

The Shamrock



November Calendar

- Sundays 9 am Christian Education
 10 am Worship service
- Wednesdays 11:30 am Healing service
 12 Noon Bible study
- Thursdays 10 am - 2 pm Food boxes*
 2 pm Prayer quilters
 4 pm Choir practice
- 11/2 All Saints Day Service
- 11/11 Veteran's Day
 6 pm Potluck at St. Patricks
- 11/13 11:30 Vestry (Note change)
 6 pm Sunday Night Unplugged
- 11/14 1 pm ECW
 Operation Christmas Child
 Deadline for gift boxes
- 11/16 *Special Food Boxes day
 Loaves & Fishes food prep
- 11/17 Loaves & Fishes Thanksgiving
 Dinner: 9 am to 2 pm
- 11/19 8:30 am Men's Fellowship &
 Breakfast
- 11/21 12 pm Daughters of the King
- 11/22 Shamrock Newsletter Deadline
- 11/23 6 pm Thanksgiving Eve Svc
- 11/24-25 Thanksgiving - Ofc Closed
- 11/27 St. Andrews Day - Kirking of the
 Tartans

From the Pulpit

Dear Friends of the Way;

I do think about stewardship from time to time. It is part of my job description. But it is also something I believe all of us should do, and more often than once a year when the church holds its pledge campaign. Issues of stewardship are an ongoing part of our lives and we constantly make stewardship decisions. As stewards of time we choose whether we watch television, read a book, or play with our children or grandchildren in the evening. As stewards of our financial resources, we make big decisions about investments and pensions and smaller ones regarding whether we will eat dinner at home or in a restaurant tonight. The stewardship of our talents can cause us to make life changing decisions. I am a musician. Do I pursue a career based on my musical talent or do I use that gift as a hobby? Or do I completely ignore this area of my life?



Church communities have long realized that our commitment to Jesus as the Christ leaves us with important stewardship decisions regarding our use of our time, talent and financial resources. In the past I have suggested that we consciously study the use of our time, talent, and money, especially in relationship to the church. It is easy to habits to unconsciously make our decisions. I always turn on the television in the evening and watch sitcoms. Is that really how I want to use that time? I typically put five dollars in the collection plate at church and then spend ten dollars on lunch after church. Does that truly reflect my financial priorities?

However, after a careful reflection on the teachings of Jesus, I have decided to change my own approach and I will suggest that you consider doing the same. I still believe issues of stewardship are important and that these decisions must be made consciously and based on our personal priorities. But even though the bible makes reference to our stewardship, Jesus talks most often about radical generosity. There are a lot of reasons why we should consider this change in our thinking. Radical generosity is one of the hallmarks of being a follower of Jesus. Our parish family has long operated under the belief that we must be generous with those who are less fortunate in our community. But what if we approached all aspects of our lives following the Christ-based principle of radical generosity?



Please ponder this question and take it seriously.

A fellow Pagosa Pilgrim
Fr. Doug

Potluck

Friday, November 11, at 6:00 p.m.

Charlotte and Ken Jones are hosting this event at St. Patricks. We will be treated to Ken's famous chili and "fixins" so plan on joining us for a hot time in the Parish Hall!

Church Building Improvements

We had a surprise snow dump just after the workers completed the new metal roofing change over the side entrance door. The smooth metal worked as it was intended - the snow slid to the ground with no residual. The design should work to prevent the annual and challenging ice dam in that roof valley.

The windows on the right-hand side of the sanctuary that had lost their seal and had a foggy look have been replaced. So, wear your sunscreen!

We can all thank Vestry member Jeff Schaupp for the wonderful job he did arranging for the design, contractors, and materials at a very favorable cost to us. Thanks Jeff! Editor



Thank You

St. Patrick's is abundantly blessed with help and support from its congregation. How do I/we thank so many who have done so much during October? We have had new volunteers working the food pantry, the Men's group assisted the ECW in this year's clothing give-away. When it comes to the clothing give away, words cannot express my amazement at all that these many wonderful women got done under the leadership of Patty Bankhead and Bette Allen. These two were ably assisted by their husbands, Chuck and Joe.

I cannot begin to list the many names who make our Outreach efforts such as the Loaves & Fishes, Food Bank, and the Clothing Giveaway such wonderful ministries. Chuck Bankhead has taken the lead of food ordering and volunteer scheduling while the Crouses continue to lead for the Loaves & Fishes. Thanks to all of you and us for volunteering! Editor



November Celebrations

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 7 Megan Greenly
- 8 Addi Greer
Wendy Rockett
- 10 Jeff and Addi Greer
- 11 Jean McKeithen
- 18 David Brooks
- 19 Camren Rockett
- 22 Susan Caudle
Alice Robinson & Rev. Bob Pope
- 24 Bart Cox
- 29 Tom Thorpe
Bob & Carolyn Shipman
- 30 Brittany Corcoran

We had about 400 persons of all ages come to this year's Clothing Giveaway. For me, the memories of the joy on children's faces, the happiness of mothers who were gathering for their children, children helping younger siblings, and on and on, will be with me for a long time! It was truly organized chaos and a lot of fun. The St. Patrick's family spirit was very evident with the fun and busy interactions of our members as they sorted, folded, stacked, re-sorted, re-folded, re-stacked, and on and on. What a wonderful church family we have! As you will see from some of the photos I have included, with bags in hand, all had a great time! Tom Cruse

The Clothing Giveaway

St. Patrick's annual clothing giveaway on October 22 was truly a labor of love. More than 40 members of the church, women and men, worked on this ministry, putting in countless hours to sort and transport clothing items and to set up the racks and tables that filled the Parish Hall. Donated clothing was stored at Airport Storage and in the attic and classrooms of the Parish Hall. Where did it all come from?

Two days before the giveaway we were all cheerful in the morning, but as the day wore on and the pile of bags full of clothing to be opened and sorted and sexed and sized didn't seem to shrink; our laughs turned to sighs. Tables were heaped high and hanging racks were filled.

On the Saturday 400 people came in the door, women, men, children, families and singles. They filled bag after bag, taking away an estimated 6,000 POUNDS of clothing. We gave away a mountain of items, shirts and pants, bed linens, plenty of jackets and sweaters and fleece jackets, socks and sleep-ware, hats and gloves and purses.

Here are some highlights. One man found a sport coat and said he needed it for a job interview the next week. A small girl searched for clothes that would fit her little brother. A woman mourning her recently deceased father uncovered a T shirt that said "Daddy's Girl". A young woman handed her baby to Charlotte Jones, sitting by the back door. Another woman started to fuss about this and was amazed and pleased when Charlotte told her, "Esta bien. It's okay." Maybe next year we need someone who can speak Spanish at the front door?

Even when the aisles were the most crowded, people were pleasant. Children were wide-eyed but cheerful. There was no fighting, pushing or complaining. No one hogged things; instead people were careful to take only what they felt was fair, and we had to encourage them to take more. Some people left with tears of joy and gratitude, knowing that they'll have warm jackets or sweaters for the winter or their children will have shirts and pants for school or they can give something to a friend or relative for Christmas.

Thanks to Upscale Resale for clothing and the Antler Shed for the loan of hanging racks. Leftover items were taken by the Methodist Church Thrift Shop in only two vehicles. Everything else had been given away. The clothing giveaway takes a lot of work but the rewards were fantastic.

Katherine Cruse



The Clothing Give-Away begins by bringing what seemed like hundreds of bags into the Parish Hall for further sorting, folding and distribution to the tables...
And then the piles grow...



On Thursday, November 17, St. Patrick's will host the **5th Annual Early Thanksgiving dinner** at Loaves and Fishes, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Hall, Lewis Street. This will be, as always, a lovely meal for the community and we are anticipating approximately 400 guests. How can you help? There is a need for 50 pies. Can you make/buy a couple of pies and drop them off at St. Pat's kitchen on Wednesday, the 16th? If you prefer to make them earlier, please mark them for L & F and place in St. Pat's freezer. Can you spend a few hours on Thursday morning helping to set up/decorate the tables and serve the meals? Can you stay later to help clean-up and reset the parish hall? There will be sign-up sheets in the narthex for each of these activities. We hope you can participate in some way. If you have questions, please call Bill Crouse, 264-9355.

Outreach

Dear Friends:

The three previous articles on Outreach have provided some basic background on our three key efforts to meet urgent needs in the Pagosa area: Loaves & Fishes, Food Bank, and Pagosa Outreach Connection. The October Vestry meeting has met to approve the recommended distributions of the critically-needed financial support to these and other community ministries that come from our two recent and exciting raffles - the Quilt Raffle and the Rifle Raffle. Thanks to the quilters and to the Brooks for their generous time in selling these raffles and to Lynne McCrudden for superintending these with the State as part of the Shamrock Festival.

Each raffle achieved its goal of \$5,000 with an extra ticket sale by David Brooks for \$20! Distributions of these proceeds by law has to occur this year and that process has begun. Here are the recommended (by ECW and the Men's Group; endorsed by the Finance Committee) distributions that the Vestry has approved:

- Quilt Raffle (Quilters and the ECW)
 - \$1,500 to support St. Patrick's Loaves & Fishes
 - \$1,500 to the Youth Center
 - \$1,000 to Archuleta County Victims Assistance
 - \$500 to Big Brothers/Big Sisters
 - \$500 to the Special Ed/Special Olympics (LASSO)
- Rifle Raffle (David & Bonnie Brooks and the Mens Group)
 - \$2,250 to the Food Bank
 - \$2,250 to the special homeowner assistance program under Habitat for Humanity
 - \$520 to Church in Navajo Land (Men's Group)

The Shamrock Festival proceeds were about \$9,000 and will be distributed by the Vestry for 2012 Outreach Program support.

The Food Pantry volunteer list is posted a month in advance, thanks to Chuck Bankhead. Please check the schedule and add your name if you are willing to have a wonderful time handing out food boxes! Thanks to all our volunteers.

Please also remember that the success of our Outreach depends first on our viability as a Parish as you consider your own very important financial and volunteer support of Outreach at St. Patrick's!

Tom Cruse

Nourishing Our Parish

"JESUS is Christ appearing among us to reveal God's love and the Church is his people called together to make his presence visible in today's world." (Henri Nowen)

By this time of the year, we all may feel a bit overwhelmed by the amount of pure hard work that St. Patrick's has done in our community. Our Out Reach program has never been called on to give so much in time and labor. Jesus said "Feed my Sheep!" This we are doing well, however, we are his sheep as well.

We must nourish ourselves in order to be ready to commit to the needs of others. During the year, our attendance on Sunday has grown. In part this increase comes from the number of people who have discovered the Sunday Night Unplugged Series. This special service allows time for us to contemplate and be spiritually challenged as well as entertained.

Ample opportunities are offered for education beyond the Sunday sermon. Bible study on Wednesday at noon opens the Sunday's readings to a deeper level of understanding and Adult Education Class meets every Sunday before church studying different curriculum. The Rev. Neel's special classes on World Religions and theologians like Deitrich Bonhoffer give us time to develop more understanding of our role in being



Christians. Other offerings on Spiritual Development are made available each year for anyone seeking spiritual growth. Our labyrinth and garden area give a contemplative place for meditation in our inspiring setting.

Above all, our prayer for each other and the care we give to each other in our own time of need binds us to each other in Christ's love. That love is shown every time we get together for services or for fun as the Holy Spirit moves through our parish.

Barbara Ward

From the Senior Warden

It has been a busy year! And the busy-ness continues -- from all of the summer activities right into this fall. Socially we had our first ever tailgate party ever before the Pagosa Pirates/Cortez football game, sponsored by Karl and JoAnn Irons. 35 attended and the Pirates won the game! Leadership attended the 124th Diocese Convention in Grand Junction, a convention in which St. Patrick's played a large role, including Fr. Doug's organization of the convention worship services, Sally Neel's piano accompaniment, and Pagosa's own Charles Martinez' background flute music during meditation periods.

I've just returned from St. Patrick's annual Clothing Give-Away. At last count, more than 375 persons had filled their garbage bags with clothes of their choice, chosen from an estimated of 3 tons or more of donations. I am sure Tom Cruse will outline for you equally generous activities of the Food Pantry, Pagosa Outreach Connection, Loaves and Fishes and the distribution of Shamrock proceeds to Pagosa not-for-profits. Incidentally, this was perhaps our most successful Shamrock Festival ever, garnering just under \$20,000 net proceeds from the Festival, Quilt Raffle and the new Gun Raffle.

Statistically, the numbers are equally impressive. September 30 attendance totaled 3550 (91 ASA) the highest in Fr. Doug's tenure, a 6.7% increase over last year. Contributions too, have increased, to \$130,768 as of September 30, an 11.4% increase. The deficit was \$10,964, down substantially from 2010. By almost all accounts, St. Patrick's is doing very well, completing our mission in many different ways.

So where do we go from here. Unfortunately, not to a "rocking chair". Bishop O'Neill challenged us at the convention to IMAGINE, e.g. to *imagine* where we could go spiritually if we further entrust our lives to the Lord, if we increase our service to those who are less fortunate than we, to those who struggle daily, and if we meet our youth where they are, listen to them and share the glorious Gospel message. **JUST IMAGINE!** There is no lack of need, of opportunity, and in my mind, potential for the congregation of St. Patrick's.

On an individual basis, continue what you have been doing. We would not have begun to accomplish that that we have without your generous support, -- and prayers, the blessings of our good and gracious Lord. We can always use more volunteers, toward all of our activities. Specifically we are looking for a Chairman, or Chairmen, of the 2012 Shamrock Festival. We are without a Chairman of the Men's Fellowship and we have been without a "permanent" Editor of the Shamrock Newsletter for some months. As we look to 2012, we will elect a Jr. Warden and at least three new members to the Vestry. Can you help?

Oh yes, lest I forget (and get fired!) let's wipe out that remaining deficit. December is typically a very good "giving" month as members review contributions and contemplate their blessings. Let's do it again this year.

"Let the same mind be in you as was in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 2:4

Jim Vierbicher

Note from the Sun Belt

Tom Cruse asked me to write a short piece on what the summer associates mean to St. Patrick's but I would rather say what the church means to us. It offers not only a place to worship and strengthen our faith, but it also offers new friends and wonderful fellowship.

Marlene and I look forward to returning to Pagosa Springs and St. Patrick's for our summer renewal of old friends and meeting new ones. Not to mention the great golf that Rudy Sapper provides each Monday.

Father Doug's sermons, classes and just friendship are something we also look forward to.

I guess we bring something to the church too, but we would not be returning enough to get a name tag if the above were not true.

Thanks for being our summer church!!

Frank and Marlene Meiners
Associate Members

Thanks to these who participated..

Patty Bankhead and Bette Allen co-chaired the event.

Joanne Ferko oversaw the storage at Airport Storage.

Kudos to them and thanks to all who participated: Bette and Joe Allen, Mary Bailly, Patty and Chuck Bankhead, Dick Boblit, Mary Bond, Tom and Katherine Cruse, Nancy Crouse, Becky and Jim Dorian, Elinor Dickson, Joanne Ferko, Sue and Bill Gottschalk, Norma Hersey, Charlotte and Ken Jones, Jo Kay, Lynne McCrudden, Marlene Meiners, Sally Neel and Father Doug, Bill Newell, Janelle Pendleton, Mary Ella Prueter, Dinah and Kenny Rogers, Margaret Rumpf, Karla Robinson, Siri Schuchardt, Sharon and Jim Vierbicher, Barbara Ward, Linda Warren and her friend Holly, Carol Ann White, Nancy Williams, Brenda Winkler, Janice Wittwer.

If we omitted your name, please let us know, and forgive us. Katherine Cruse



Clergy, Wardens & Vestry

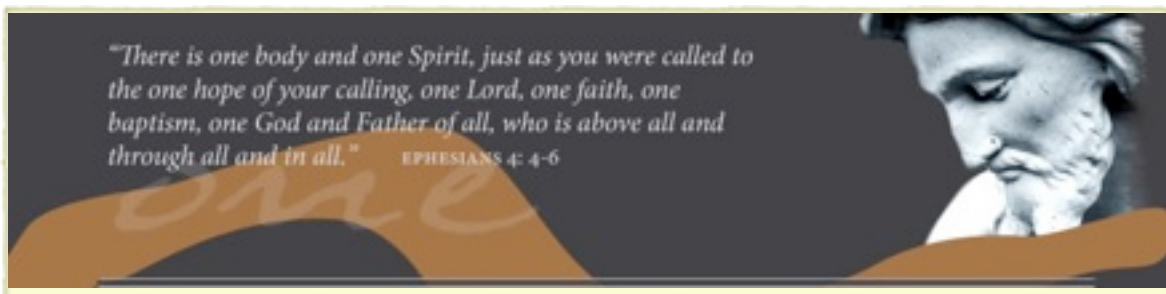
Rev. Doug Neel	Rector
Dinah Rogers	Clerk
Jim Vierbicher	Sr. Warden/Finance
Lynne McCrudden	Jr. Warden/Admin, ECW Liaison, Shamrock Festival
Tom Cruse	Outreach, Bylaws Review, Men's Fellowship Liaison
Becky Dorian	Evangelism/Welcoming, P.R.
Sally High	Youth/Young Families
Ron Jyleen	Worship Ministries
Frank Meiners	Associate Members
Rudy Sapper	Programs/Finance, Audit
Jeff Schaupp	Buildings & Grounds
Barbara Ward	Fellowship/Spirit.Growth
Hank Williams	Treasurer

Sunday Worship Schedule

November 6		
Chalice:		Kenneth & Charlotte Jones
Lector:		Sally High
Ushers:		Tom & Katherine Cruse
Greeter:		Charlotte Jones
November 13		
Chalice:		Kenny Rogers & Tom Thorpe
Lector:		Katherine Cruse
Ushers:		Bill & Nancy Cruse
Greeter:		Jeff Schaupp
November 20		
Chalice:		Jan Wittwer & Bill Cruse
Lector:		Muriel Cronkite
Ushers:		Jim Dorian & Kenny Rogers
Greeter:		Becky Dorian
November 27		
Chalice:		Dick & Meg Boblit
Lector:		Siri Schuchardt
Ushers:		Rudy Sapper & Joan Scott
Greeter:		Linda Altman

Deadline for the December Shamrock Newsletter is Wednesday, November 21.

Please email articles to newsletter@stpatrickspagosa.org





St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

225 South Pagosa Boulevard
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Phone: 970-731-5801
Fax: 970-731-5804
Email: stpats2@skywerx.com
Website: www.stpatrickspagosa.org
Editor *pro tempore*: Tom Cruse

Mission Statement:

St. Patrick's is God's House, open to all: a Community called to love and serve the Lord by God's grace with joy and gratitude.



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Episcopal Church

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