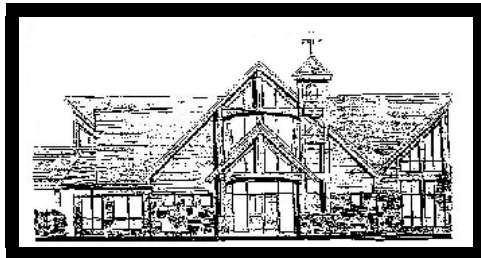


JANUARY 17, 2010
ANNUAL MEETING



ST. PATRICK'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

225 South Pagosa Boulevard
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
970-731-5801
www.stpatrickspagosa.org

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2009

**ST. PATRICK'S ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA
JANUARY 17, 2010**

Opening Prayer

Minutes from January 25, 2009 Meeting (Pages 18-19)

Amendment of By-Laws

Parish Elections and Introduction of Candidates:

Junior Warden	Linda Altman
Vestry Members	Tim Miller, Teri Sullivan, Hank Williams (3-year terms) Erica Devoti (2-year term) Bob Shipman (Associate Member Representative, 1-year term)

Appointment of Senior Warden by the Rector, Jim Vierbicher

Treasurer's Report	2009 Budget Year (Pages 21-24) Breakdown of outreach funds (Page 25) Breakdown of giving for 2009 (Page 26) Proposed 2010 Budget (Pages 27-28)
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Oral Reports:

Rector

Senior Warden

Junior Warden

Additional Reports (attached)

Questions & Answers

New Business:

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

REPORT OF THE RECTOR FOR 2009

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” By Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*
It is certainly easy to remember the many highlights of this year. Our vestry worked very hard at setting and meeting goals. We had wonderful summer activities and worship that were all capped by a successful Shamrock Festival. We incorporated a number of new members into the life of our parish family. We prepared and served a Thanksgiving feast to over 400 people at the November *Loaves & Fishes*. We celebrated our first Easter Vigil in many years. The Sunday Night Unplugged services were an experiment that became powerful worship experiences for many people in the community. Both children and adults were baptized. Bishop O’Neill joined us for the celebration of my new ministry at St. Patrick’s. Five members of our youth group and three adult sponsors traveled to a diocesan-wide youth event at Buena Vista. Jim Dorian piped us to our first St. Andrew’s Day celebration. And who would guess that a mountain community like Pagosa Springs would have a wonderful lobster boil in the middle of the summer?

In several ways, it was also a year with some difficulties. A number of our parish family had health problems and surgery this year. I had intestinal surgery only forty-eight hours after our Easter Day service. After seven days in the hospital, I returned home for a long convalescence. It took months for me to regain most of my strength and stamina. Because of this, I found it difficult to attend to the needs of the parish in the manner I desired. In addition, Archuleta County continued to sink into economic doldrums. Our efforts to reach out to the community were barely able to meet the huge demand on our outreach resources. The result is that the number of people we assisted almost tripled. We continue to have a deficit budget, though the deficit was not as bad as anticipated. It is a planned deficit and we have reserve funds specifically set aside to provide us with several more years of cushion before we have to begin to operate on a balanced budget.

It amazes me, that even during the rough times, our church family can be seen at its best. It pleases me to see how you reach out to each other when someone is sick or recovering from surgery. I know firsthand how wonderful it was to receive your prayers and care. And you have certainly been extremely responsive to the needs of those in the community who require assistance for food and shelter.

These are the things that I am pleased to report to you:

- We had thirty people join the church in 2009. This means that a number of you are doing some good evangelism. After subtracting those who moved or became inactive, our net growth was 22 members.
- Our Average Sunday Attendance was 83 people a Sunday. Last year’s Average Sunday Attendance was 70. Back in 2003, the average was 98, which is a good goal for our parish. Our attendance will likely have to be that high for the parish to be truly self supporting with a full time priest.
- The attendance for our Sunday Night Unplugged service fluctuated between 14 and 85 for an average of 38. These services attracted many people from the community and provided our own folks with an alternative to Sunday morning worship.
- Even though our choir is small, it is quickly becoming one of the best musical organizations in Pagosa Springs.

■ St. Patrick's continues to be known for its outreach to the community. We helped over 300 people with food boxes, over 100 with food and gas cards, made thousands of dollars in contributions to many ministries and organizations in the county, and fed well over 2,000 people at *Loaves & Fishes*. It was a remarkable response to many people in crisis situations.

■ We had three people who were confirmed and four who were baptized in 2009. There are more to be confirmed and baptized in 2010.

■ In all, there were 109 Sunday and weekday Eucharistic services, 32 private Eucharistic services for our shut-ins and those in the hospital, and 30 additional services, including two weddings.

■ Our Sunday morning nursery is being used consistently and enables young families to attend and feel comfortable during worship.

I have to tell you that I love having our youth and children participate in the service as acolytes. It is great having our young people in the sanctuary serving as ministers. The youth group is a good group of our teenagers who have washed cars, tasted pizzas, and delivered Christmas cookies to the home-bound members of our parish. I sit in on our children's Sunday school almost every week. The attendance is usually good and the teaching is great. I only wish that we had more young people in our parish. It is a personal and parish goal that we continue to attract younger families to St. Patrick's.

I have mentioned this before, the vestry and I talked a great deal at our fall retreat about ways in which our parish can "go deeper" in its faith formation and ministry. I believe that this will be a major emphasis for our parish and its leadership over the next year. I can feel the presence of the Spirit in our midst; exciting things are happening. Pray that these will be truly the best of times for our parish family.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Rev. Douglas E. Neel

Accounting (unaudited) of the Discretionary Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 5,868.15
Deposits	\$ 3,956.37
Disbursements	\$ 6,709.90
Ending Balance	\$ 3,114.62

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

2009 has been a good year for St. Patrick's Church. We have just finished our first full year with a full time priest, and it has been a long time since we were blessed to have a full time priest. In this 1st year for the Neels at our church we have seen growth in people and in programs. Changes are sometimes hard, but I believe that we are making those changes and coming out of it so much stronger.

Early in 2009, we realized that Fr. Neel would have to have major abdominal surgery. He has recovered so well, that it is sometimes hard to remember what he went through. We had our substitute clergy, but were glad to have our own priest back! Another hurdle we needed to jump was making Fr. Neel our Rector instead of the Priest In Charge. The Diocese encouraged us to make that change and we were able to do this after meetings involving the entire parish. Doug was installed as Rector of St. Patrick's Church on May 29, 2009, when Bishop O'Neill

visited us. When we went to the Diocese Convention in September, Fr. Neel was a full voting member of our delegation, which he would not have been as Priest In Charge.

When we made a parish profile in 2007, we decided as a church that we wanted to have a full time priest who was a good preacher with good teaching skills. We also wanted to expand our music program and put an emphasis on youth programs as well as grow our church membership. I believe these goals are being achieved. We now will continue on this path.

I also want the church to know how much we appreciate our volunteers in every part of our life together. We have a small church, and are dependent on those of us in the congregation to make it work. Thanks to everyone. If you aren't already working in some capacity to keep our church going in the right direction, find the place that suits your talents. We need everyone.

I believe that God has blessed St. Patrick's Church with many talented people. How happy I am to be able to worship with all of you.

Respectfully Submitted,
Becky Dorian

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT

In 2009, we at St. Patrick's completed months 5-16 of Fr. Doug's tenure. As you might expect, we, the Wardens, spent most of our time supporting, counseling and acting as a sounding board for Fr. Doug. Several of you gave us suggestions or raised concerns. They were passed on, generally in our personal meetings with Fr. Doug. Together we attended the 129th Diocese Convention in Pueblo.

By most measures I believe 2009 was a successful year for St. Patrick's, for Fr. Doug's first full year. We as a church returned to the blessing of a full-time priest and were able to incorporate many of the aspects of a full-time ministry. Of course, the real measure of the church's success lies in our personal spiritual growth, service to our Lord, and to our fellow congregational members and community neighbors. Only you can judge that.

Elsewhere in this Annual Report you will undoubtedly see recounted many of the year's accomplishments, but let me highlight just a few. First and foremost, in May Fr. Doug became and was installed as our Rector. Average Sunday attendance increased from 71 to 83; contributions, even in this rough economy increased, perhaps to their highest level in recent years. Sunday School and Adult Education seemed to grow. We started a Nursery program, Sunday night Unplugged services, and again had a successful Shamrock Festival. We gave out 300 food boxes, numerous "gas" cards, supported Loaves and Fishes, Habitat for Humanity as well as several other local charities including Pagosa Outreach.

It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as your Jr. Warden; hopefully I fulfilled at least some of your expectations. May the Lord continue to bless St. Patrick's and you in 2010 and beyond.




Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Vierbicher

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial information found at the back of this report on Pages 20-28.

ACOLYTES

During 2009 we had six acolytes:

 Coleman Smith
 Tyler Greenly
 Megan Greenly

 Ben Miller
 Andie Miller
 Robert Neel

These young people served on the altar during various services. They have matured and learned a great deal. Some of the ways they have served are as crucifers, torch-bearers, and thurifer. We thank them for their service.

Respectively Submitted,
Linda Warren

ADULT (SUNDAY) CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Adult Sunday morning class (ACES) began 2009 with a review of Harold Kushner's Why Bad Things Happen to Good People led by Fr. Neel. Lenten study utilized James Harnish's Radical Renovation, Living the Cross Shaped Life. The seven-week study provided a scripture reference, questions for discussion, a prayer, and a focus for the coming week. During the summer we listened to Richard Rohr's 11 CDs discussion entitled The Great Themes of Paul. And in 3Q09 we studied Paul's letter to the Ephesians utilizing William Barkley's writings as a guide. The liturgical cycle of Advent began with a study of Dr. Rev. James W. Moore's book What do you want for Christmas.

Attendance during the year fluctuated between 6 and 24 people with an average attendance of 12 adults. Occasionally visitors attended as a result of their reading an ACES article in the local newspaper or the church's web site. Class facilitation continues to be rotated and shared by all.

Respectively Submitted,
John Gwin

ALTAR GUILD

Many thanks to all the members of St. Patrick's 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 have four rotating Altar Guild teams: Sharry Newell/Fran Smith, Muriel Cronkhite/Loretta Barker, Meg Boblit/Sharon Vierbicher, Linda Warren/Jo Kay/Lynn McCrudden. All are so generous and flexible with their time. Special thanks to Dick Boblit who helps so much during the Christmas and Easter seasons. Each of us feels blessed to work and serve the Lord in our beautiful church.

We do have a need for more Altar linens should anyone wish to make a memorial gift to the church. Please see Fr. Neel or me if you would like to make a donation.

Respectively Submitted,
Fran Smith

BOOK NOOK

The Book Nook in 2009 averaged around \$25 a month. Depending on need, the money was either dispersed to the Quality Ministry or the Food Pantry.

Several new shelves were donated and the books were organized by type (mysteries, romances, self-help, etc.).

A special sale was open to the public the morning of the Shamrock Festival and books were also sold that evening. \$250 was raised that day.

Gently used books are always a welcome donation to the Book Nook.

Respectively Submitted,
Bonnie Brooks

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

As Vestry representative, I had oversight of Building and Grounds for 2009. The major project undertaken was the staining of the outside of the church and painting the interior of the Parish Hall. This project was completed with all volunteer help. The only incident during the staining project was the bucket-truck tipped and punched a hole in the roof over the men's restroom in the church building. This was repaired.

During a wind storm, part of the roof over the air conditioning units was pulled back. This repair was contracted out.

Jim Dorian, Jim Barker, Dick Boblit, the Men's Fellowship and others at the church have been instrumental in keeping the grass cut, snow plowed and swept from the sidewalks, and in general, all the minor maintenance around the church handled.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lloyd "Bud" Short

CHRISTMAS TEA

Our 5th Annual Christmas Tea was held on December 6th and it was a sell-out. In addition to our 100 paying guests, we also invited the recipients of the money raised at the Shamrock Festival. Tea (watched over by Jan Nanus) and wonderful goodies, generously offered by members of the church were enjoyed by all.

We gave away three door prizes -- a handmade tea cozy and teapot (donated by Cherlyn Gwin), a set of decorative birds (donated by Charlotte Jones) and a table runner (donated by yours truly!). We also sold boxes of cookies, made by 15 wonderful bakers of St. Patricks.

In all, we made \$900 which will be used to make the 2010 Shamrock Quilt. See you next December! Thank you for your support.

Respectively Submitted,
Linda Warren

CLOTHING GIVEAWAY

The Annual Clothing Giveaway was held on Saturday, October 24. Three hundred and nine (309) people came to St. Patrick's between 8a and 11a to select coats, gloves, hats, and warm clothing that had been donated.

Setup occurred on Thursday (8a-2p) and Friday (9a-Noon). Many church volunteers helped on setup days and the event day. For several years in a row, we have used the same layout schematic and it appears to work well and many of the people who come to select clothes are now familiar with our layout.

A great deal of publicity was sought this year. Information was provided to KWUF Radio's Community Clipboard, Trade-E-O Radio, The Pagosa Sun (articles, pictures, classified ad under garage/rummage sales, preview section), Daily Post, Shamrock, and St. Patrick's website and bulletins.

Brochures written in both English and Spanish were distributed to the Community Center, POC, Habitat, San Juan Health, IHM Church, Methodist Church, Seeds of Learning, Loves & Fishes (for two weeks), Victims' Assistance, the Pregnancy Center, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, schools (elementary, junior high, high school, VA, hospital, Family Medical Clinic, and other doctors. Brochures were also put in food boxes, taken to Laundromats, mobile home parks, the Library, recreation center, coffee shops, the Chamber of Commerce, ACE Hardware, Ponderosa Hardware and to the Mexican Merchandise shop next to Chavolo's. In addition, church members distributed brochures to their friends and acquaintances.

Workers noted how appreciative people seemed this year. The economy certainly has had an impact on this giveaway. We saw more clothing donated, more people in need, and more volunteers to help. We are especially appreciative of the Men's Fellowship group who coordinate the physical setup and assist with the cleanup.

Leftover children's clothing was delivered to the Catholic Church (per their request) and other leftover clothing was delivered to the Humane Society Thrift Store.

A special thank you to all the people who made this event such a success, especially to Becky Dorian and Meg Boblit who served as our publicity chairs. Our church is truly blessed to be able to serve our community in this way.

Respectively Submitted,
Teri Sullivan

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING (DOK) ST. ANNE'S CHAPTER

A Daughter in this chapter has taken an oath to dedicate her life to Prayer, Service and Evangelism. We have made a commitment to Jesus as our Savior, and we follow Him as Lord of our lives. The Daughters of the St. Anne's Chapter welcome any woman at St. Patrick's who is a communicant of the church.

This year we tried to expand our role at St. Patrick's by offering a Seder Dinner the weekend of Palm Sunday. This dinner was cooked and served by the Daughters with the help of Father Doug. We served 40 people who were treated to delicious roast lamb and other 1st century

food, along with the traditional prayers of a Seder Dinner and a historical perspective of the meaning of the Seder Dinner. In the summer we did a discussion of the book "The Shack," and this fall are discussing "Prayer Centered Healing." Our first priority is to be prayer centered, and therefore, each of our meetings begins and ends with prayer for those in need. Please contact one of the Daughters or Father Doug if you have someone you would like us to pray for. Our regular meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 4p. If there is a fifth Monday in a month we gather for lunch, fellowship and support.

Respectively Submitted,
Lynne McCrudden

ECW

ECW (which stands for Episcopal Church Women) meets once a month, usually on the 2nd Monday of each month. At our meetings, we plan various events and activities which will enhance and help our church in various ways.

During this past year, we have held the World Day of Prayer Service, sponsored the Pine Ridge Birthday Party in March, participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, helped with the celebration of Fr. Doug's 25th ordination anniversary, held our annual bake sale, held Father Doug's installation and reception, provided lunches to the Habitat workers, provided lunches to our church painters, enjoyed a wonderful dinner at Teri Sullivan's, went to the Quilt Museum, had a dinner together at the Dogwood Café, sponsored the Clothing Give-away, sponsored a meeting about getting your affairs in order called "Five Wishes," sponsored the Christmas Tea, and had a Christmas Brunch. We also had our annual Mammogram trip to Santa Fe and our two-day Women's Retreat.

As you can see, we do many different things throughout the year. Some of these activities are moneymakers and we have raised approximately \$1180 through our dues and the Christmas Tea. This is a great organization and if you haven't joined us yet, think about coming!

Respectively Submitted,
Linda Warren

HOSPICE

In 2009 supplies for hospice support were donated for Pagosa Springs outreach families through Centura 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.

The hospice account has also purchased 5 Wishes brochures for St. Patrick's parishioners.

Thanks to all the parishioners at St. Patrick's for their donations of monies and items throughout 2009.

Accounting of Hospice Fund
 Beginning Balance \$ 439.10
 Budgeted Funds \$1200.00
 Monies Available \$1639.00
 Outreach Supplies \$1346.30
 Balance 12/31/09 \$ 392.80

Respectively Submitted,
 Suzie Reno

LANDSCAPING COMMITTEE

The Landscape committee is in desperate need of members and inspiration. I am very grateful for the planting of bulbs by Susan Santore and Gina Willis. They will add lovely color in the spring. Also two new trees were donated by the Sullivan's and the Smith's in memory of Dick Van Fossen, a past member of our church. The small beds near the Parish Hall were planted with some perennial flowers and the hope is that next spring they will start to produce some flowers.

The irrigation system for the plants and trees is an ongoing problem, as is the weeds that pop up during the summer. If you have any interest in helping with this Committee please contact me. Your help this coming spring and summer will be greatly appreciated.

Respectively Submitted,
 Lynne McCrudden

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.

Respectively Submitted,
 Joan Scott

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND LECTORS

We now have fifteen lectors serving regularly. We added three in 2009 - Don MacLeod, Hank Williams, and Sabra Miller. We also welcomed three new Lay Eucharistic Ministers - Don MacLeod, Ron Jyleen, and Bill Crouse. This addition greatly helped because we were having to schedule LEMs for multiple services during the month. I am grateful for the cheerful and dedicated service of all our church family.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Jan Nanus

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

St. Patrick's Men's Fellowship continued with most of our usual activities in 2009. We met for breakfast, fellowship and planning the third Saturday of most months. We are truly blessed with a wonderful group of hard working men. Thanks to all of you who participated in the following highlighted activities.

Notable in 2009 were our fourth annual Steak and Stein in May and October. Thanks to Jim Vierbicher who lined up the speaker for the May event. In April, the Men's Fellowship purchased a folding chair caddy which is used in the Parish Hall to store our folding chairs. In May, we assisted the ECW with reorganizing the church library. In June, we undertook our big project for 2009, staining the outside of the Parish Hall and the Church. Under the leadership of Jeff Schaupp and with the assistance of his professional painting friends, we were able to power wash and stain a majority of the buildings surfaces from June 14 to June 17. In August, the men paid for a portion of the tent rental for the Shamrock festival. We helped to erect the tent and set up the tables and chairs for the silent auction and the dinner. After the event we helped take down the tent. During the late summer, the Men's Fellowship members prepared the photo board in the Parish Hall that displays the church member's photos. In October, we assisted the ECW with their annual clothing give-away. A big thank you to Jim Barker, Don Sullivan, Jim Dorian and David Brooks who procured and installed a wonderful coffee and tea serving counter and cabinets in the Parish Hall in November. In December we assisted the ECW with their annual Holiday Tea and Christmas luncheon.

Respectively Submitted,
Bob Pohly

MUSIC PROGRAM

St. Patrick's Choir, directed by Sally Neel, and accompanied by Rada Neal, rehearses each Thursday afternoon at 4 p.m. in preparation to present music for worship and to the glory of God. Members of St. Patrick's Choir use their gifts for ministry with a great sense of purpose, seeking to grow both in musical technique and into a deeper sense of God's presence among us through song.

St. Patrick's Choir currently has ten dedicated and faithful members who, in addition to attending Thursday rehearsal, meet every Sunday morning at 9 a.m. to prepare to lead the music for the worship. The door is open to all who wish to become a part of this important ministry.

Sunday Night Unplugged, a monthly evening service, has brought into our parish a great variety of musicians and musical gifts to enhance our awareness of the Holy Spirit among us. Rada Neal has taken on the responsibility of inviting these musicians to join us, while Fr. Neel and Sally have prepared the service and bulletins. The attendance for these services and the awareness in the community has continued to grow thanks to Joann Irons, who has taken care of the publicity.

St. Patrick's hosted two musical concerts benefiting the church's music program and Music in the Mountains conservatory scholarship program. Pianist, Tony Saladino, along with two other professional musicians, presented a delightful program of classical and jazz music to a full house of concert-goers. In addition, students of local strings teacher, Kate Kelley, were presented in concert, also to a packed house.

It is a great privilege to be a part of a parish that has the facilities, the musical instruments and talents, along with the desire to offer these musical gifts to our congregation and to the community. Music is a great evangelical tool that invites people in to experience and know the great power and glory of God!

Respectively Submitted,
Sally Neel

NURSERY

When identifying future goals for our parish, one of the primary areas of focus acknowledged the value of recruiting more young families. In order to accomplish this desire it was determined that we would greatly benefit by offering a Sunday morning nursery. This service would offer our younger families the opportunity to relax and enjoy their time of worship. Thus, March 7th, 2009 St. Patrick's Vestry committed to adding this valuable resource. Since that date, staff have been hired and trained, policies have been formulated, and a safe and inviting nursery space has been created for our children.

Although (as we anticipated) attendance has fluctuated, we are very pleased to note a steady and increasing use of this program. It is not uncommon for our youth workers to have anywhere from two to five children on a given Sunday. In conclusion, let me convey that we are very blessed to have located three wonderful Nursery workers: Robin Curvey, Renee Cordova, and Kaitlin Mastin. These committed young ladies have done an excellent job of ensuring that our children are well cared for while they have a great time in the process.

Respectively Submitted,
Loretta Barker

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, contributing time, talent and treasure, 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 2009 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. **\$4225** was distributed to the following:

- Pagosa Youth Center

- 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
- Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County

Shamrock Festival – In 2007, 2008 and 2009 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 semi-annually and thus be able to better determine up-to-date needs. Therefore, **\$5000** was distributed as follows:

- Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Archuleta County
- Pagosa Youth Center
- Food and Gas Cards
- Seeds of Learning
- Art in the Garden
- Pagosa Mountain Hospital Indigent Fund
- Archuleta County Victims Assistance
- Helping Hands

Food Pantry

More than 300 boxes were distributed during 2009. This is a huge increase and surpasses the previous five years combined.

Pagosa Outreach Connection

This unique program of community aid for the needy is a combined effort of religious organizations, service clubs, and county government to provide assistance to those in need, but who for one reason or another are not eligible for government supported benefits. In 2009 more than \$90,000 was granted through this organization. St. Patrick's is a vital part of this program.

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 **Navajoland** 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.

2010 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.

Respectively Submitted,
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 2009 we made and presented 116 prayer quilts, since our inception we have given a total of 560 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 to participate. We meet every Thursday at 2p in the Parish Hall and a quilting workshop is held on the second Saturday of each month beginning at 9a. Please join us, everyone is welcome!

Respectively Submitted,
Joan Scott

SHAMROCK FESTIVAL

The 2009 Shamrock Festival was held on the evening of August 22, 2009. The event included an Italian dinner catered by Joanne Irons, a cash bar, a silent auction, and the Book Nook used book sale. All 110 dinner tickets were sold. Mark Devoti's band provided dinner music. The silent auction had many valuable pieces including a motor home, a handmade fly fishing rod, several pieces of fine jewelry, and many themed baskets. The Shamrock Festival raised \$10,051 to be used for outreach in the Pagosa Springs Community. Thank you to all church members who assisted with this event, and a special thank you to Sabra Miller and Connie Sue O'Donnell who helped me chair this event.

Respectively Submitted,
Chantelle Kay

SHAMROCK NEWSLETTER

I took over responsibility for writing the Shamrock newsletter beginning in July 2009. Prior to that, Charlene Short wrote it. The Shamrock is produced once a month and is available the first Sunday of the month in hard copy and online at our church website.

Respectively Submitted,
Kathy Pohly

SPIRITUS

Spiritus (Latin for "Spirit") is a contemplative prayer group under the leadership of spiritual director, Loretta Barker, and church musician, Sally Neel. Spiritus has a monthly gathering for any that wish to spend an hour in community and in quiet meditation with God. Spiritus offers a time to be still, to listen for God's voice, and be open to God's guidance, healing, and love. The group has used a variety of methods of meditation and prayer including lectio divina (divine word), music, nature, and Native American worship techniques.

Spiritus meets the third Saturday morning of the month at 10:30 and is open to the congregation and to the greater Pagosa Springs community. Thank you to Loretta Barker who served as my co-chair.

Respectively Submitted,
Sally Neel

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

St. Patrick's fall 2009 Stewardship drive started off in mid September with the mailing of the booklet, "Finding Hope in Hard Times, Seven Spiritual Practices: A Faithful Steward's Guide," to everyone on the church mailing list, 100+ addresses.

Also at this time the Vestry adopted a Stewardship Resolution which was displayed in the Narthex along with a special pledge basket created by Susan Santore.

Confidential pledge cards were mailed mid October with self addressed return envelopes. These envelopes were to be returned to the church by Nov. 1, to be blessed at the altar and returned to parishioners the last week of December as a reminder for 2010.

Emphasis was placed on participation, both in terms of dollar pledges and commitment to ministry. A listing of ministry services was made available to all. During the month of October, the hymn "Give thanks" was sung every Sunday. I participated with Fr. Doug in a surprise "dialog sermon" in October, encouraging the spiritual rewards of dedicating to God "time talent and treasure" in the context of St. Patrick's missions and goals.

All was wrapped up on November 1 with the blessing and a special coffee hour.

Throughout 2010, new avenues will be explored allowing us to better incorporate the spiritual rewards of generous Stewardship year round.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Altman

SUNDAY SCHOOL

In 2009, Sunday school started at 9:00a with the exception of the summer months. Three teachers trade off responsibility. In the spring, we had three different grade level classrooms, but decided to take a new approach in the fall and combine all grade levels into one. Connie Sue O'Donnell, Chantelle Kay and Julie Greenly take turns teaching the class on Sunday mornings. The combined grade levels have been a great experience by not only providing more students in the classroom for activities, but a nice bond has formed between older and younger

children. Eight children regularly attend Sunday school including children from the O'Donnell, Kay, Greenly, and Lewis families.

The material used in the Sunday school classroom is an online program called Leader Resources. The program was originally designed for All Saints' Episcopal Church in Atlanta, GA. With a membership fee, the teachers can download lessons on their home computers. The lessons are taught in themes. Each theme contains lessons in art, computers, drama, movie, story, kitchen, music and sometimes includes a bonus lesson. During the fall semester, we have taught the themed units called, 101 ways to pray, All about the Bible, and Advent. The themes are taught for about 6 weeks and the material helps to reinforce previously learned material.

A Safeguarding God's Children training was given in April to members of Vestry, nursery workers and a few others that work with St. Patrick's children.

On Christmas Eve, the children again took part in the annual pageant. It was decided to reuse the Little Drummer Boy script from last year. Children played the part of Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wise men, angels and a little drummer boy. We also had children participate musically with piano, flute, and violin solos. The children in the pageant were new and old church members, friends of members and a few grandchildren of members.

Respectively Submitted,
Connie Sue O'Donnell

UNITED THANK OFFERING

The mission of the United Thank Offering is to invite people to offer daily prayers and thanksgiving to God and to make tangible offerings of coins in the little blue UTO box. Here at St. Patrick's this year, the boxes were made available in early December, with the ingathering to be held in mid-January. The monies collected will be used to address needs not only in our diocese, but throughout the world.

Respectively Submitted,
Fran Smith

USHERS

Ushers are volunteers who assist the Rector and the congregation at each church service. They provide guidance to the congregation during Eucharist, bring the elements to the altar, collect the alms and process the prayer quilts. This ministry is vital to the flow and function of each church service.

It has been my pleasure to work with several parishioners who volunteer for this ministry. They have eagerly served St. Patrick's month after month.

Respectfully Submitted,
Charlene Short

WEBSITE

St. Patrick's 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 3,000 hits.

Respectively Submitted,
Joan Scott

YOUTH GROUP

St. Patrick's Youth Group shared a variety of experiences in 2009 involving education, fellowship, and service to others.

Our education included learning about the season of Lent with Father Doug, hiking Chimney Rock to better understand the cosmology of indigenous peoples, and watching the 2000 version of "Jesus Christ Superstar." Our youth hosted an open house for all parishioners to learn about Pagosa's sister community of Gurais, Pakistan.

A ski trip, a search for the best pizza in Pagosa, and a back-to-school cookout were some fun events our youth shared. We also hosted the youth group of Ascension Episcopal Church with a good long soak in the Springs.

St. Pat's youth regularly served our parish as acolytes and hosted two coffee hours. They waited tables at Pagosa's main fundraiser to benefit Gurais, Pakistan with medical and midwifery training. They waited tables at the Shamrock Festival to benefit St. Patrick's local ministries. They washed cars one Sunday to help fund our 2009 trip to Genesis, a Diocesan Youth Retreat.

Ask a young person about Genesis Youth Retreat. The blessings shared among 300 young Episcopalians affirm faith and changes lives. Check out the poster on our bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Thank you, St. Patrick's.

Respectively Submitted,
Sally High

WELCOMING NEWCOMERS

"....I was a stranger, and you invited Me in;" (Matt. 25:35)

The above quote says it all....we at St. Patrick's continue to strive to be a warm and welcoming home to all who enter our doors. In an attempt to bring us a little closer to this heartfelt call, there has been a church-wide effort to attract and welcome guests. With this in mind, the following events and activities occurred during 2009.

"Bring A Friend to Church" Sundays were held on Jan. 18th and July 26th. Both events were very successful and therefore will be repeated in the upcoming year. The first event planned for 2010 is on Valentine's Day, February 14, when we will again reach out to others in our community who may be searching for a church family.

On March 7th of this past year, Don and Teri Sullivan hosted the first “Welcome Newcomers” gathering at their home. Thirteen newcomers and eleven “longer term” St. Patrick’s guests attended the gathering. Of course, a fun time was had by all. Our second Newcomer’s Reception is scheduled for December 4, 2009. At the writing of this report, twenty-three newcomers have been invited to attend. It is our hope that this reception will become a tradition and other Church members will be interested in hosting a gathering in their home.

- In an effort to encourage younger families to join our worship service, a much-needed Nursery was added to St. Patrick’s Church. We were blessed to locate three wonderful Nursery workers: Robin, Renee, and Kaitlin, who are committed to ensuring that our children are well cared for while they have a great time in the process.

Additional enhancements to our church include:

- Newcomer’s Table and Registry. Visitors receive a free gift to remind them of their time with us. Already this year, we have handed out over 150 coffee mugs, pens and church information brochures. Additionally, each guest receives a handwritten note expressing how glad we are he or she chose to worship at St. Patrick’s.
- Picture Board in the Parish Hall. It is our hope that this board will be an on-going directory of church members and families including their names. To keep this resource current, everyone is encouraged to have their picture placed on the board.
- Advertising had been dramatically increased for all the wonderful services and activities at St. Patrick’s Church with an invitation to join us.
- An updated and revised brochure was created listing the many “Opportunities for Ministry and Service” here at St. Patrick’s Church.
- The on-going and diligent work of our Sunday morning greeters continues to provide a warm welcome to each person who worships at St. Patrick’s.

In conclusion, the best part of St. Patrick’s is “us”. We are all an important part of helping others to feel welcome. Each Sunday, Father Doug invites our guests to introduce themselves, and to join us for coffee following the service. However, it is the person that takes the time to speak with visitors and welcome them that our guests will remember. When it is all said and done, we are the most important part of welcoming someone new to St. Patrick’s and making them feel at home....”I was a stranger, and YOU invited Me in.”

Respectively Submitted,
Loretta Barker

ST. PATRICK’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES January 25, 2009

Fr. Douglas Neel called the meeting to order and gave the opening prayer at 11:30am. Minutes for the annual parish meeting held January 13, 2008 were reviewed. A motion was made by Rudy Sapper and seconded by Jim Dorian and passed to accept the minutes.

Report of the Nominations Committee

Charlene Short made nominations for new Vestry members as follows: Jim Vierbicher was nominated as Junior Warden. Rudy Sapper, Lynne McCrudden, and Bryan Sickbert were each nominated for a three-year term on the vestry. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion and second were made to elect the nominees by acclamation. The motion was unanimously accepted.

Fr. Neel thanked those whose vestry terms were completed and presentations were made to Don Sullivan for his time as Senior Warden and Becky Dorian for her time as Junior Warden. Fr. Neel then appointed Becky Dorian as Senior Warden.

Report of the Treasurer

Tom Altman highlighted the 2008 Financial Report. His report is attached to the minutes. Mr. Altman then presented the budget for the year 2009. He emphasized that it was a deficit budget, but any potential shortfall would be covered by the Rector's Transition Fund, a fund that was established for that purpose, to enable the parish to transition from a part-time to a full-time priest. The Treasurer then entertained several questions concerning the Local Outreach Endowment Fund (8001). The fund sustained a loss of over \$23,000 because of volatility in the stock market. Questions concerned the possibility of using this fund to cover part or all of parish outreach. In addition, Tom Altman recommended that it would be easier to close the parish financial books for the year-end report if the annual parish meeting was held in early February. A motion was made by Jim Dorian and seconded by Bill Newell to accept the treasurer's report. The motion carried.

Rector's Report:

Fr. Neel reiterated his written report and also talked about attendance and membership. The average Sunday attendance for 2008 was lower, dropping from 81 to 71. This difference reflects a transitional year, common during a time between rectors. Also, the number for 2007 contains Christmas Eve attendance (on a Sunday that year), while Christmas Eve was on a weekday in 2008. Fr. Neel also talked about donations for remodeling the parish hall. The rector's report also emphasized the many vital ministries described in the Annual Parish Report and he recommended that everyone read the reports and consider parish involvement. He also talked about new efforts at making parish hospitality intentional.

Senior Warden's Report

In his report, Don Sullivan referenced the goals for the new priest as stated in the parish profile and remarked how many of them were already being creatively addressed. He then went on to thank the entire Neel family for the positive impact they are having on the parish. Sullivan talked about the parish financial situation, especially pointing out that part of his report illustrating that over 50 percent of the budget relies on the donations of only 8 families, emphasizing that the parish would be more stable if more families could increase their giving.

Junior Warden's Report

Becky Dorian praised Don Sullivan for the good work he did as Senior Warden, especially as related to the search for a new rector. She thanked all involved in the search process. She also said that it was a great privilege to serve the parish as the "people's warden," one of the primary roles of the Junior Warden at St. Patrick's.

Additional Questions and Comments

Comments were made re the improvement in the choir program and Sally Neel was thanked.

New Business: None

Fr. Neel led those gathered in the Litany of Thanksgiving (BCP p. 578) and then the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Minutes were emailed to Vestry members and wardens, posted in the parish hall, and copies added to the 2009 Annual Report - 2/14/09.