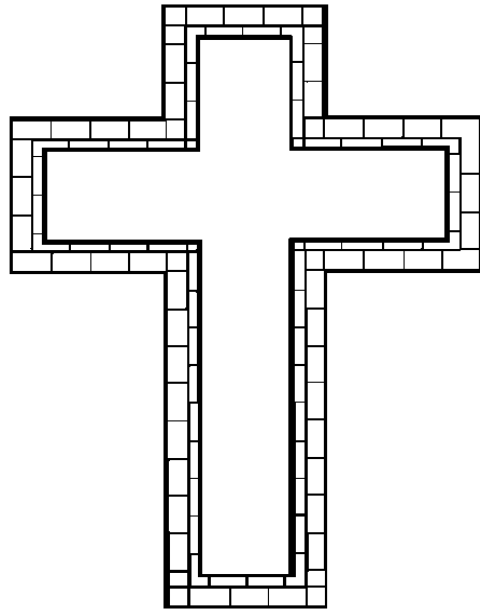


JANUARY 25, 2009

ANNUAL MEETING



**ST. PATRICK'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Annual Report for Year 2008

JANUARY 25, 2009 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Opening Prayer

Minutes from January 13, 2008 meeting (*attached*)

PARISH ELECTIONS

Introduction of Candidates

Jr. Warden - Jim Vierbicher

Vestry, 3-Year Term: (3 positions)

Rudy Sapper
Lynne McCrudden
Bryan Sickbert

Appreciation to those finishing terms:

Sr. Warden, Don Sullivan

Jr. Warden, Becky Dorian

Vestry: Andrew Jones, Rudy Sapper (running for 2nd term) and Jim Vierbicher

Appointment of Senior Warden by the Rector: Becky Dorian

TREASURER'S REPORT – 2008 Budget Year (*attached*)

PROPOSED BUDGET – 2009 (*attached*)

REPORTS:

Rector

Senior Warden

Junior Warden

Additional Reports & Questions

NEW BUSINESS:

Adjournment and Concluding Prayer - Litany of Thanksgiving BCP, p. 578

REPORT OF THE PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

For 2008

Goodness, you do know how to make your priest feel welcomed. My family and I have so enjoyed moving to Pagosa Springs and becoming part of St. Patrick's parish family. We have had so many new experiences: elk and deer wandering near the church property, wonderful mountain vistas from every curve in the road and window of the church, a nineteen inch rainbow trout caught behind the malt shop, and sixty-nine inches of snow during the month of December. But all these experiences, as incredible they are, pale in comparison to becoming acquainted with the people, mission and ministry of St. Patrick's.

This has been a year of change. Change is rarely easy. It can be difficult, but it can also be exciting, or even challenging. The change of moving from the lowlands of Texas to this most beautiful corner of the San Juan Mountains has been exhilarating. Coming to St. Patrick's to assist you with living and proclaiming the gospel, as well as achieving your mission and goals, has also been most exhilarating. After three years of his care and ministry, Fr. Bob retired and moved from the area. You now have a new priest who preaches *slightly* longer sermons, loves to sing hymns and is quick to join parishioners for coffee at one of Pagosa's several espresso shops. Mission and outreach are passions of mine. So are worship, Christian education, hospitality and evangelism. I am especially impressed with the ministries you have already established. I have witnessed how your ministries of prayer, service and outreach have touched many lives, in our community and beyond. You have fed the hungry of Archuleta County, made and given prayer quilts to many who have needed comfort and solace, provided supplies through hospice for those who are terminally ill, and refurbished the parish hall for the Episcopal Church in Navajoland . You have an active men's group, women's group, and Daughters of the King. And in the midst of all, you enjoy each other's company, study, teach, and volunteer in the community. Most important, you pray and worship God.

There are also new and re-established ministries. For the first time in many years, the choir has begun to rehearse in preparation for the Sunday services. They have started singing anthems for Sunday worship and are providing us with beautiful and worshipful music. St. Patrick's also started a contemplative prayer group. This group began by meeting before the Wednesday Eucharist and continues to meet on the third Saturday morning of each month.

Our newly formed youth group met several times during the fall and joined with youth and sponsors from Durango to travel to a diocesan-wide youth event at Buena Vista. The young acolytes added to our worship experience by carrying the processional cross and torches for our Sunday services.

My very first day at St. Patrick's was lived in the midst of preparing for the Shamrock Festival. It certainly provided an exciting welcome for my family and me, getting to see and experience first-hand the talents and hard work of so many in our congregation. Plus, it was great fun.

Attendance

The attendance for 2008 dropped from 2007 by an average of 10 people per Sunday, from 81 to 71. To some extent, for a transitional year, this is to be expected. Increasing our attendance by regular participation in worship and by asking non-church members to join us should be a goal and a part of our spirituality.

Challenges

The depressed economy will continue to provide challenges to St. Patrick's. The number of people who need the outreach services we provide is greatly increasing. Despite wonderful food drives, our pantry is almost empty. The number of people served by *Loaves and Fishes* is increasing each month. We set a record by feeding Thanksgiving dinner to over 350 people. The need for the resources of the Rector's Discretionary Fund has also increased. These demands on our resources are occurring at the same time that we hope to continue to grow the other ministries of our church.

As a parish we must celebrate the wonderful things God has helped us accomplish while we strive to become the parish family God wants us to be. We must continue to provide ministries that respond to our needs while reaching beyond ourselves to minister to the community around us.

I do thank each and every one of you for your part in welcoming my family and me to St. Patrick's.

Yours in Christ,
The Rev. Douglas E. Neel

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

2008 was certainly a transition year for St. Patrick's. In June we said goodbye to Father Pope, and in September we welcomed our new Priest Doug Neel, along with wife Sally and son Robert. What a blessing to receive not only a talented Priest but a very talented family as well.

Our Parish Profile work in 2007 told us our Parish wanted:

- A full time Priest
- A good preacher with good teaching skills
- An emphasis on youth programs
- An expanded music program
- Growth in Church membership

We are blessed that Father Neel possesses the skills to lead us in each of these areas and we are already seeing growth in each of these areas.

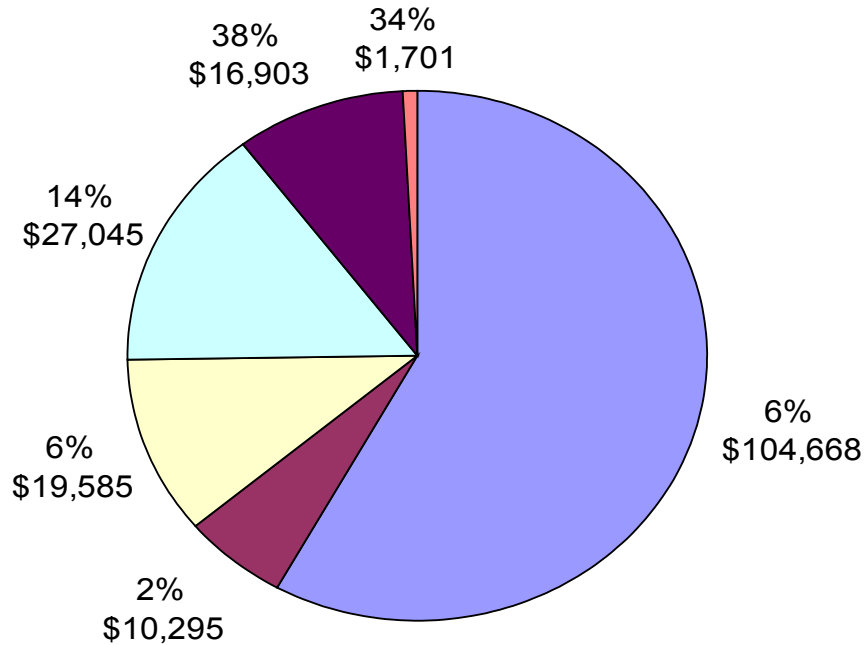
Having a full time Priest, of course, increases our expenses. You will see this reflected in a budget for 2009 that includes these added expenses. The good news is that your Vestry anticipated this expense increase and created a transition fund that will cover this added expense over the next two years. It also means that as a Parish we will have to "step up" to meet this added expense going forward.

Speaking of finances, I have attached a chart indicating the giving levels of our parish for 2008. The 2008 figures have not changed much from 2007 in percentages. You will see that a relatively few number of givers are carrying a large percentage of the operating budget. My concern is that as we lose some of these members (as we surely will over time) it will have an inordinate impact on our operating funds. The message is clear. Stewardship will need to be a primary focus for our Parish moving forward.

God has truly blessed this Parish with godly people who are committed to His work and we look forward to the future we know He has planned for us.

Don Sullivan, Sr. Warden

**St Patrick's
2008 Percent of Givers and Their Total Contributions**



Amount of Annual Giving	Families or Individuals	Percent of Total Families or Individuals	Giving	Percent of Total Giving
\$4000 +	8	6%	\$ 104,668	58%
\$3000 to \$4000	3	2%	\$ 10,295	6%
\$2000 to \$3000	8	6%	\$ 19,585	11%
\$1000 to \$2000	19	14%	\$ 27,045	15%
\$100 to \$1000	52	38%	\$ 16,903	9%
up to \$100	46	34%	\$ 1,701	1%
Totals	136	100%	\$ 180,197	100%

This chart shows that Church giving levels are heavily skewed. A relatively small number of families and individuals are giving a large percentage of the operating budget, while a larger percentage of families are giving less than \$1,000 annually.

prepared 12/2008

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT

Most of the year 2008 was occupied with saying good-bye to Fr. Bob Pope and finding our new priest. The Jr. Warden sat on the Search Committee (aka the Discernment Committee) as an ex-officio member with no vote. St. Patrick's Church was fortunate to have Don Sullivan to lead us through this endeavor. We were able to obtain a new priest in record time. We had very little down time (with no priest) since Fr. Bob left on June 15, and Fr. Doug Neel was in place by September 1.

With Fr. Bob's effort, we were able to have the columbarium (memorial garden) dedicated on the last day of Fr. Bob's tenure here.

The Junior Warden sat on the Vestry, and was available to the congregation for anyone who had worries or opinions about how the church was going. Fortunately, there were fewer complaints, etc. this year than ever before.

Looking forward to a great 2009,
Becky Dorian, Jr. Warden

ACOLYTES

Father Neel and I are working with 7 young people, Tyler and Megan Greenly, Coleman Smith, Ben and Andy Miller, Daisy Jones and Robert Neel, to have well-trained acolytes. We just lost 5 newly trained acolytes when they moved to Louisiana in December, who are missed: Tiffany Thornton, Zack Theriot, Ruby, Michael and Travis Wood. Our group of acolytes is doing a very good job learning how to serve during the service. We are hoping to have other young people join our group as we go along. One aspect of serving that needs to be addressed soon is vestments, as our acolytes grow.

Submitted by Linda Warren

ADULT (SUNDAY) CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Adult Sunday morning class studied books of the New Testament the first half of the year guided by William Barclay's writings. The Lenten study focused on Living with the Mind of Christ by James Harnish.

The class then reviewed Michael Borg's The Heart of Christianity, an emerging approach to Christianity. Marcus Borg is an Episcopalian Priest and Hundere Distinguished Professor of Religion and Culture at Oregon State University. In the fall, the class read Dr. Michael Bauman's The Creed, a study of the Apostle's Creed. Dr. Bauman is a Professor of Theology and Culture at Hillsdale College, in Hillsdale, Michigan, where he is also Director of Christian Studies and the Scholar in Residence for Summit Semester. The class was blessed to have Michael present in the class to answer questions during the study.

During the year, class attendance average was 10 with 22 being the highest participant number.

The New Year will begin with a study of Harold Kushner's Why Bad Things Happen to Good People.

John Gwin

ALTAR GUILD

Thanks to all the members of the congregation who have helped with Altar Guild this year, especially those who donated flowers for our regular Sunday worship and for our special celebrations at Christmas and Easter. We continue to have five rotating Altar Guild teams: Sharry Newell/Fran Smith, Muriel Cronkhite/Loretta Barker, Meg Boblit/Sharon Vierbicher, and Linda Warren/Jo Kay/Lynne McCrudden. We are all blessed to serve the Lord in our beautiful church.

Respectfully,
Fran Smith

“BOOK NOOK” REPORT

The Book Nook has turned into a year-round sale, not just a Shamrock Festival event. The income from this averages about \$25.00 a month, and sales at the Shamrock Festival average \$300.00. Money is turned into Dinah and earmarked for the Prayer Quilt Ministry and the Food Pantry. ECW will be asked to designate what Outreach ministries should receive these monies. In the meantime, **donations of books are appreciated**, and can be brought to the church at any time. So look for some new titles occasionally!

Submitted by Mary Sickbert

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

There were only a limited number of “major” projects undertaken in 2008, chief among them being the Columbarium or as it has become known, the Memorial Garden. Dedicated in June, it is now the final resting place of three of our former members. Somewhat in conjunction with that effort, additional trees, shrubs and flowers were added to our landscaping. A drip irrigation system was installed to facilitate the survival and growth of the larger species. Several of the trees were given as memorials to deceased former members.

At the same time as we poured concrete for the columbarium, we also poured a pad for the maintenance shed which was subsequently moved to its new position north of the Fellowship Hall kitchen. That change in location of the shed facilitates the eventual expansion of the parking lot to the west. While no definitive schedule has been set for expanding the parking area, it is obvious that from time to time additional parking would be desirable. An interim step may be to grade the area west of the existing area to obtain suitable drainage and establishment of a sound base for the parking area. We could cap it that with a minimal 3-4 inch course of gravel which would eventually be

incorporated in the final asphalt parking area. The parking area could then be completed at such time as demand and finances dictated/allowed.

Through Men's Fellowship, improving the acoustics in the Fellowship Hall was explored with a local architect. Various sound deadening avenues were explored including wall and floor coverings and/or application of "acoustic materials" to the ceiling. No action was taken.

It is time to stain the exterior of the church and Fellowship Hall. That has been placed into the 2009 schedule. The work will be largely, or entirely, completed by members. Costs should therefore be largely only those for materials and/or perhaps some limited equipment rental.

Routine maintenance was completed as necessary during the year, keeping church facilities operating and in good repair. The Congregation is indebted to those individuals who so generously gave of their time and talents to accomplish these necessary tasks.

Submitted by Jim Vierbicher

CHALICERS AND LECTORS

Since I just took over this scheduling responsibility two months ago, I don't have much history to report. I do want to suggest that these are two of the most awesome ways to serve the Lord. We especially need more chalicers, so please consider serving in this capacity. It is not a difficult task, you simply assist Fr. Doug with the elements and/or read the prayers of the people. I am happy to help you train—just contact me and Fr. Doug if you decide to serve.

Respectfully,
Jan Nanus

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

As a part of the stewardship drive this year, "prayerful listening" opportunities were introduced to members of St. Patrick's church as a way of seeking God's will for us. As these prayer opportunities were well received, it was decided that until a new priest was found, "Contemplative Prayer" meetings would be offered on Wednesdays in place of Father Bob's Bible Studies. Weekly gatherings were held throughout the summer and early fall. Since that time, contemplative meetings have continued but occur monthly. With the beginning of this new year, plans for the Contemplative Prayer group are changing. We will now be meeting the third Saturday of the month at 10:30 am. The group will now be called "SPIRITUS" and will focus on exploring different ways to encounter God's presence with us. All are welcomed. We look forward to your joining with us in this new year.

Respectfully submitted,
Loretta Barker

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING (DOK)
ST. ANNE CHAPTER

“Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our current vision as Daughters of the King is to know Jesus Christ, to make Him known to others, and to become reflections of God’s love throughout the world.”

In answer to our prayers (and of many others) the Daughters of the King welcomed our new priest, Father Doug Neal. We are looking forward to have a catered Seder Supper on Palm Sunday afternoon with Father Neal and the Daughters hosting the event.

Throughout the year, our members participated in praying for the sick on the prayer chain, and giving Christmas gifts to the children of our Sunday School. My thanks to all who continued our efforts during my illness.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

2008 was a busy year for ECW, completing a number of projects for the church and for the community, which was possible because of the great participation of so many people.

We held monthly meetings in 2008 on 2nd Monday of the month except for September (Shamrock Festival) and December (our ECW Christmas Luncheon at Joanne Irons’ home). We held summer luncheon meetings at members’ homes.

The Kitchen Angels program continues with volunteers each month monitoring the cleanliness & neatness of the kitchen & replenishing supplies.

In January, Suzie Reno started up the Hospice project to provide supplies to those in need, which later in the year was approved by the Vestry as a new church-supported Hospice Ministry.

Joan and Nancy organized our 3rd annual overnight mammogram trip to Santa Fe in February, with 24 signed up.

During the last weekend in February, the parish quilters pieced together the beautiful Radiant Star Shamrock quilt. Tickets were sold throughout the summer for the raffle at the Shamrock Festival.

We hosted the Pine Ridge Care Center March birthday party for residents. We provided cake, ice cream, favors, decorations, gifts, & music. This is a special chance to share our fellowship with them.

Our Annual Retreat, on Friday/Saturday (April 18-19) was held at the Coyote Lodge in Pagosa. The Rev. Mary Hardy from St. Mark’s/Durango presented a wonderful program entitled “True Self, False Self – A Woman’s Spiritual Awakening, attended by 22 women, including 6 from St. Mark’s. We enjoyed sharing the fellowship, the beautiful facility, the spiritual program and delightful meals with women from St. Mark’s and hope to do more together in the future.

In April & May, ECW sponsored coffee hours for visiting priest candidates.

In June, we had our annual bake sale on Fathers' Day, which was on the same day as two other church-sponsored events. We had many bakers and volunteers who sold bakery items and Shamrock quilt raffle tickets; proceeds from baked goods raise funds for ECW projects. It was suggested we try another date next year to avoid conflict (possibly Memorial Day weekend).

On June 15, the parish held a retirement luncheon for Fr. Robert Pope. ECW organized the making of a parish quilt, of personalized squares made by over 50 parishioners, that was presented to Bob and Alice at the luncheon.

The weekend of September 5-6, ECW joined other parish groups for the Shamrock Festival. The silent auction and a catered outdoor dinner with music was held under the big tent on Friday evening. ECW's Bake Sale, Book Nook, Country Cupboard and kids' activities were held on Saturday along with the men's group Breakfast, Lunch & Garage Sale, ending early afternoon with the drawing for the Shamrock Quilt.

ECW hosted a Welcome Luncheon for our new Priest's wife, Sally Neel, at Judy Cole's home on Sept. 20. It was a wonderful meal out on the deck and a great way to get to know Sally!

October 25 was our annual Saturday Clothing Give-Away. A big effort was made to get publicity out to the public via fliers to churches, agencies, Loaves & Fishes, schools, ads in the papers and radio. It was a big success, with 235 people showing up. The remaining clothes were taken to the Humane Society Thrift Store by prior arrangement.

In November, ECW donated \$500 to the church for 20 new chairs for the library/classroom.

Our Christmas project this year was working with Helping Hands who coordinated an all-town Christmas project. We picked up gift request tags arranged by Human Services. The parish donated 55 new and wrapped toys that were delivered to Helping Hands on Dec. 16.

On Dec. 13 we had our ECW Christmas Luncheon, generously hosted by Joanne Irons at her beautiful home. A wonderful meal was shared with snow falling gently outside the windows!

On Sun., Dec. 14, ECW hosted the afternoon "Christmas Tea" at St. Patrick's, a peaceful and wonderful break in the month. This event's ticket & cookie sales proceeds (\$872) will be used to purchase supplies for next year's Shamrock quilt.

Other projects strongly supported by ECW are "Relay for Life" (American Cancer Society), World Day of Prayer, and lunches for Habitat for Humanity workers.

Many thanks to everyone in ECW who helps make our events so successful all year. Thanks to our officers who give so much time and effort: Lynne McCrudden (Vice-President), Judy Cole (Secretary), and Joan Scott (Treasurer). As I resign from this

second year as President of ECW, I am honored to have served with the women of ECW who contribute so much to our parish.

Respectfully submitted,
Dinah Rogers

HONDURAS MISSIONS

Vision Statement

“Called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the living Christ, together with the people of Honduras, we seek to serve God and equip laborers for the harvest through education and training and encouragement of spiritual growth.”

2009 marks year #10 for the Honduras Mission to Nueva Esperanza. At long last, the church building and the vocational classrooms are completed. The church was consecrated January 20, 2008 by Bishop Lloyd Allen of Honduras. The church has been named “Manos de Dios Iglesia Episcopal” (Hands of God Episcopal Church) in honor of the Manos Mission Team. Three students have graduated from the scholarship program. There are now 29 students in the scholarship program and the possibility of adding 3-5 more students during the mission trip January 17-29, 2009.

The water well is secured and a tower has been built for water storage. Lessons have been given to keep the water purified. Objectives for this year are to continue training the trainers in acolyte workshops, prayer quilt ministry, soccer clinic, and train other church planting missionaries. We will be launching Year 7 of the scholarship program and have a scholarship award ceremony. There will be three vision clinics in Nueva Esperanza, Cristo Rey, and La Ceibita. The team will have 18 members going including 4 new members-in-training that will be forming their own church planting team. Please keep the Manos Mission Team in your prayers.

If you are interested in being a goer, sender, or prayer participant, please contact Kenneth or Charlotte Jones or Father Neal.

Ken & Charlotte Jones

HOSPICE

Contributions	\$585.00
Budget (7/1-12/1)	\$600.00
	= \$1,185.00
Outreach supplies	(\$745.90)
Balance @12/31/08	\$431.10

In 2008 supplies for hospice support were donated to 7 families including 5 Pagosa Springs outreach families through Mercy Home and Hospice care.

Supplies included: Geo-Matt soft skin mattress pads, reusable cloth mattress pads, hospital bed sheet sets, oral swabs, disposable under pads, exam gloves, depends protective underwear, and Caremark brochures.

Thanks to all the parishioners at St. Patrick's for their donations of monies and item throughout 2008.

Submitted by Suzie Reno

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

The landscape committee includes Judy Cole, Dick Boblit and Lynne McCrudden, but without the assistance of Jim Dorian, Don Sullivan, Jim Barker and Bryan Sickbert, the real heavy landscaping would never have been accomplished.

The aforementioned gentlemen kindly installed a drip system to our rock gardens and newly planted trees. They dug the holes and planted 1 blue spruce, 1 aspen, 1 flowering maple and a laurel. During the summer, petunias, dusty miller and Mexican heather were planted in the rock gardens. Chrysanthemums were planted, just before the Shamrock Festival, along the walkway, and then in the late fall a group of ladies planted 40-50 daffodil bulbs around the Cross in the Memorial Garden.

Landscaping is a struggle in this environment and therefore an ongoing project. The Committee would like to plant additional trees this summer assuming that those we have planted are still with us.

The trees that were planted last year were given in memory of Kate Terry and Donna Anderson, and the Men's Fellowship gave the blue spruce in memory of Joe Nanus.

Submitted by
Lynne McCrudden and Judy Cole

MEMORIAL GARDEN

The purpose and function of St. Patrick's Memorial Garden is to provide a place of quiet dignity and beauty where the ashes of church members and their immediate family may be interred. The Garden is under the direct supervision and control of the Church Vestry through the Rector and Memorial Garden Committee.

St. Patrick's Memorial Garden was dedicated and consecrated by Fr. Robert Pope on Sunday, June 15, 2008. Out of the twenty-two available spaces, nine have been sold.

Joan Scott

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

St. Patrick's Men's Fellowship continued with most of its usual activity in 2009. We met for breakfast, fellowship and planning and the third Saturday of most months. Notable in 2008 were our third annual Steak and Stein in May and Oktoberfest in October. Both

events were well attended with informative talks by Linda Moser, Director of Nursing and Pagosa Mountain Hospital and Michael Whiting, Executive Director of the Southwest Land Alliance.

The big work project last year was the construction of St. Patrick's Memorial Garden as well as pouring a new slab and relocation of the storage shed. We also accomplished a good deal of landscaping work including donation and planting of a Blue Spruce in the Memorial Garden in memory of Joe Nanus. The Tool and Tackle Sale at the Shamrock Festival raised \$500.00 for outreach. We also made a significant contribution from our own treasury to renovation work on a home in Navajoland. Of course, we continued to experience numerous opportunities to move tables and chairs for various church events as well as polishing off minor maintenance and repair projects around the church buildings.

We anticipate that major projects for 2009 will include exterior staining of both church buildings and interior painting of the Parish Hall.

Bryan Sickbert and Jim Vierbicher

MUSIC PROGRAM

At the end of August, St. Patrick's not only called a new priest, it inherited an organist as well! It is my privilege to offer my musical gifts to the parish as your organist and choir director. St. Patrick's choir now rehearses on Thursday evenings at 5 p.m. This group is responsible for leading music at the Sunday worship services and supplying special anthems during the offertory and communion. We currently have 16 members with an average attendance of about ten members. The choir is open to anyone who wishes to participate and continues to recruit more members.

In August, St. Patrick's hosted St. Mark's (Durango) choir for their annual choir retreat. It is our hope to be able to offer our church again next summer and combine our choir with theirs in this special event.

The 2008 Christmas Eve services included special guest artist, Sarah Dorian-Lawrence. Sarah, accompanied by Sally Neel, offered special music at the 5 p.m. service and a 45-minute recital prior to the 8 p.m. service. Sarah's gifts greatly enhanced our beautiful worship at these services. The children of the parish offered their exceptional talents at the 5 p.m. service, providing their singing and instrumental playing for the annual Christmas Eve children's pageant. Additionally, Robert Neel and guest singer, Ami Harbison, sang "O Holy Night," adding their lovely voices to the 8 p.m. service.

Rada Neal continues to serve as St. Patrick's pianist and choir accompanist. She contributes special communion music, accompanies the choir anthems and assists with hymn accompaniments. Additionally, Rada is assisting Fr. Doug in organizing the music for the Sunday Night Unplugged services. These services will include a variety of musical styles and musicians from our community. We are very blessed by Rada's musical talent and skill and her continued contributions to St. Patrick's music program.

It is our goal to see our music program grow and flourish in the upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Neel

OUTREACH

The St. Patrick's Family continues to meet the charge of being "Ministers" as stated on the *Bulletin* right under the names of the Bishop and our Priest. During the past year we shared our blessings, in both talent and money, in record numbers. The following represents some of our efforts, and it is not meant as a complete accounting of the generosity of this congregation.

Monetary contributions, and their source, in 2008 were granted as listed below:

Budgeted Recurring Contributions

- Diocese of Colorado
- Western Region
- Pagosa Outreach Connection
- Seeds of Learning
- Discretionary Fund

Quilt Raffle – Keeping in mind that the women of St. Patrick's are responsible for the labor involved in making the quilt and the selling of raffle tickets, it was deemed appropriate that the money they raised should be distributed to charities in Archuleta County that deal predominantly with women and children. **\$3704** was distributed to the following:

- Women Helping Women
- Pregnancy Support Center
- Seeds of Learning
- Pagosa Springs Head Start
- Archuleta County Victims Assistance
- San Juan Basin Health
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Archuleta County

Shamrock Festival – In 2007 and 2008 the Vestry voted to allocate the entire proceeds from the Shamrock Festival to outreach. In view of the faltering economy and the swiftly changing needs of the community it was decided that instead of distributing all the money at the end of the year, the committee would meet quarterly and thus be able to better determine up-to-date needs. Therefore, **\$5704** was distributed as follows:

- Archuleta County Department of Human Services
- Senior Rx Assistance (through Salvation Army)
- Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County
- Archuleta County Education Center
- Pagosa Outreach Connection
- Helping Hands
- Vicar's Discretionary Fund for Medical Assistance
- Food/Gas Cards

Salvation Army Bell Ringers

Near blizzard conditions did not deter an enthusiastic group ringing bells, dancing, and singing in order to entice donations.

United Thank Offering

Another successful campaign produced generous donations.

Pagosa Springs Head Start

More than 50 presents were donated for children who otherwise would not have any gifts for Christmas.

Food Pantry

More than 100 boxes were distributed during 2008, a huge increase over previous years.

Stuffed Animals

A new program was initiated to supply Pagosa Mountain Hospital and the EMTs with stuffed animals to comfort children who come under their care.

Outreach Outside of Budgeted or Formal Programs

Misc. Discretionary Fund Contributions
Honduras Mission Fund Raising
Navajo land
Prayer Quilt Ministry Expenditures
P.O.C. Donated Funds

As a church Family we continue to be very much involved in the community. **Loaves and Fishes** is a very large contribution to the Pagosa area. The support and work done in **Navajo land** is another huge effort in outreach beyond our immediate community. The **Clothing Giveaway** requires hours of tedious work. **Relay for Life** and **SIDS Lobster Dinner** are nationwide efforts in which our Family enthusiastically participates.

2009 will present us with new challenges. I am sure that we will meet the needs of others not as a burden, but as an opportunity to serve the Lord.

Rudy Sapper

PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

St. Patrick's Prayer Quilt Ministry was started in April 2005. We currently have about 20 active members with a wide range of quilting experience. In 2008 we made and presented 112 prayer quilts, since our inception we have given a total of 444 prayer quilts. This ministry is so rewarding for our members that no one seems to mind the extra effort it often takes to get a quilt ready when someone is in need. We are continually inspired and moved by the responses we receive from those who have been touched by a prayer quilt.

Prayer is a powerful tool that God has provided for us. Our ministry has chosen to combine the gift of a quilt with the gift of prayer for someone in need. The only requirement of the recipient is that he or she has asked us to pray for them and has agreed to accept a prayer quilt. When we are asked to make a prayer quilt, we piece the quilt top, layer it with batting and back it with fabric that has a cross pieced into it. We sew a binding strip around the outside to finish the raw edges, add a personalized label and make stitches through the three quilt layers with heavy thread, leaving the ends free to be tied.

The next step is the most important: we gather as many people as possible to participate in praying and tying the quilt layers together. This usually includes our quilting group, friends and family of the quilt recipient and the members of our congregation. Each person ties the threads into a square knot while saying a silent prayer for our quilt recipient.

There is never a charge for a prayer quilt; it is a gift of love and prayer. We depend entirely on private donations and have never turned down a quilt request. God truly provides all that we need to carry out this effort.

Individuals interested in joining our group need not be quilters, for there are numerous ways one can participate. We meet every Thursday at 2:00 pm in the Parish Hall and a quilting workshop is held on the third Saturday of each month beginning at 9:00 am. Please join us, everyone is welcome!

Joan Scott

SHAMROCK FESTIVAL

It was a very successful Shamrock Festival for 2008. Despite the timing of the economic down turn, St. Patrick's Church once again pulled together an awesome event with the resources that we were not quite sure we had. The change of format with the silent auction and a catered dinner on Friday night allowed parishioners to enjoy an evening together before the day's events following. Typically the dinner held after all the days events had tired and exhausted participants. The dinner had a much bigger expense to it since in the past some one in the parish prepared the meal. Since most of the donations and sales are from the parishioners the change added some "newness" to the weekend. The Friday profit was \$6500 and the Saturday profit was \$3700.

The children's activities were poorly attended. The Garage Sale and Book Nook are still a draw for many as well as the bake sale. The Country Cupboard and Casseroles have been a tradition and dollar amounts are not separated in those categories. Food Service for Saturday is more of a convenience for the workers rather than a profit center.

Discussions need to take place now for the Festival 2009 as reservations for the banner and such need to be reserved early. Lynne McCrudden who has been a leader and co-chair in the past once again was the glue who held us all together. The chairpeople in the different areas were amazing and it proved to be a huge team effort for which I am grateful to be a part of with St. Patrick's.

Submitted by: Joanne Irons

SHAMROCK NEWSLETTER

It has been my pleasure to be the person to prepare the SHAMROCK for publication each month. There are many volunteers who submit articles regarding their committees, activities or special events happening at St. Patrick's or in the community.

Thanks to the many volunteers who print, collate, assemble and distribute the SHAMROCK. Publishing this work is a group effort and everyone's effort is greatly appreciated. A special thanks to Joan Scott for setting up the website where the SHAMROCK is now published in pdf format each month.

Respectfully,
Charlene Short

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2008 **Listening to God with a Whole Life Response**

Our five-week Spring Stewardship Campaign focused on enhancing and/or developing a more intimate relationship with God by stilling ourselves in order to hear God's word to us. The central question for our exploration was: God, what do you want me to do? We created daily time for genuine, intentional and prayerful listening for God's response to us, both as individuals and as a Church community. Joining together in a time of discernment, we sought God's guidance to fulfill the work He is calling us to do at St. Patrick's and in our community.

In preparation for Commitment Sunday, the Fall Stewardship Campaign focused on an internal reflection as we explored and assessed our relationships with others as well our relationship with God and the Church. As we individually developed our Whole Life Response to God, we determined our 2009 commitments of our time, talents and financial response to God's love and grace in our lives. In the tradition of ancient Biblical times, our commitments were written and then burned so that the smoke carried our **pledges directly to God.**

Respectfully submitted,
Cherlyn Gwin

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There are five individuals that take on the responsibilities of teaching Sunday school to the children of St. Patrick's. We are divided into three classrooms: pre-school/kindergarten, elementary, and youth. Sunday school is regularly attended by eight kids and starts at 9:00 AM every Sunday morning.

The material used in our classrooms is "Living the Good News." It is an Episcopal Lectionary-Based program. Children will learn lessons from the Bible each week and then be able to recognize the story and the lesson given during the following church service.

Several of our youth attended a retreat at Frontier Ranch outside of Buena Vista. Frontier Ranch is also used as a Young Life retreat for all the youth in Colorado of any domination.

Connie Sue O'Donnell and Mary Sickbert attended a conference in Durango on Safeguarding God's Children. They became leaders that can teach others about the dangers of child molestation inside and outside of the church. All Sunday school teachers in the future will be going through this training.

Last month, our students participated in the annual Christmas Eve service. This year's theme was "Little Drummer Boy." The students look forward to participating in more activities in the future. Our children are a precious part of our church and we look forward to growing in numbers in 2009. Let's remember that it takes the whole community to raise a child and that we should all take part in the bringing up of our children to love our Lord Jesus and follow His path.

Submitted by Connie Sue O'Donnell

TEA- CHRISTMAS

The Christmas Tea was held in the Church sanctuary on Sunday, December 14th from 2 to 4 pm. The refreshments included coffee, tea, cocoa, tea sandwiches, scones, cookies, breads, assorted spicy nuts and other goodies. There were 100 tickets for sale at a price of \$5.00 apiece, not quite all the tickets were sold.

This year, in addition to the 30 boxes of homemade cookies for sale at \$10.00 a box, we displayed the leftover Dry Mix jars that were made for the Shamrock Festival in September, and sold these for half the price they were offered in September. This turned out to be a good idea because our profit for this event was \$872.

The profit is used to purchase the needed material for the Shamrock quilt which is raffled at the Shamrock Festival. This seems to be a very well-received event by the community and it is recommended that it continue.

Submitted by
Lynne McCrudden for Linda Warren

UNITED THANK OFFERING (UTO)

This year our United Thank offering Ingathering was held the second week in November. UTO is all about "Thanks---Giving". As we offer our prayers of thanks to the Lord, we also make a tangible offering of thanks---with coins in our UTO box. The monies collected are used to address compelling needs in our Diocese and throughout the world. This year St. Patrick's sent \$350 to this important effort.

Respectfully,
Fran Smith

1USHERS

Ushers have been scheduled throughout the year to cover regular and special services

at church. We have several husband and wife usher teams and other men and women who volunteer to assist.

Respectfully,
Charlene Short

WEBSITE

St. Patrick's new website www.stpatrickspagosa.org was created and launched in July 2008.

The site features a page welcoming visitors; the Shamrock newsletters; a church calendar of events; photos; and several pages containing information about our church ministries and activities. Since the website went online our stat counter has registered more than 800 unique visitors.

Joan Scott

WELCOMING NEWCOMERS

Relationships are the glue that holds a church together...
Friendships are the keys to retaining members. (Rick Warren)

Although we at St. Patrick's have always strived to be a warm and welcoming home to our guests and visitors, this year we committed to an intentional and focused Welcoming Ministry. We began by meeting on June 19th, 2008 for a large group Brainstorming Session. We explored ways to increase our attendance, ensure that our guests have a pleasant experience during their visit, and examined ways to encourage visitors to become more involved in the life of St. Patrick's Church.

As you are all already well aware, once we as a church identify something that needs to be done...we'll look out! Thanks to the hard work of many individuals, the following tasks and objectives have been successfully accomplished:

- Development and maintenance of a web page
- Updating our church Flyers and Brochures
- The Formation of a Team of Greeters
- Consistent Advertising/Publicity
- Name Tag Board to help de-clutter our entrance.
- Keeping our Kids Safe Training
- The updating of our "Kid Bags"
- Personal follow up contacts with our guests
- Special Events (like Bring a Friend Sunday)
- Classes on Our Episcopal Heritage

Areas to be addressed during the upcoming year will include:

- Periodic "get acquainted" potlucks for our newcomers
- Development of a mentor program

In conclusion, I remind each of us that we are all an important part of helping others to feel welcome and at home at St. Patrick's. I encourage you to reach out to someone you may not know.

Respectfully submitted,
Loretta Barker

YOUTH GROUP (EYC)

We are pleased to announce that the youth group at St. Patrick's has been resurrected. This is a group for our youth in grades 6 through 12. They have enjoyed several fun and spiritually transformative events. Certainly the highlight for the fall was the Diocesan sponsored *Genesis Retreat*, held at the Frontier Ranch near Buena Vista. Four of our youth attended, traveling to *Genesis* with members and sponsors from the St. Mark's Durango youth group.

We have a good group of youth and will do fun and exciting things during 2009. The goal is to grow the group and provide opportunities for its members "to grow into the full stature of Christ" through ministry, worship, outreach and fellowship.

Sally High, Loretta and Jim Barker, and Fr. Doug are the adult sponsors for the group.

Submitted by Sally High and Fr. Doug Neel

Attachments:

Minutes –Annual Meeting 2007 (Jan. 13, 2008)
Financial Report Dec. 2008
Budget 2009

Attach after meeting:

Minutes, Annual Meeting 2008 (Jan. 25, 2009)