



NOVEMBER 2024

NOTES FROM THE RECTOR



This year's stewardship theme is Season of Abundance. In last month's newsletter Meganne invited us to take time for reflection as we move into the coming year.

Ponder for a moment your early steps of following Christ: Who were

the net casters in your life? Who valued you, welcomed you, talked with you about a relationship with Jesus? And currently: Where does your encouragement to keep following Christ come from? Who helps you mend your nets and remind you of God's faithfulness when you are weary? Who do you read and digest the Holy Scriptures with? Who prays with you, invites you—just as you are—into a deeper sense of belonging?

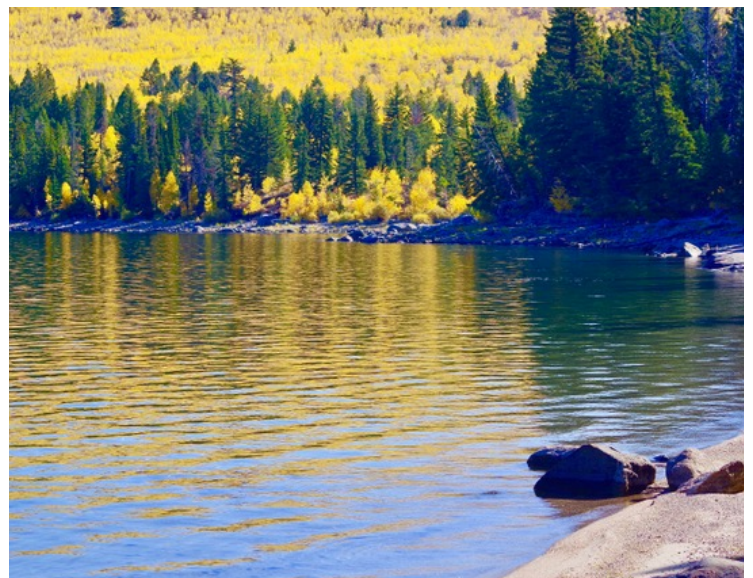
Our invitation for the Season of Abundance is to thank God for those Christ followers who impacted our journey and still do! It is to consider how God is calling St. Andrew's to cast the gospel net of grace to gather, build community and encourage one another. God has given us our time, talent and treasure, but being stewards of those begins with relationship—seeking God, following Jesus and together, allowing our tendencies for a scarcity mindset be transformed to receiving and sharing God's bounty.

Meganne's call is to not only give heartfelt thanks for the gifts that have nurtured and supported our faith, but also to see how we can use the examples we have been given by the saints in our lives to give those same gifts to others, and

recognize when new gifts are given to us to share. This is a wonderful opportunity for the Season of Abundance of 2025.

What Meganne asks is, after all, our call as disciples of Jesus. At any given moment in our lives we need to be paying attention to how God is calling us to be good stewards of all the gifts God has provided and keeps providing, particularly our gifts of faith. And that's not easy, because we don't always do a good job of hearing what God is trying to tell us is a gift. Think of how often Jesus tells the disciples who he is and why he's come, and they keep on trying to put him in the "earthly conqueror" box they understand and expect. But God in Jesus shatters expectations.

In order to hear God, we have to take the step recommended by Jesus. First, we have to stop doing. Jesus recommends going alone to a quiet place and praying. Praying isn't just talking to God; it's also opening ourselves to what God has to say. It's knowing our own internal voice well enough that we are able to recognize when that is not the voice speaking. It is being willing to hear
(continued on next page)



(continued from previous page) just as the disciples did on the road to Jerusalem. And it takes real time, not a few the unexpected, just as the disciples did on the road to minutes here and there. We need to make time and space for God to seep into our spirits and fill us. We need to let our inner voices be silent.

When we are able to hear what God is saying and where God is leading us, then we need to be willing to put it at the center of our lives. Only then can we bring to bear all of those gifts of faith given to us by those that nurtured our life in Christ: the gift of knowing that God loves us and values us; that the road ahead will not be easy but we will never walk it alone; that the wisdom of scripture and all the saints can be signposts to help us on our journey; and that we will always have enough not only to sustain us along the way but to give generously to others. All of the gifts we steward can be shared with others as graciously as they were shared with us.

As Meganne said, “We are part of both Miraculous Catches from scripture and called to be net casters of God’s Grace. It is incredible that, after seeing all those fish, the wealth the disciples chose to pursue was Jesus.”

Melinda +

NOVEMBER LAY WORSHIP LEADERSHIP SCHEDULE

- November 3: Madeleine Murdock, Lector and EM
- November: 10: Sukey Hohl and Erin Hastey
- November 17 Clay Cundal and Meganne Acres
- November 24: Erin Hastey and Sukey Hohl



ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES VESTRY

Name	Office	Phone	Email	Term Ends
Teresa Lindenmeier		(858) 336-3089	troyandteresa@gmail.com	2025
Sarah Hixson	Junior Warden	(307) 231-9666	sarahmi5@wyoming.com	2025
Julie Belton		(307) 231-1856	real125c@outlook.com	2026
Sandy Cenac		(985) 860-8037	SandyCenac@gmail.com	2026
Kelley Pearson	Sr. Warden	(307) 231-2394	okelley.pearson@gmail.com	2026
Erin Hastey		(608) 228-897	erinhastey@gmail.com	2027
Sukey Hohl		(307) 231-3030	sukeybook@gmail.com	2027
Joni Mack	Treasurer	(307) 690-0669	joni@ravencrowne.com	

OUR SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS BROUGHT IN \$765 AT DIOCESAN CONVENTION THIS YEAR!

The match from the Foundation for the Episcopal Church of Wyoming makes that \$1530, and the match from the Episcopal Church Foundation brings the final total to \$3060, which is \$380 more than last year. Well done!

ECHO FOR FAMILIES IS A COMMUNITY THAT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING, ADVOCACY, AND MENTORSHIP WITH FAMILIES that have a child with developmental disabilities, autism, or other special healthcare needs. It is sponsored by the Wyoming Institute For Disabilities and is supported by the University of Wyoming and BOCES. Families can receive support, brainstorm ideas, and share successes with other families around the state. Spanish interpretation is provided for all sessions. All family members are welcome to join!

Our Fall 2024 sessions focus on youth and caregiver mental health and meet Wednesdays, bi-weekly, 12 pm to 1 pm. The remaining sessions are Nov 6: Sleep Tips and Tricks, Nov 20: Supporting Mental Health for Caregivers, and Dec 4: Supporting Mental Health for Caregivers: Family and Statewide Resources. Please email projectecho@uwyo.edu if you have questions or would like to join an in-person host site in Pinedale at Sublette BOCES, Room 120. Lunch is provided! If you plan to eat lunch with us, we kindly ask you to RSVP the day before with the number attending in your party.

ST. ANDREW'S WILL HONOR OUR MILITARY VETERANS ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10 AT 9 AM.

We will recognize each one attending and bestow a blessing in gratitude for their service to our nation.

THE NOVEMBER VESTRY MEETING is on Monday, November 11 in-person and by Zoom at 5:30 pm in the Undercroft.

SEASON OF ABUNDANCE SUNDAY, THE BLESSING OF PLEDGE CARDS, AND THANKSGIVING BRUNCH WILL BE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17. If you have not mailed it in before, please bring your pledge card with you to turn in during the Offertory that day. For the brunch, turkey will be provided. Please bring a dish to share!

THE FREE COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER WILL BE THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28 AT OUR LADY OF PEACE CATHOLIC CHURCH FROM NOON TO 2 PM. THERE WILL BE AN INTERDENOMINATIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11 AM. The sign up sheet is for desserts or dinner rolls is in the entryway/Narthex.

THE PINEDALE COMMUNITY CHOIR'S CHRISTMAS CONCERTS will be Friday, December 6 at 3 pm at the Sublette Center, Saturday December 7 at the LDS Church in Big Piney at 3 pm, and Sunday, December 8 in Sheppard Auditorium in Pinedale at 3 pm. Please come enjoy the music of the season!

THE VESTRY IS INVITING PEOPLE INTERESTED IN SERVING AS LEADERS TO VOLUNTEER TO RUN FOR VESTRY NEXT JANUARY. Vestry candidates must be communicants in good standing (received communion at least 3 times in the past year and have given in support of the church). Please contact Joni Mack at 307-690-0669 if you know of someone you think would be a good vestry member.

TAIZE NOVEMBER 7, 6 PM AT ST. ANDREW'S AND ON ZOOM There will be a service to honor veterans and their sacrifice Thursday, November 7. Why do we have Veterans' Day? World War I ended November 11, 1918 as all parties signed an armistice, or agreement to end hostilities. This ended 4 years of fighting and resulted in 40 million casualties (22 million deaths and 18 million wounded.) Veterans' Day evolved from the celebration of the end of the war and the hope that it was "the war to end all wars."

Come to our Taize service, which has beautiful music and prayers by candlelight. Be at peace to contemplate and honor all those have gone before, and give hope for the future.

IN ORDER TO PROVIDE SAFE ENVIRONMENTS FOR EVERYONE, THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (COM) AND DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP HAVE UPDATED THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND THE PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICIES AND APPROVED THE USE OF PRAESIDIUM ACADEMY'S SAFE CHURCH TRAINING. It is mandatory for all clergy, licensed lay ministers, and most parish leaders and volunteers to maintain certification in Safe Church every three years. Parishes are encouraged to enroll their parishioners in online Safe Church training, which can be done at your own pace. To register, please contact Kira Bachus at kira@episcopalwy.org, and she will help you set up an account.

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR THE WEEKLY ST. ANDREW'S WORSHIP MINISTRIES. The worship schedule is in the entryway/narthex. Contact Meganne Acres at bacog2day@yahoo.com or 307-262-9886 if you would like to learn how to sign up online.

VOTE
faithfully



SEASON OF ABUNDANCE

at St. Andrew's in the Pines
We are invited to Adorn the Trees of
Abundance with The Fish of Faith!

Simply write your gratitude or praises to God on the fish cutouts for the people that have impacted our life in Christ!

Past, present or future folks that God has gifted in relationship. Attach them using a clothes pin to the lighted trees in the sanctuary or downstairs.

If you are elsewhere during the winter months, send your Fish of Faith responses in with your pledge card – we will place them on the trees! Here's some ideas:

Write the first name of someone to thank God for - Write the season of life significant to their encouragement - Write the name of someone God may be nudging you to connect with - Write relationship words like fellowship, reconciliation, unity, forgiveness, grace, community, listen, supportive, trusted, commitment, available, present, gather, invite - Write the name of someone who prayed for you, or you pray for - Write the name of someone whose ministry inspires you, or a community of faith instrumental in your journey.

NOVEMBER 3: All Saints Liturgy

NOVEMBER 7: Taizé

NOVEMBER 17: Stewardship Sunday, Blessing of Pledges and Potluck

November 24: Christ the King Sunday/ Feast of St. Andrew



Charlease as lay eucharistic minister, Convention



Madeleine and Charlease, lay delegates and Annie Ruth, visitor



Rev. Randy Belton, speaking at Convention



Erin Hasty, Randy and Julie Belton at Convention



Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori visiting St. Andrew's



Halloween trick or treating in the snow!

A REPORT FROM THE 58TH DIOCESAN CONVENTION

This year's convention was held Friday, Sept. 27 to Saturday, Sept. 28 at the Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center in Casper. Madeleine Murdock and I had the privilege of being St. Andrew's lay delegates for the convention. The Rev. Melinda Bobo was, of course, our clergy delegate.

The theme this year was "Love. Always." We're not talking about the chubby cherub, long-stem roses, fluffy bunny, sentimental love. We are talking about powerful love that reaches beyond comfort to embrace the challenges of being and creating Christ's disciples in a turbulent world, to let all know and experience the deep love of God.

This convention was about looking forward to the future while honoring and acknowledging our past successes and failures as we continue our process to fulfilling our commitment to become the living embodiment of Christ in the world.

The convention opened with a welcome and the Bishop's Address from Assisting Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori. She spoke about healing from past leadership failures, the need for accountability, and the strength of shared ministry. She encouraged the Diocese to embrace creativity and trust in God's work. She suggested regional services shared through Zoom, strengthening shared ministries, healing for relationships between us, our Native siblings, and the earth. Her address is available on YouTube, here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EbdZkW7s4ms>

We were very privileged to have Presiding Bishop (at the time) Michael Curry as our guest and keynote speaker. He is incredibly dynamic as many of us know from his sermon at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. He issued a call to unselfish, sacrificial love and how we can energize and change the world if we just have the courage to each be the physical manifestation of Christ's Love in our relationships and the communities that we live in. He also gave a sermon about love in action, healing, and reconciliation at the convention worship service Saturday morning at St. Mark's, Casper. Here is the YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqqCvQbod8Q>

The Episcopal Foundation of Wyoming hosts a business lunch for all attendees. The Foundation provides much support to the congregations in the Diocese, for example St. Andrew's eastern addition and the kitchen remodel. But, their grants also support various congregational in-reach and outreach projects around the state. The business meeting is our view into the investment practices that go into the Foundation's ability to financially support the work of the Church.

Volunteers from the Episcopal Service Corps were present for the entire convention. Not only did they assist delegates in the voting process, but they expressed their opinions on the resolutions and took pictures. These are young people who are working to make a difference in the church and the world.

The convention business meeting is only about four hours (or less). As delegates, it is our responsibility to vote on the budget, committee nominations, and the resolutions presented at the convention. We passed four resolutions with over 90% approval:

Resolution #24-1 | Establishing an Equal Justice Initiative Task Force

Resolution #24-2 | Committing to Truth-Telling and Listening to our Native American Siblings

Resolution #24-3 | Expressing Remorse for Harm Suffered by Indigenous Children at Wyoming Indigenous Boarding and Residential Schools and Committing to Fact-Finding

Resolution #24-4 | Committing to Memorialize Victims of Racial Violence in Wyoming and to Provide Education about Wyoming's History of Racial Injustice

The convention isn't all about business. Friday evening, we had an outdoor service followed by a banquet with silent auction to raise money for the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund. (And, the Diocese of Wyoming yet again contributed a record amount to ERD.) The banquet was followed by a wonderfully entertaining program of Delegate Karaoke. Saturday morning, attendees could participate in Inspirational break-out sessions on stewardship, art therapy, Sacred Ground, restorative justice, and yoga mass. Saturday evening was our social hour and closing banquet.

It was truly a privilege and an honor to serve as a delegate to the convention for St. Andrew's in the Pines. I highly encourage congregation members to attend as delegates or guests. It's an opportunity for community, learning, and growing.

**Report respectfully submitted by,
Charlease Elzenga**

We have moved funds out of a matured 5-year CD into a 9-month CD at 4.05% interest; it will be there when we are ready to do the renovation on the rectory, hopefully in partnership with the Diocesan Foundation in the form of a grant. The vestry also voted to purchase a new 9-month CD at 4% interest with the maturing \$10,000 CD.

If you would like to sit down and have a detailed explanation of our finances, please be in touch. I’m glad to do that.

Current Assets	As of September 30, 2024
Operating fund balance	1,255.76
Memorial fund	2,064.17
Savings	34,552.80
Building fund	922.48
Priest Discretionary	528.31
Associate Priest Discretionary	331.99
Grant Checking Account	10,177.52
ECW Checking Account	2,820.49
Total Current Assets	52,653.52
CD – 6 month from operating (matures 11.1.24)	10,000
CD – 15 month from savings	15,000
CD – building fund (matures June 2025)	22,220.56
Total CDs	47,220.56
Dedicated Funds	
Mental Health (formerly COVID) Grant	7,723.23
Outreach Fund	970.81
Summer Lunch	4,645.84
Community Thanksgiving	(15.08)
Youth	885.81
Total Dedicated Funds	14,211.61
Budget Comparison YTD as of 9.30.24	Actual
Revenue	95,394.20
Expenses	(80,408.12)
(Deficit) of Revenue over Expenses	14,986.08

**ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
PO Box 847
PINEDALE, WY 82941**

**PLACE
STAMP
HERE**

UPCOMING DATES IN NOVEMBER

November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Narcotics Anonymous meetings at 7 pm in the Undercroft.
November 3, 10, 17, 24: Sunday services in-person and by Zoom at 9 am.
November 3: All Saints' Sunday with reading of names of those held up for remembrance.
November 5, 12, 19, 26: Marijuana Anonymous meetings at 7 pm in the Undercroft.
November 5: Election Day.
November 6, 13, 20, 27: Veterans Talking to Veterans and First Responders meetings at 5:30 pm in the Undercroft.
November 7: Taize Service to honor veterans in-person and by Zoom at 6 pm.
November 7, 14, 21, 28: Narcotics Anonymous meetings at 7 pm in the Undercroft.
November 10: Honoring Our Veterans during the 9 am Sunday service.
November 11: Vestry meeting in-person and by Zoom at 5:30 pm in the Undercroft.
November 17: Season of Abundance Sunday with Blessing of Pledge Cards and Thanksgiving Brunch.
November 24: Christ the King/St. Andrew's Day service at 9 am.

November 27: Deadline for the December Newsletter at 5 pm. Please email submissions to Sukey Hohl at sukeybook@gmail.com.
November 28: Community Thanksgiving Worship Service at 11 am, followed by Thanksgiving Dinner at Noon at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jeanne Raney	11/8
Sue Holz	11/11
Caroline Brazell	11/14
Diane Vitt	11/18
Peggy Bryant	11/20
Dave Hohl	11/21
Kate Morris	11/23
Sherrill Hudson	11/26
Emmett Morris	11/27