

The Shamrock



January 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
- 1/1 Holy Name Service
 Come make a "joyful noise"...
- 1/6 The Epiphany
 Service at 6 pm
- 1/8 The First Sunday After Epiphany
 The Baptism of our Lord
 Sunday Night Unplugged, 5 pm
- 1/13 Potluck - hosts TBD
- 1/14 Quilters' Workshop, 9 am - 2 pm
- 1/15 Vestry Meeting, 11:30 am
- 1/19 February Newsletter Deadline
- 1/21 Men's Fellowship, 8:30 - 10 am
 Breakfast & meeting
- 1/22 Annual Parish Meeting, 11:30 am
 Elections, budget, by-laws, etc.
- 1/26 Loaves & Fishes
 Visit from Jubilee Ministries
 Colorado Diocese, Becky Jones

From the Pulpit

Dear Friends in Christ:

There is a saying that the Roman Catholic Church is a Good Friday Church; the Eastern Orthodox are an Easter Church; and that the Anglican Church (Episcopalians in this country) is a Christmas Church. The idea is that our Roman Catholic neighbors place a great emphasis, in their worship and piety, on the atoning death of Jesus. Likewise, the focus of Eastern Christians tends to be placed on the resurrection of Jesus. With Episcopalians, our worship and spirituality are Incarnational.



As with all stereotyping, this saying is not entirely true, but it does have elements of truth. Almost all Christians place a great emphasis on the significance of Jesus' death and resurrection, even if they might interpret the meaning differently. The Roman Catholic Church certainly emphasizes the crucifixion of Jesus – in their art, symbols, rituals and theology. But so do many others churches. In a similar way, Eastern Orthodoxy celebrates Easter with an emphasis that goes way beyond Easter Day itself.

But what does it mean to be an Incarnational Church? The word Incarnation comes from the Latin word *carnis*, meaning flesh. Incarnation literally means enfleshment. It reflects the Christian doctrine that Jesus is fully human and fully divine, the Son of God who is a real flesh and blood human. As described in John's gospel, "and the Word became flesh and lived among us." (John 1:14) An Incarnational church would emphasize both the spiritual and the physical aspects of life, as do Episcopalians. Take worship as an example. For many denominations, worship is purely an intellectual exercise, very word focused. For others, worship is purely emotional. Worship in the Episcopal church intends that all aspects of our humanity and spirituality are employed. All the senses are used, not just hearing and sight, but also touch, taste and smell. We have colorful vestments; processions and movement by clergy and laity alike, art and symbols in our worship spaces; bread and wine to taste and smell; and we even occasionally use incense. Our liturgies are designed to engage both our intellectual and our spiritual nature.

The emphasis on the Incarnation is also reflected in our view of the world around us. Many churches believe the material world is intrinsically evil. For many, the purpose of religion and spirituality is to escape from the world around us. But what does it say about the material world if God becomes part of it? Should it not elevate our appreciation of the world

around us? The Episcopal Church teaches that God loves the created order and made it good. As such it is to be used and cherished. So maybe we are indeed a Christmas people who take seriously the Incarnation in our worship, our spirituality and our approach to life on this planet.

A Pagosa Pilgrim,
Fr. Doug

From the Senior Warden...

The Annual Meeting will be held following the 10:00am service on January 22. The primary agenda items will be the proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws regarding the endowment funds, the selection process for the By-laws and the Endowment committees, the election of members to the Vestry, presentation of the 2012 Budget and presentation of various reports. We will of course include discussion time for any and all of these items. At the time I write these, I am at home in bed with a strong cold so I have kept this short and, hopefully, accurate.

Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting and let us know your thoughts and issues.

Jim Vierbicher, Senior Warden

Outreach Update...

It is very important as we go into a new calendar and budget year at St. Patricks to reflect on the generosity of our Parish and Parish friends. There has been mention to me that perhaps we spend too much on Outreach, given the reality of deficits in our Operating Budgets. So, let me begin by saying that NO operating funds are used to support our Outreach efforts, principally in terms of funding - Food Pantry, Pagosa Outreach Connection (POC) and Loaves & Fishes. The details of the 2011 expenses and revenue sources for these ministries of St. Patricks are found in your Annual Report package that will be distributed on January 22 and our Annual Meeting. Please come!

What I want to talk about in this short column is generosity. I believe that the generosity of our Outreach is part of what the Bishop and Fr. Doug have referred to as radical generosity. Our Parish



January Celebrations

Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Jim Vierbicher
6	Jo Kay Wilma Espoy
7	William Durish
8	Betty Allen
13	Nancy Williams
15	Taylor Lewis
16	Tom and Susan Thorpe
17	Karl Irons
19	Mary Prueter
20	Bill Crouse
21	Henry Beckman Tim and Sabra Miller
23	Jackie Cox
24	Susan Thorpe
25	James "Wes" Lewis Buddy and Siri Schuchardt
29	BAnn Luffel
29	Margaret Rumpf
30	Fran Smith Bob Shipman Joe Allen

Sunday, January 22 is our **Annual Parish Meeting**. This is a very important time for us each year as we consider the election of new members of the St. Patrick's Vestry and are given informational detail on the operating budget for 2012. That budget was passed at the December, 2011 Vestry meeting. In addition, there are two **proposed By-Laws changes** that you must vote up or down. The By-laws changes that will be proposed concern the St. Patrick's Endowment Fund that would bring our Endowment Committee procedures more in line with Diocesan and other denominational endowment practices. The second by-laws consideration would formally make the Vestry member for Outreach a member of the Finance Committee. No other by-laws changes are to be considered. This notice is intended to meet the 30 day notification requirement in the By-Laws.

members contribute significant, really significant, amounts of time and treasure to these ministries. And, for many of us, these contributions are over and above our support of the operating budgets and programs.

Over these holidays, and partly in response to the article on the food pantries in the Pagosa Sun last month, the community has acted generously also. We have received food items to our pantry from the Salvation Army, sharing from the Methodist and Catholic Churches, the San Juan Outdoor Club, and the Gray Wolves Ski Club. Right now our shelves are heavy laden with these gifts of generosity.

As we approach our celebration of the Lord's birth and focus in the days ahead on his ministry and call to discipleship, I wish to thank all of you for your discipleship and neighborly loving through your gifts of time and treasure to Outreach!

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Tom Cruse



Gestures, Vestures and Architecture...

The Gestures, Vestures and Architecture class on December 14 stressed several things. We come to experience worship with all our senses. For sight we have colors that change through the year; right now during Advent it's purple,

symbolizing royalty. Most of the year vestments are green, symbolizing growth, or spiritual growth. We have different prayer postures, using our whole bodies, or kneeling, which are physical ways to worship. We have music and bells. Our sense of smell can be involved with the use of incense.

The elements of worship come from the earliest days of the church: readings (from the Old Testament, which in



the 1st century was all they had), a sermon, the prayers of the people, the Peace (in those days the Kiss of Peace), and Communion. In time other elements were added; for example the Nicene Creed was a 5th century addition in the Eastern church, although it did not become standard in the western church until the 11th century.

Vestments that the priest wears also date from ancient times, with some additions like the cope, or cape, that was

Best wishes to all for a safe and very joyful holiday season with a special emphasis on our celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Messiah! The choir is warming along with the chestnuts for a series of joyful events just after this Newsletter "hits the Web." Some of you will be traveling, as will the Editor and spouse, so our prayers are with all of you for safe travels and wonderful times with family and friends. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

added for warmth as the church expanded into northern Europe. The fact that the vestments are directly derived from dress standards of the time that Jesus lived came as a surprise to those of us who attended this illumination presentation by Fr. Doug.

Included in the vestments shown from left to right in the photo are the alb (white under garment), the rope which priests symbolically hitch around themselves in the form of a yoke indicating servanthood, the chasuble or over garment which was the street dress of those days, and the stole which conveys a sign of office or status. Priests wear it over both shoulders while deacons drape it over one shoulder. The cope is the last item on the right.

The second of these photos shows Fr. Doug in his black cassock and wearing the biretta, or Italian academic cap. In the middle ages, such dress was standard for priests and members of the academy. The academic and theological communities were closely coupled. The crossing ridge is awarded with the bachelor's degree, while a forward-to-back half-ridge denotes the master's degree on Fr. Doug's biretta.

Even the basic design of churches derives from the 1st century Mediterranean houses where early Christians met. At one end of the common area these houses had a raised platform with chairs, a stone block table or altar in the middle, and a sunken pool near the entrance or vestibule. We still have the font at the entrance, but the altar has generally moved from the center to the raised area in the front.

A final piece of information: in the early church the Gospel was read on the second step of the raised area, called the gradus. The hymn we sing before reading from the Gospel is called the Gradual, referring to this step.

Katherine Cruse

Men's Fellowship Update...

How many men does it take to put up a Christmas tree? At St. Patrick's, it seems that about 10 men got it done effectively with George Campbell doing the final straightening of the top segment of the tree under the able civil engineering guidance of our Senior Warden. By Sunday, the tree was fully decorated with its special ornaments - was it by elves or the ECW?

The proposed 2012 calendar of events and support efforts was a major focus of the discussions. Jim

Vierbicher is taking the lead for speakers for the two planned Steak & Stein events.

The group accepted the challenge of working with/under David Brooks in 2012 to come up with another Outreach fund-raiser raffle. While we don't have a free rifle to raffle this year (love the alliteration), there is a possibility of obtaining an authentic, Remington-style Henry 22 caliber rifle and a shotgun. Other possible items include getting one or major major pieces of manly equipment such as a log splitter, snow blower, etc. donated at cost. Could we get a reliable outfitter to contribute or cost-share a hunting trip? We will need more creative ideas soon so we can start lining up this 2012 raffle to follow the rifle raffle! Anyone with an idea is invited to contact us!

The men also agreed to provide the dinner for the 2012 Shamrock Festival. The menu was kicked around some but we settled on an Italian theme with lasagna as the main course. We will contact Centerpoint Church about using their kitchen for the potato and lasagna cooking. We will also serve a salad. This should be a great time for the men to show their outstanding culinary and wait-staff skills to the community!

Tom Cruse

A Prayer Quilt Story...

(Related by Charlotte Jones)

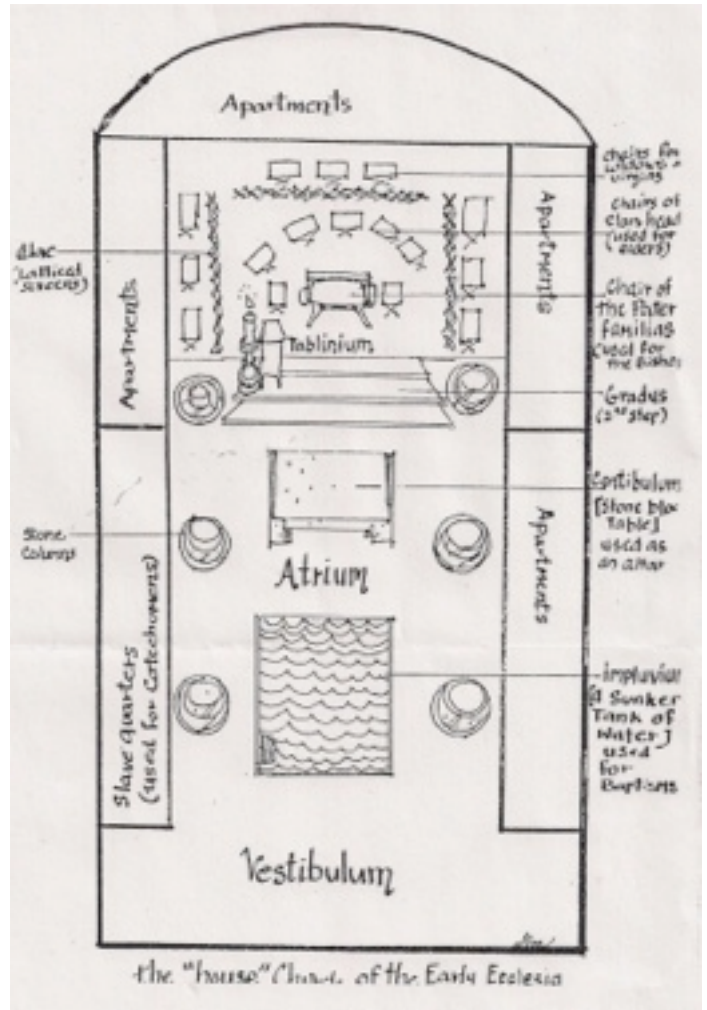
I answered the phone today and a woman identified herself as Carol Taylor. She is the friend of one of our prayer quilt recipients, Gloria Adams. Diana Kenyon had requested a quilt for her because she was going through testing and had been diagnosed with cancer.

Carol explained her reason for calling. She said "everyone needs a good Christmas story, and this is one of them." Diana had called Gloria and said that she had the quilt and wanted to bring it by and asked if it was okay to come over. Gloria told her that they had just returned from an all day affair of testing, prodding, and poking in Durango, but to please come on over.

As Diana entered the house, she discovered that both Gloria and her husband had drifted off to sleep on the sofa. Not wanting to disturb either one, she simply laid the quilt across Gloria's shoulder and left the house. (Part of the miracle is that the dogs did not bark at Diana.)

When Gloria awakened, she immediately became aware of the quilt. Without hesitation, she began calling Diana, her neighbors and friends announcing that "An angel had visited and left many prayers with me. I have never felt so loved and comforted. I know that I am going to be alright no matter what the tests will say."

Carol expressed her gratitude for St. Patrick's Quilt Ministry. Many of her friends have received a quilt over time and she just wanted the quilters to know how precious a gift they were giving.



Clergy, Wardens & Vestry

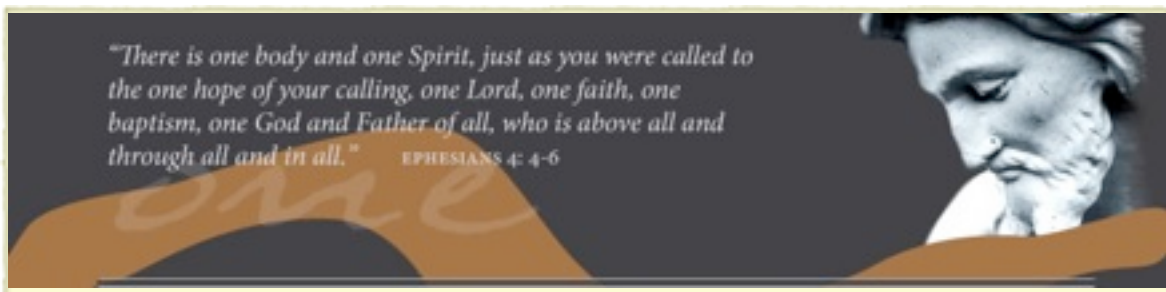
Rev. Doug Neel	Rector
Dinah Rogers	Clerk
Jim Vierbicher	Sr. Warden/Finance
Lynne McCrudden	Jr. Warden/Admin, ECW Liaison, Shamrock Festival
Tom Cruse	Outreach, Bylaws Review, Men's Fellowship Liaison
Becky Dorian	Evangelism/Welcoming, P.R.
Sally High	Youth/Young Families
Ron Jyleen	Worship Ministries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

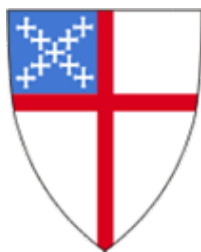
Sunday Worship Schedule

January 1		
Chalice:		Jan Wittwer & Ron Jyleen
Lector:		Jim Dorian
Ushers:		Bill & Nancy Crouse
Greeter:		
January 8		
Chalice:		Kenny Rogers & Don MacLeod
Lector:		Jim Vierbicher
Ushers:		Tom & Katherine Cruse
Greeter:		
January 15		
Chalice:		Linda Warren and Ron Jyleen
Lector:		Joanne Ferko
Ushers:		Don McLeod & Ken Jones
Greeter:		
January 22		
Chalice:		Tom Thorpe & Tom Cruse
Lector:		Siri Schuchardt
Ushers:		Kenny Rogers & Ken Jones
Greeter:		
January 29		
Chalice:		Charlotte & Ken Jones
Lector:		Katherine Cruse
Ushers:		Rudy Sapper and Joan Scott
Greeter:		

Deadline for the February Shamrock Newsletter is Wednesday, January 21.

Please email articles to newsletter@stpatrickspagosa.org





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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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