



FEBRUARY
HIGHLIGHTS

NEW—SPOTLIGHT ON
PARISHIONERS

**INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:**

NEW! Spotlight 2

**February
Calendar** 3

Change 3

Thank You 3

Men's Fellowship 4

Youth Group 4

**Treasurer's
Report** 4

- **Food**
- **Fellowship** 5
- **Community**

Recipes 5

Housekeeping 5

**Worship
Schedule** 6

**February
Celebrations** 6

The Shamrock

FEBRUARY 2010

From the Pulpit Rev. Doug Neel

Dear Friends in Christ:

This has been a time of conflicting emotions for me. The preparations for the annual parish meeting brought me great joy. The annual reports from all our organizations describe a church that is healthy and spirit-filled. Despite the overwhelming demands, we continue to meet the crisis needs of many people in this community. On top of everything else, we finally are moving into a very nice Pagosa cottage with a view of the mountains, room for Sally's piano, and a sauna. I even have Colorado plates on my pick-up truck. Of course, I am spending much more time shoveling snow than I anticipated. Still, the snow is beautiful and it feels as though God is smiling on all of us.

At the same time, like all of you, I continue to be shocked and dismayed by the constant news received from Haiti. The degree of death and human suffering is staggering. Like most of the buildings in Port-Au-Prince, the Episcopal Cathedral was reduced to rubble. Many of us have given donations to Episcopal

Relief and Development or other charities, and we pray for the people of Haiti often. Yet, like many of you, I cannot stop thinking of the Haitian people, all of them Children of God, who have all suffered so much, and wonder if there is more that



we can do. Perhaps prayer is the best thing we can be doing now. There will be more to do in the future.

Lenten Study

It may seem as though we just celebrated Christmas, but Lent is already around the corner. This year, for our Lenten studies, I want us to look at Celtic Christianity. The practices and beliefs of ancient Celts had a profound influence on the way Christianity developed in the British Isles, and thus an influence on the Episcopal Church. Besides, our patron

saint, St. Patrick was a Celtic Christian. We know Patrick drove all the snakes from Ireland, but do we know much more about the message he preached? The Lenten Soup and Studies will meet on Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm beginning February 24th. Please let us know if you plan to attend and will need a sitter for your children.

It is a tradition that we have a soup dinner with our Lenten study. I find that food and theology are an excellent combination. Speaking of which, Nancy Williams has been providing lunch for our noon bible study. She is a good cook and attendance is increasing. This study of bible readings for Sunday typically each class involves a spirited discussion. Everyone is welcome to both the Lenten Soup and Study and the Wednesday noon bible studies.

In the meantime, I will continue to unpack boxes at our new house and shovel snow. At some point we will open our new place for public viewing and all of you will be invited.

Spotlight on Linda Altman

Please share a bit about your background.

I was born in West Virginia and raised in Niagara Falls, N.Y. I am an only child of two deeply religious parents and was brought up as a Baptist. Both my parents were from large families and I have 22 first cousins; most of whom I still keep in touch. I graduated from Ithaca College in Business Administration and ended up in banking in Baltimore, Maryland. From there it was on to Florida where I met Tom and we were married in 1983. Since that time we have lived in Pennsylvania, North and South Carolina, Georgia, back to Florida and now in Colorado. No place would I rather be than Pagosa Springs!

How did you come to Pagosa and why did you choose to worship at St. Patrick's.

Tom and I took a trip in our motor coach in 2005. Mid July we arrived in Pagosa Springs on a Friday for a quick 3 day stay on our way to Breckenridge. Sunday we worshiped at St. Patrick's and Monday we started looking for real estate. By September we had purchased property and developed house plans. We only returned to Florida long enough to sell our house and pack! We have been Episcopalians since 1987 and always seek out an Episcopal Church in our travels. We felt welcome and at home with our very first visit to St. Patrick's.



Are there ministries that you particularly enjoy being involved with at St. Pat's? I love working with the greeters and finding ways to make newcomers feel welcome. The Stewardship campaign was challenging and deeply rewarding. Now the task before me is the position of Jr. Warden! That makes me the People's Warden and I pray to be a good listener and to respond to the needs of our parish.

Looking to the future, what changes would you like to see in St. Patrick's? More young people at St. Patrick's. They are our future! I also share Fr. Doug's passion for helping folks deepen and expand their faith walk and spiritual life. We have so much to offer all seekers in the community and I hope our numbers will grow.

What is your favorite book and why? *"Mists of Avalon"* by Marion Zimmer Bradley. I enjoyed the strong female characters. Also the interesting take on what it must have been like for Pagans to encounter the early Christians.

What is your favorite movie and why? *"Gone with the Wind"* - I started watching it as a 5 year old. An absolutely timeless movie. Also, all those years living in the Deep South gave me a real appreciation for a culture we largely lost after the Civil War.

What types of things do you enjoy doing with your free time? My first and most passionate use of free time is being with my horse, Sunny. Then comes hiking the beautiful San Juans, camping with the horses and our little Australian Shepherd, Neva. In the winter ice skating and snow shoeing, with some down hill skiing thrown in now and then. Last thing at night before turning in, a good book.

Are there other organizations or activities outside of church that are important to you? LASSO, which rescues unwanted and abused horses. The Humane Society-I think they do a terrific job here in Pagosa.

What's something you think members would enjoy knowing about you? At 5 years old, I had a cowgirl costume that I put on every day and would not answer to Linda, only "cowgirl Jane." My passion for the West and all things cowgirl has never changed.

Can you give us an example of a time that St. Patrick's played an important role in your life? St. Patrick's is very much on my mind and in my heart every single day. Knowing that the church is just down the street from the ranch and that Fr. Doug is a phone call away provides great comfort in a world that seems in constant turmoil, especially in these tough economic times. Tom and I both agree that corporate worship, being part of the Body of Christ is the foundation of what make us tick and keeps us optimistic, no matter what the day may bring.



Our Ministry

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

Reverend Doug Neel, Rector

Jim Vierbicher, Senior Warden

Linda Altman, Junior Warden

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Mission Statement:

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

February Calendar of Events

Sundays	9 am Christian Education, 10 am Church Service
Wednesdays	11:30 am Healing Service, 12 noon Bible Study
Thursdays	2 pm Prayer Quilters, 4 pm Choir Practice
Mon. Feb. 8	1 pm ECW meeting at St. Patrick's
Sun. Feb. 14	10 am Bring a Friend to Church 5 pm Sunday Night Unplugged
Mon.-Wed. Feb. 15-17	Ladies' Mammogram trip to Santa Fe
Fri. Feb. 19	5-8 pm Vestry retreat
Sat. Feb 20	9 am-12 pm Vestry retreat 1 pm Vestry meeting Evening Vestry dinner
Sat. Feb. 20	8:30 am Men's Fellowship breakfast meeting
Fri/Sat Feb. 27-28	Shamrock Quilt Days, Parish Hall

Thanks to....



All who participated in and attended our special evening Epiphany service, and our wonderful meditative service with Charles Martinez' talented Native American flute

music; to Joan and all the ladies who set up and attended the Saturday Quilt Workshop; to all who participated in our Spiritus prayer group on Zen Buddhist meditation practices. Thanks to the Vestry and everyone who sent in their ministry and activity reports and all who worked so hard setting up the annual meeting and Parish Annual Report for 2009, and special thanks to Teri Sullivan who picked up the report project and got it completed and printed for the meeting. Thanks to the men who donate their time and talents to the maintenance and improvements to our buildings and grounds (new lighting, regular snow-shoveling, repairs); to everyone who filled

and brought in the UTO boxes for our parish United Thank Offering this year; to everyone who graciously hosted and signed up for coffee hours and potlucks; to our Adult Education leaders and Sunday School teachers for their planning and work on these curricula; to everyone who is volunteering and coming in to help on office projects and duties; to everyone helping with our outreach ministries, in particular those who work hard every week keeping our food pantry stocked; thanks to everyone who helped cook and put on our January Loaves and Fishes lunch - it takes many hands to continue to provide this much-needed service to the community. A special thanks to Jan Nanus, Bob Pohly, Jim Ferko, Nancy Williams and Sue Gottschalk for cleaning the Neel's new home; and to Don Sullivan, Jim Dorian, Dick Boblit, Jim Ferko, Bob Pohly, John Gwin, Roland Seylar, and Ken Rogers for moving all 30+ boxes of Fr. Doug's books from his garage to the church attic.

Men's Fellowship by Bob Pohly



We held our monthly meeting on January 16th. Lynne McCrudden shared information about plans for the Shamrock Festival to be held on Saturday, August 21 and the need for additional storage for the quilting group. Jim Barker and Jim Dorian will head up the project to build more storage space. Bob Pohly updated the group on the

progress of our Helping Hands Program and the associated skills survey. Bob should be able to build a small data base from the survey results and will share it at the February meeting. Once the database and a workable process are ready, then we will introduce the program to the congregation. The group reviewed the 2010 activity calendar and added a work session after the scheduled April meeting to prepare the church and grounds for the Bishop's visit on May 2. They tentatively added work days at the church in Navajo Land April 29 through April 30th. Don Sullivan will head up the organizing of the men's dinner out on

Tuesday, February 16th while the wives are in Santa Fe. We would like to schedule time to work on the Habitat house when the build schedule for this summer is available. The June 19th lobster dinner is definitely scheduled. The August meeting has been moved to Friday, August 20th so we can help set up the Shamrock Festival. Bob Pohly handed out copies of "Everyday Simplicity," the book the group will use to help guide our spiritual growth. Bob asked that everyone read through the book before the next meeting and be prepared to discuss the overall theme and direction of the book. Each month the group will discuss an individual chapter of the book.

Our February meeting has been moved from Saturday, February 20 to Saturday, February 27th due to the Vestry retreat. We will meet at 8:30 am in the sanctuary due to the parish hall being occupied. Those wishing refreshments are invited to meet at Nello's at 8:00 am.

For questions or comments about the Men's Fellowship please email Bob Pohly at pohlyrobert@msn.com

Youth Group 2009 by Sally High

Saint 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 affirms faith and changes lives. Check out the poster on our bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Thank you, St. Patrick's.

Treasurer's Report - December 2009

Operating Budget	December	Year-to-Date
Giving	\$21,773	\$155,233
Other Income	\$268	\$2,349
Total Income	\$22,041	\$157,582
Expenses	\$15,850	\$189,277
Gain/(Loss)	(\$6,191)	(\$31,695)



St. Patrick

Recipes

Please send your favorite recipes to Kathy Pohly at gophergirl1@me.com.

This month's recipe is a delicious potato side dish and comes from Kathy Pohly;

Hash Brown Bake

2 lbs. frozen hash browns	1 ½ cups half and half
¼ cup butter	1 pint sour cream
1 tsp. salt	1 small diced onion
½ tsp. pepper	1 ½ cups grated cheddar cheese
¼ cup butter	2 tbs. butter
¼ cup flour	1 cup corn flakes

Place hash browns in mixing bowl. Melt ¼ cup butter and pour it over potatoes. Add salt and pepper. Melt ¼ cup of butter in sauce pan. Stir in flour until well blended. Mix in cream and simmer until thick. Add to potato mixture. Mix sour cream, diced onion and grated cheese and add to potato mixture. Put into greased 9 x 13 pan. Melt 2 tbs. butter and mix with corn flakes; place mixture over the top of the potatoes. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.



- Food
- Fellowship
- Community Outreach

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



Housekeeping Items

Seder Dinner

The order of the Daughters of the King will again present a Seder dinner in the church parish hall. The dinner is a celebration of Passover and the foods served are similar to those served at the first Passover. The dinner will be held on Saturday, March 27th at 6 pm. Tickets are \$10 per adult and \$5 per child and will be available at the end of February. There is a limit of 40 people for this dinner so mark your calendars. If you are interested in attending, watch your email for a notice when tickets are available.

Shamrock Deadline

The deadline for the March issue of the *Shamrock* is Sunday, February 21st. Please give your articles to Dinah, fax to 731-5804, or email to: gophergirl1@me.com

Directory Updates

Update: Neel, Fr. Doug, Sally & Robert
86 Driftwood Dr., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
New: Bankhead, Chuck and Patty
389 Squirrel Dr., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Update: Short, Bud & Charlene
Delete business/fax phone; business & home is 731-3386

February 12 Potluck

Joyce Howay and Joanne & Jim Ferko are hosting the February 12 potluck at the church. Please plan to join us for a great dinner and fellowship. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex.

Food for the Soul

Doors

Look back and thank God
Look forward and trust God
Look around and serve God
Look within and find God
God closes doors no man can open; god opens doors no man can close.

February Worship Schedule - 10:00 am

February 7 - 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 138; Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13); 1 Corinthians 15:1-11;
Luke 5:1-11

LectorDon Sullivan
ChalicersLinda Warren & Don MacLeod
Ushers
Greeters Becky Dorian
Coffee Hosts.....*

February 14 - Last Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 99; Exodus 34:29-35; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36
(37-43)

Lector Michael McCrudden
Chalicers Charlene Short & Ron Jyleen
Ushers.....
Greeters..... Bob & Kathy Pohly, Linda Altman
Coffee hosts Bob & Kathy Pohly

February 17 - Ash Wednesday 6 pm Service

Psalm 103 or 103:8-14; Joel 2:1-2 or Isaiah 58:1-12;
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

LectorJim Dorian
ChalicersLinda Warren & Don MacLeod
Ushers
Greeters
Coffee Hosts.....*

February 21 - 1st Sunday in Lent

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Romans 10:8b-13;
Luke 4:1-13

Lector Sabra Miller
Chalicers Loretta Barker & Tom Thorpe
Ushers.....
Greeters..... Charlotte Jones
Coffee Hosts.....*

February 28 - 2nd Sunday in Lent

Psalm 27; Genesis 15:1-12; 17-18; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke
13:31-35

LectorSally High
Chalicers Charlotte & Ken Jones
Ushers
Greeters Joyce Ramberg
Coffee Hosts.....Bart & Jackie Cox

* Please see the sign up sheets in the narthex. We need coffee hosts, so please sign up for a Sunday that you could provide a simple coffee hour by making coffee and bringing some cookies.

Our Spiritual Journey by Cherlyn Gwin

During St. Patrick's annual meeting, Father Doug identified a desire by he and the Vestry to make 2010 a time of "Going Deeper" in our spiritual journey. With that goal as our focus, the question now becomes one of "How do we begin this journey?"

World-renowned spiritual guide and counselor, Henri Nouwen understood the spiritual life as a journey of faith and transformation that is deepened by accountability, community and relationships. If you find yourself challenged by how to live spiritually in a world of ambiguity and distraction, then please pick up a copy of "Spiritual Direction" by Nouwen, read it and pray about it as you learn whether you are being called to join with others at St. Patrick's as we plan toward a 10-week group study dedicated to spiritual growth.

February Celebrations

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Christian Kay | 23 Bob Woodson |
| 8 Hank Williams | Marcie Lewis |
| 10 Sue Gottschalk | 24 Charlotte Jones |
| Louis Beecherl | 26 Julie Greenly |
| 15 Rada & Chip Neal | 27 Janelle Pendleton |
| 16 Mary Bailly | 28 Ward Lawrence |
| 18 Michael McCrudden | Joyce Ramberg |
| Cheryl & Allen Stagers | Maxwell Wilderson |

