



The Shamrock

AUGUST 2009

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

- Shamrock Festival
- Pot Luck Dinner

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Calendar of Events	2
Thank You	2
Assessing our Spiritual Community	3
Treasurer's Report	3
Shamrock Festival	4
• Food	5
• Fellowship	
• Community	
Housekeeping	5
Worship Schedule	6
August Celebrations	6

From the Pulpit

Rev. Doug Neel

Dear Fellow Pilgrims:

It is Monday morning; yesterday was the Parish picnic. Already Dinah and I have given out five food boxes. A couple in their late 50s arrived at the church on foot. They were traveling from Michigan to Utah when their truck caught on fire. They lost everything. We found them some food and made arrangements for them to stay in a local motel for one night. A relative is meeting them tomorrow to take them the rest of the way to Salt Lake City.

While the couple was eating lunch, I dropped by Lake Forest to watch thirty grade school kids trying to catch fish. This is the *Hooked on Fishing, Not Drugs* program. Bill Newell, Ken and Charlotte Jones, and Joanne Irons have all been involved. When I arrived, Joanne was cooking fresh perch fillets for fish tacos. I decided to stay for a few minutes and sample lunch. While waiting, a little boy approached us and complained that his friends are exaggerating: "I've only hooked two kids, not three!" Those are brave people to take on this ministry.

Back at the church, I met the couple from Michigan. They had just finished lunch and were exhausted from walking around town in the heat carrying bags with their remaining clothing.

We pulled fishing rods and prayer books out of the front seat, climbed into my truck and headed downtown. Regardless of anything else, they will have a shower tonight, a decent dinner and a bed to sleep in.



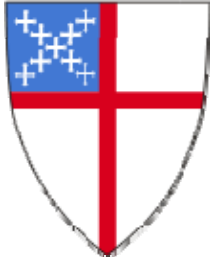
It is now 1:30. David Brooks and a friend of his are measuring my office for new bookshelves. In a few minutes I have a conference call with my spiritual director. He is a retired bishop who lives in Fort Worth but he and his wife are waiting out the hot Texas weather by staying in Maine. We talk once a month for about an hour. It is always a time well spent. I suspect that things will begin to slow down around 3:00. Maybe I'll start working on my sermon. Maybe I'll finish this article.

I've been thinking a lot about stewardship lately. Not just money, though we all know that the financial demands on the church have grown with the bad

economy. I think of stewardship as a lifestyle, as an important part of our spirituality. It is how we choose to use our time and our energy – and even our money – as a way of responding to the multitude of gifts that God has given us. Jesus dies on the cross. We give out food boxes. God forgives our sins. We set aside Sunday morning to offer thanks and praise. The Spirit makes our lives new. We make quilts, build houses, help those in need, invite friends to church, and put our offerings in the collection plate. The gifts that God has given us are legion. We respond the best we can, do what we can, give what we can. Come to think of it, we have been doing stewardship all morning.

Linda Altman has agreed to lead our stewardship campaign this year. I think she is excited for several reasons. First, she loves this parish family and feels strongly about its mission and ministry. Second, she believes that stewardship is a very important part of our lives. It is one of the ways we love God. Please give Linda and the vestry your support, and even your advice, as they prepare the stewardship campaign.

A Pagosa Pilgrim
Douglas E. Neel



Our Ministry

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

Reverend Doug Neel, Rector

Becky Dorian, Senior Warden

Jim Vierbicher, Junior Warden

225 South Pagosa Boulevard

Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Phone: 970-731-5801

Fax: 970-731-3189

E-mail: stpatricks@skywerx.com

Shamrock Editor: Kathy Pohly Ph# 731-3009

E-mail: pohlyrobert@msn.com



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.

Calendar of Events

- Sundays 9 am Christian Ed, 10 am Church Service
- Wednesdays 11:30 am Healing Service, 12 noon Bible Study
- Thursdays 2 pm Prayer Quilters, 4 pm Choir Practice
- Sunday Aug. 9 5 pm Sunday Night Unplugged
- Monday Aug. 10 1 pm ECW Luncheon Meeting at McCrudden's home
- Friday Aug. 14 Pot Luck Supper at Church hosted by the Pohlys
- Saturday Aug. 15 8:30 am Men's Fellowship meeting, 10:30 am Spiritus
- Wed. Aug. 19 4 pm Daughters of the King meeting
- Friday, Aug. 21 9 am Shamrock Festival set-up
- Saturday Aug. 22 5-8:30 pm Shamrock Festival (Auction, Dinner, Book Nook)
- Sunday Aug. 23 Shamrock Deadline
- Thurs. Aug 27 St. Patrick's hosting Loaves and Fishes
- Sunday Aug. 30 Fellowship Luncheon following service
- Monday Aug. 31 12 noon Daughters of the King luncheon, Boss Hoggs



Thank you to Charlene Short for the amazing job she did as *Shamrock* newsletter editor for so many years.....and thank you to Kathy Pohly for taking over upon Charlene's "retirement"; she has big shoes to fill!.....A special thanks to Teri Sullivan for hosting the ECW annual dinner at her beautiful home. Teri, with the help of Muriel Cronkhite, Becky Dorian and Barbara Ward, prepared and served an elegant French dinner including French wine that was fantastic and enjoyed by all of the 40 attendees; can't wait for next year!

To Sally and Robert Neel for the beautiful Taize service at our July Sunday Night Unplugged.... to the Gwins and Rudy Sapper for arranging the wonderful & informative Saturday Spiritus trip up to Chimney Rock.... to the Millers who graciously hosted our Annual Church Picnic at their

home and to all who joined in and brought delicious dishes to the picnic.....to everyone who again helped arrange, cook, serve & clean up at St. Patrick's Loaves and Fishes to provide a very much appreciated meal to our community....to all who attended our Fellowship Cookout Lunch after church....and to Fr. Doug for being a great sport and volunteering to be a "dunkee" in the Archuleta County Fair Dunk Tank to help raise money for Kiwanis kids programs!.... Thanks to Sally High and the Youth Group for sponsoring David Smith, our speaker on Pakistan, and for waiting tables at the Pakistani dinner at the IHM Catholic Church Parish Hall. Thanks also to all who have helped, advised, and donated items as we set up our second office computer system.

Assessing our Spiritual Community

Jim Vierbicher, Jr. Warden



June 30 marked the mid-point of 2009; now is an opportune time to take an assessment of how the year is progressing; How are we doing at St. Patrick's?

Of course, the true measure of how we are doing is of our service and growth in the Lord. That's pretty subjective and known only to each one of us individually and to the Lord. However, there are some markers we can assess.

We continue to reach out to the community. In addition to our regular worship services, we now have as a regular feature, *Sunday Night Unplugged*. Other special services, music, funerals, weddings, baptisms have been held at St. Patrick's. Some members have recently been confirmed in the Episcopal faith. Our church facilities have been offered to the United Methodist Church should they have need as they remodel their facility. AA, AlaNon and other groups use our Fellowship Hall on a regular basis.

As of June 30 we have distributed over \$6000 to local outreach. A like amount will be distributed during the second half of this year. We have distributed 149 food boxes, more than was distributed all of last year. The quilters have prepared and distributed 62 Prayer Quilts. The work of ECW, DOK, Men's Fellowship, the Music Program, SS and Adult Education support the church program and its operation. A growing Youth Program is underway.

There are other more tangible markers we can assess, e.g. contributions, expenses, attendance, and membership. The financial story is mixed. Contributions are down approximately \$9,000 from budget as well as from the same period in 2008. Fortunately, expenses, particularly those for activities other than payroll and benefits are down over \$11,000. That leaves us at mid-year with a deficit of \$21,000; about what we budgeted. Yes, the Vestry anticipated that our expenses would rise faster than our contributions as we transitioned from a part-time Rector/Program to a full-time Rector/Program. Thus we "salted away" a nice reserve fund, but

obviously, we need to increase our contributions to successfully make the transition.

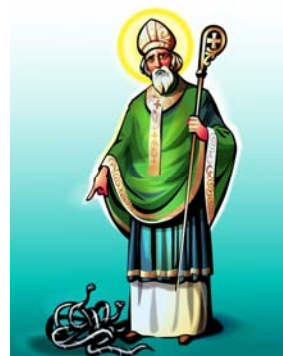
We began the year with 141 members. At mid-year we stand at 157 with prospects for that to increase even further in the second half of the year. Average Sunday attendance stands at 78 vs. 68 in 2008. With our summer members and other guests we have been averaging 90-100 in recent weeks.

These are just a few assessments. There are certainly others. In your mind how is St. Patrick's doing so far in 2009? How are you doing? Are you growing spiritually? Has St. Patrick's grown the past six months? The past year? Clearly we have much to be thankful for. Equally clear, there is much more that can be done, and needs to be done. What is your assessment? What will you do the next six months? How can St. Patrick's better serve you?

Community outreach and attendance are up, contributions down.

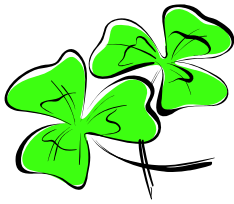
Treasurer's Report - June 2009

Operating Budget	June	Year-to-Date
Giving	\$13,097	\$70,563
Other Income	\$273	\$1,508
Total Income	\$13,370	\$72,071
Expenses	\$14,571	\$88,575
Expense Over Income	(\$1,201)	(\$16,504)



St. Patrick

Shamrock Festival August 22



The Shamrock Festival is almost here! This is our biggest event of the year

and we need your help to make it a huge success. All proceeds go to Archuleta County non-profit organizations. With this year's dismal economy, it is essential that St. Patrick's continue our financial support for organizations in the community.

The Men's Fellowship Group will begin setting up for the festival on Friday, August 21 at 9 am; all men of the parish are invited to help.

The festivities begin at 5:00 pm on Saturday, August 22 with a silent auction and cash bar. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm which will feature Italian cuisine. The silent auction ends at 8:30 pm. Winners will then be announced and the Shamrock Quilt Drawing will occur. The Book Nook will also be open from 5-8:30pm.

Tickets go on sale at the church on Sunday, July 26th and are \$20/ person which includes one glass of beer or wine.

Thanks to many of you for your silent auction donations. We have several nice items/services including jewelry, a handmade fly rod, a designer handbag, and a beautiful handmade picnic table. There's still lots of time to be thinking about what you could donate and/or asking others about what they might be able to give. Thanks for the help! Contact Connie O'Donnell 731-5849, Sabra Miller 731-1106, or Chantelle Kay 264-4539 for questions or donations.



Shamrock Festival Raffle Quilt

"Colorado Colors"

Queen size quilt and pillow shams made of 100% cotton Bali Batik fabrics by St. Patrick's quilters. All proceeds from raffle ticket sales will be donated to charitable organizations within Archuleta County.

Raffle tickets may be purchased from church members; through the church office; by calling 970-731-9666 or 970-731-2590.

**Get Tickets
Now and
Invite your
Friends and
Neighbors!**

Church Bulletin Bloopers

- Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa will be speaking tonight at Calvary Memorial Church in Racine. Come tonight and hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.
- Announcement in the church bulletin for a National PRAYER & FASTING Conference. "The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer conference includes meals".
- The Rev. Merriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.
- The pastor will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, "Break Forth Into Joy."
- During the absence of our pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J. F. Stubbs supplied our pulpit.
- Next Sunday Mrs. Vinson will be soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience."
- Due to the Rector's illness, Wednesday's healing services will be discontinued until further notice.
- Stewardship Offertory: "Jesus Paid It All"
- The music for today's service was all composed by George Friedrich Handel in celebration of the 300th anniversary of his birth.
- The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement on Friday at 7 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.



- Food
- Fellowship
- Community Outreach

Want to get in touch with your spirituality while gathering with friends and community? Join us.....



Housekeeping Items

Pot Luck Dinner

The August Pot Luck Dinner will be hosted by Bob and Kathy Pohly and will be held Friday, August 14th at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall. Please sign up on the sheet provided on the table in the Narthex. Bob's famous BBQ brisket will be provided. Bring your own drinks and a side dish, salad, or dessert.

If you signed up to host a potluck September - December, please check the new sign-up sheet, the original was lost recently.

Food Pantry

As noted in Jim Vierbicher's column, we are distributing many more food boxes to needy people than in previous years. Please bring a can or two or paper products and place them in the baskets provided in the Narthex. Monetary donations are also appreciated. In this time of great need, let's work together to keep our food pantry well stocked.

Please be generous!

Loaves and Fishes

The 4th Thursday of each month is St. Patrick's day to host Loaves and Fishes, a community program to feed lunch to the needy. Volunteers are needed to cook, set-up, clean-up, serve, greet, etc. Please sign up to help. This is a wonderful community service and a time when St. Patrick's can shine. Please join us on **August 27th** at the Parish Hall on Lewis Street for a wonderful day of service to others.

ECW - August 10

The August ECW meeting will be held at Lynne McCrudden's house, 2715 Echo Canyon Ranch Lane on Monday, August 10th at 12noon. Lunch will be served; no need for you to bring anything. **DIRECTIONS:** From the junction of 160 and 84, go south 4 miles. After Echo Reservoir, watch for 2 red barns; turn right at the barns and follow the paved road up the hill to the gate. The gate code is #2363. After passing through the gate, follow the paved road for approximately 2 miles past the pond and corral. At the dirt driveway after the corral, turn right and go up the hill to the first right turn. Look for the post sign with 2715 on it. Call 264-4629 if you get lost!

Shamrock Deadline

The deadline for the September issue of the *Shamrock* is Sunday, August 23. Please give your articles to Dinah, fax to 731-5804, or email to:

pohlyrobert@msn.com

Office Help

Dinah will be on vacation Aug. 24 - September 2. Please sign up to help in the office while she is away answering phones, taking messages, checking emails, distributing the mail and helping Fr. Doug. The sign-up sheet is on the church office desk.

DOK

1. Daughters of the King will meet in the Church Hall at 4 pm on Wednesday, August 19th. Fr. Doug will lead a discussion on the book *The Shack*. All are welcome to attend.
2. Daughters of the King will hold a luncheon at Boss Hoggs at noon on Monday August 31st. Please RSVP to Lynne McCrudden by August 30th at 264-4629.

Directory Updates

James & Joanne Ferko, 32 Putter Ct., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 731-1227

James (Wes) & Marcie Lewis/Taylor and Colt, PO Box 3593, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 (235 Rob Snow Rd.), 264-4399

Jim & Carol White, PO Box 1316, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 264-2852

Bob & Sue Cowdery, cell phone: 303-653-5986

Carolyn Swanberg: 956-642 7225, Virgil 956-642-719

Susan Santore, 214 Sam Houston Ave., Pagosa Springs, Co 81147 731-1958

John & Carol Knapp cell phone; 970-398-9038

August Sunday Worship Schedule - 10:00 am

August 2 - 9th Sunday After Pentecost - Rite I

Psalm 51:1-13 and 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13A, or Psalm 78:23-29 and Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

Lector (1st Reading & Psalm)..... Charlotte Jones
 Lector (2nd Reading)..... Virgil Swanberg
 Chalice..... Meg and Dick Boblit
 Ushers..... Bud and Charlene Short
 Greeters..... Bob and Kathy Pohly
 Coffee Host..... Saladin

August 9 - 10th Sunday After Pentecost - Rite II

Psalm 130 and 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 or Psalm 34:1-8 and I Kings 19:4-8; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51

Lector (1st Reading & Psalm)..... Muriel Cronkhite
 Lector (2nd Reading)..... Barbara Ward
 Chalice..... Tom Thorpe and Linda Warren
 Ushers..... Jim and Becky Dorian
 Greeters..... Jeff Schaupp and Charlotte Jones
 Coffee Host..... ?

August 16 - 11th Sunday After Pentecost - Rite II

Psalm 111 and I Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14 or Psalm 34:9-14 and Proverbs 9:1-6; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

Lector (1st Reading & Psalm)..... Jim Dorian
 Lector (2nd Reading)..... Sabra Miller
 Chalice..... Loretta Barker and Jan Nanus
 Ushers..... Ken Rogers and Ken Jones
 Greeters..... Teri Sullivan and Ken Rogers
 Coffee Host..... Youth Group

August 23 - 12th Sunday After Pentecost - Rite II

Psalm 84 and I Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43 or Psalm 34:15-22 and Joshua 24:1-2A, 14-18; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

Lector (1st Reading & Psalm)..... Michael McCrudden
 Lector (2nd Reading)..... Bart Cox
 Chalice..... Charlene Short and Ken Jones
 Ushers..... Bill and Nancy Crouse
 Greeters..... Loretta Barker and Meg Boblit
 Coffee Host..... ?

August 30 - 13th Sunday After Pentecost - Rite II

Psalm 45:1-2, 7-10 and Song of Solomon 2:8-13 or Psalm 15 and Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Lector (1st Reading & Psalm)..... John Gwin
 Lector (2nd Reading)..... Cherlyn Gwin
 Chalice..... Meg and Dick Boblit
 Ushers..... Don McLeod and Bud Short
 Greeters..... David Brooks and Linda Altman
 Coffee Host..... NA - Potluck Fellowship after Church

August Celebrations

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Julie and Tom Greenly | 19 Bill & Sharry Newell |
| 4 Iris Grad | 20 Ken "Spanky" Warren |
| John Gabel | Michael & Lynn McCrudden |
| Ellen Seylar | Bob Cowdery |
| 6 Jazzelle Jones | 21 Bill Newell, Elaine Baloun |
| 8 Sandy & John Gabel | 23 Bryan Sickbert |
| 10 Carol Ann White | 24 Allen Staggers |
| 11 Kathy Pohly | 27 Bud Short |
| 13 Bob Pope, Dinah Rogers | 28 Della Greer, Bob Searles |
| 15 Marlene Meiners | 29 Sean O'Donnell |
| 18 Bill Ward | 30 Chantelle Kay |

