



# ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Sermon by Pastor Jami Anderson, Feb. 20, 2011

A sermon in three parts.

### Act I

Story of Stephanie – not technically homeless – car accident, house, vehicle, crippled right arm  
Met me when in mid-20's – checked in with me periodically  
Lots of encounters with men met via internet  
Back from one such encounter in Alaska – pregnant  
Wanted me to baptize baby – put date on calendar  
Told her about being part of the body – coming to church  
Visited her in hospital at birth – three days later sitting in church – front row – baby in sling  
Coffee hour – baby held, loved, parishioners helped clip fingernails, change diapers, carry car seat out to vehicle  
Said she'd get her GED and become the next priest

### Act II

Met counterpart of Stephanie - in narthex couple weeks ago  
Wandering teens befriended by parishioner who called me and asked if they could stay at church  
Husband called later and offered cots and towels and PAC passes  
They ate food from Barb and Stuart McKinley's pantry  
Shaina wrote out her phone number and gave it to them

### Act III

Interfaith Worker's Justice meetings while in seminary  
Downtown for workshops culminating in march to Congress Hotel to join striking workers  
Carried placards – All Religions Believe in Justice – chanting – what do we want? We want justice. When do we want it? Now. Exciting - especially for Wyoming girl – new experience  
Joined the picket line – workers there for nine months after owner cut wages by 7%, took away health insurance, and ended contract with them.  
We circled and I noticed an older woman whose face was all wrinkles, noticed two very shy young men who only spoke Spanish to each other, noticed a lady with a crippled leg whose foot turned in so much it appeared painful to be walking. Lump came to my throat.  
These were not arrogant or well fed people, these were the invisible workers who clean, wash, and provide security out of sight from the rest of us.  
As I walked home in the cold and gathering dusk I kept wondering to myself – Where is our church?

“For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? ...”  
“But you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.”