. If anyone has questions or concerns please contact me or any member of the vestry.

*Van Huffman*  
Senior Warden



## Annual Blessing of the Pets

In honor of St. Francis of Assisi, the Annual Blessing of the Pets will take place on Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the backyard of the church. Special treats will be provided for ALL in attendance.



ECW NEWS

We will be having an Episcopal Church Women meeting on Sunday, October 20th at coffee hour. This is our most important meeting of the year where we will be discussing our annual outreach giving and plans for the Christmas Party. If you have other items for the agenda, please let me know. Hope to see you there! Remember if you are a woman, and you go to St. Andrew's, you are a member of ECW.

Thanks to everyone who brought in gifts for the girls at Little Roses Orphanage, Honduras.

- Sukey

As I have  
loved you,  
love one  
another.

~John 13:34~



## Stewardship

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:"

- 1 Peter 4:10

First of all, I have gotten many nice compliments on the articles written about Stewardship, however, I can only take credit for the first and this one! Sue Holz wrote the one last month—compliments to her!

This month I would like to talk about other ways to be a good steward. Sometimes, the finances just don't work in our favor, and taking on another financial commitment is a hard pill to swallow. There are other ways! Jami has been passing around the sign-up sheet for duties for which to volunteer—what a fantastic way to give back to St. Andrews. Time and effort are indeed precious commodities in our lives, but volunteering to bake bread, sing in the choir, read, help with our youth, provide a snack, prepare the altar—all of these (and the ones I have undoubtedly forgotten) are essential to the life of our little church. Volunteering for clean ups, Thanksgiving preparations, the pie sale are also wonderful ways to give to the ongoing life of our congregation. This is one of those legs of the stool I mentioned in the first article—being present, giving of your time and effort are so beneficial!

Another small gesture that goes a long way is shopping. If you are going to Rock Springs or Idaho Falls, grab an extra package of paper towels, paper plates, toilet paper, Kleenex, lemonade, a box of tea, a ream of paper—you get the idea. At \$10.00 to \$15.00 per large package for paper products, we can collectively save hundreds of dollars from being spent out of our budget.

As you can tell, we are swinging into Stewardship season—and soon you will be getting pledge cards. Take this time now to give some thought on what you can give—be it a time or financial commitment. I am so proud to be part of the St. Andrews community. We are a people who care not only for ourselves but for all. We reach out in so many ways through our daily lives. Give some thought now to how you can reach back and support our wonderful church.

- Jeanne

## YOUTH GROUP

October 9<sup>th</sup> is the kick-off gathering for our Rite 13 and J2A Youth Groups. We will start at the church at 6:30 p.m. with dinner and will end by 8:00 p.m. These groups are open to all church attendees and their friends who are in Sixth grade through High School. The Youth Leaders are excited to get "back in action" for this school year. Any questions - contact Kris Holmes at 307-421-4959 or Tara Bolgiano Holmes at 307-200-1161.

## St. Andrew's K-5 Youth Group

### Meeting Dates

Sept. 25th

Oct. 9th

Oct. 23rd

Nov. 6th

Nov. 20th

Dec. 4th

Dec. 18th

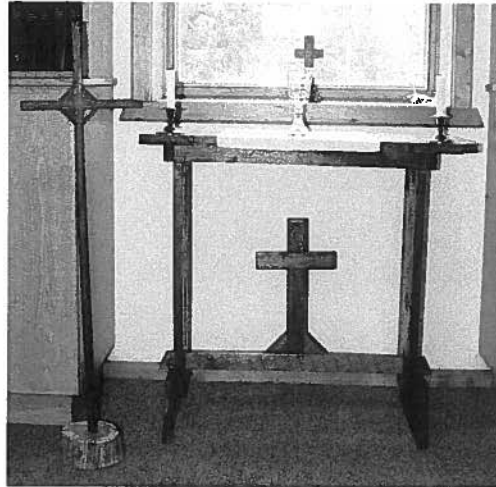
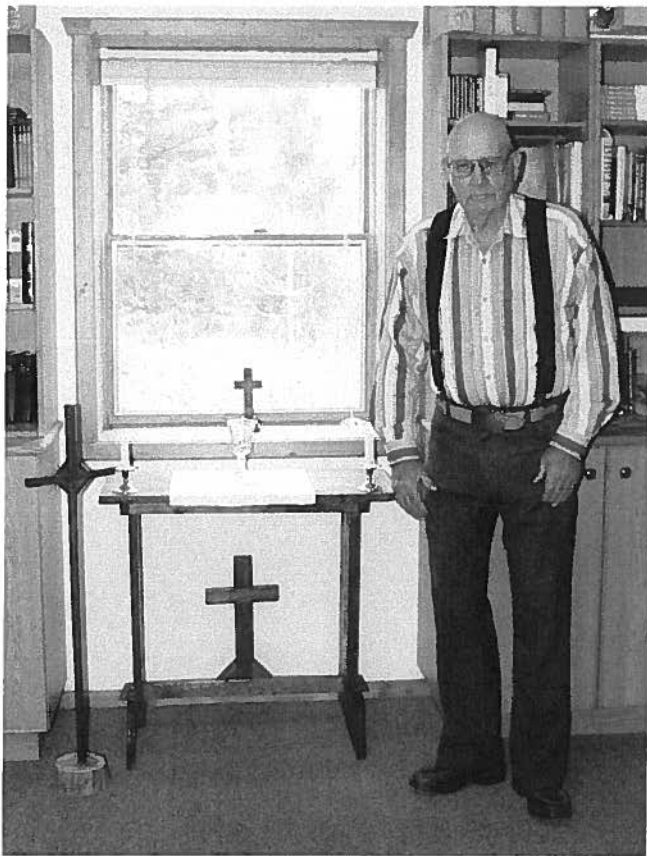
We meet from 4-5:15 PM

Contact: Julie Belton 231-1856

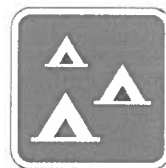


# CONGREGATION CONGRATULATIONS

Impressive thanks to George Rahm for crafting a simple cross for our youth to carry and for the altar built for our children's chapel program. Made from the same black walnut as was used for the altar in the sanctuary, these gifts to the church were done by George at 92 years of age!



Grateful thanks to the Costello's and Clean Wash Laundry for washing and drying the large quilt that is used by our homeless visitors.



GROUP CAMPING

Generous Thanks go to Dee and Kay Morris for their kind hospitality given for the Family Camp-out held on Sept. 14-15 at the Mountain Springs Ranch. Despite the rain, we gathered around the campfire and worshipped at the nice outdoor chapel. And all who wanted

## Children in Church

A friend of mine posted the link to the following article (next page) on Facebook last week. I opened it thinking it would be an interesting read, but I didn't anticipate the impact it would have. I had not really acknowledged feeling the way the author describes each time I bring my children to worship, but this article really opened my eyes to the fears I have as a parent in church. It also soothed those fears beautifully. I hope it can do the same service for other parents, grandparents, and caregivers in our congregation. As the author enthuses, bringing our children to worship is "really, really important."

~Audrey Morris

**He said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.**

**Mark 10:13-16**

## Children in Church ... Continued

"Dear Parents with Young Children in Church,

You are doing something really, *really* important. I know it's not easy. I see you with your arms overflowing, and I know you came to church already tired. Parenting is tiring. Really tiring.

I watch you bounce and sway trying to keep the baby quiet, juggling the infant car seat and the diaper bag as you find a seat. I see you wince as your child cries. I see you anxiously pull things out of your bag of tricks to try to quiet them.

And I see you with your toddler and your preschooler. I watch you cringe when your little girl asks an innocent question in a voice that might not be an inside voice let alone a church whisper. I hear the exasperation in your voice as you *beg* your child to just sit, to be quiet as you feel everyone's eyes on you. Not everyone is looking, but I know it feels that way.

I know you're wondering, is this worth it? Why do I bother? I know you often leave church more exhausted than fulfilled. But what you are doing is so important.

When you are here, the church is filled with a joyful noise. When you are here, the Body of Christ is more fully present. When you are here, we are reminded that this worship thing we do isn't about bible study or personal, quiet contemplation but coming together to worship as a community where all are welcome, where we share in the Word and Sacrament together. When you are here, I have hope that these pews won't be empty in 10 years when your kids are old enough to *sit quietly and behave in worship*. I know that they are learning how and why we worship now, before it's too late. They are learning that worship is important.

I see them learning. In the midst of the cries, whines, and giggles, in the midst of the crinkling of pretzel bags and the growing pile of crumbs, I see a little girl who insists on going two pews up to share peace with someone she's never met. I hear a little boy slurping (quite loudly) every last drop of his communion wine out of the cup, determined not to miss a drop of Jesus. I watch a child excitedly color a cross and point to the one in the front of the sanctuary. I hear the echos of "Amens" just a few seconds after the rest of the community says it together. I watch a boy just learning to read try to sound out the words in the worship book or count his way to Hymn 672. Even on weeks when I can't see my own children learning because, well, it's one of *those* mornings, I can see your children learning.

I know how hard it is to do what you're doing, but I want you to know *it matters*. It matters to me. It matters to my children to not be alone in the pew. It matters to the congregation to know that families care about faith, to see young people... and even on those weeks when you can't see the little moments, it matters to your children.

It matters that they learn that worship is what we do as a community of faith, that everyone is welcome, that *their* worship matters. When we teach children that their worship matters, we teach them that they are *enough* right here and right now as members of the church community. They don't need to wait until they can believe, pray or worship a certain way to be welcome here, and I know adults who are still looking to be shown that. It matters that children learn that they are an integral part of this church, that their prayers, their songs, and even their badly (or perfectly-timed, depending on who you ask) cries and whines *are* a joyful noise because it means they are present.

I know it's hard, but thank you for what you do when you bring your children to church. Please know that your family -- with all of its noise, struggle, commotion, and joy -- are not simply tolerated, you are a vital part of the community gathered in worship."

~ Written by Jamie Bruesehoff on *I Am Totally \*That\* Mom.*

# October Calendar



- October 4-6 Diocesan Convention in Sheridan
- October 9 Youth Group @ 6:30pm
- October 13 Pet Blessing @ 2:00pm
- October 14 A New New Testament Study @ 7:00pm
- October 18-20 Diocesan Youth Event in Laramie
- October 20 ECW Meeting @ 12:00pm
- October 21 Vestry @ 7:00pm
- October 23 Youth Group @ 6:30pm
- October 26 Acolyte Training at 1:30pm
- October 27 Together Sunday
- October 28 A New New Testament Study @ 7:00pm

## ONGOING

### Sunday Church Service Times

St. John's - 5:00 pm

St. Andrew's - 9:00 am & 11:00 am

### Retirement Center Service

Mondays at 10:30 am

Sublette Center

### Noon Day Prayer

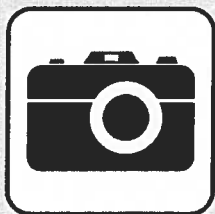
Tuesdays - 12:00 pm

### Evening Prayer

Wednesdays - 5:30 pm

### Men's Breakfast Group

Fridays at 7:00 am @ Stockman's



## Photo Directory

In July, our Vestry voted to work with Lifetouch to produce a new Photo Directory for St. Andrew's. Graciously, Michele Costello has offered to coordinate this project. Together, Lifetouch and Michele have set up Nov. 11, 12, & 13 as the dates that photos will be taken of our parish members. In addition, we can invite other family and friends to have to have their pictures taken as EVERYONE receives a FREE 8X10 portrait. Michele will be contacting everyone during October to schedule your appointment. In addition, Michele needs photos of church activities and events and services in order to create some collage pages for the directory. You can email your photos to Michele at [mleighcostello@gmail.com](mailto:mleighcostello@gmail.com)

**new !!** Do you have an exciting event or announcement you'd like to have printed in the newsletter? A wedding, birth, or other cause for congratulations? Please let me know and we'll get them printed. Send in any newsletter submissions to: [tpalmorris@gmail.com](mailto:tpalmorris@gmail.com) . Please be sure attachments are exactly as you would like them printed. Thank you!



Audrey Morris