



The Shamrock

JANUARY 2010

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

EPIPHANY

RECIPES

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From the Pulpit Rev. Doug Neel

Dear Sisters and Brothers of St. Patrick's:

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. The Christmas season should have several days left when you receive this newsletter, so I hope you will continue to eat cookies, sing carols and give thanks for the gift of the Incarnation. God becoming flesh in the person of Jesus is the greatest blessing we can receive.

This also is the time of year that we begin making resolutions. There are some things that most of us seem to resolve every year: I am going to lose weight, exercise more, spend more time with my family, and save more money. Maybe this is the year that we will stop smoking, cut back on alcohol or finish that advanced degree. I have a book that I am writing that is about two-thirds done. Maybe this is the year!

I have been thinking a lot about the next year. Several months ago I wrote with reference to "going deeper," both as individuals and as a parish family. Maybe, along with the litany of standard

resolutions, we should look at ways to make our spiritual lives more vital and deepen our relationship with God. I know for a fact that spending twenty minutes a day in silent prayer is as good for my spiritual life as losing weight



and sweating in the gym is for my blood pressure and cholesterol level. I also know that reading books on theology, history, spirituality and parish life are extremely helpful for me. I have found that one book, called the bible, has been extremely beneficial. I will likely read it again, at least parts of it. You might consider several of the following spiritual disciplines:

- A time for daily prayer
- Spiritual reading, including bible study
- Silent prayer/meditation

- More frequent attendance of corporate worship
- Becoming involved in a class at church
- Trying a new ministry

Our church has many opportunities for education and ministry. We also have a contemplative prayer group called *Spiritus*.

But what about "going deeper" as a parish. At our vestry retreat this fall, we discussed looking at a number of ways that we could grow spiritually as a parish. One way could be to use a "gifts inventory" so that we can more readily identify the gifts for ministry that we have. We all have gifts for ministry that can be used to build our church and reach into the community around us. Another could be the implementation of an "in depth" course of study like the *Education for Ministry* program from the Seminary of the South or *Bethel Bible Study*. I would love to see St. Patrick's sponsor an annual speaker series, where we

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Our Ministry

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

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Becky Dorian, Senior 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.**

January 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
Wed. Jan. 6	6 pm Epiphany Service
Sat. Jan. 9	9 am Quilt workshop/Parish Hall
Sun. Jan. 10	11:30 am Vestry meeting 5 pm Sunday Night Unplugged
Mon. Jan. 11	1 pm ECW meeting at St. Patrick's
Sat. Jan. 16	8:30 am Men's Fellowship breakfast meeting
Sun. Jan. 17	11:30 am ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Wed. Jan. 20	4 pm DOK meeting
Thurs. Jan. 28	LOAVES & FISHES

Fr. Doug continued from page 1

host speakers who would enrich our lives and the life of our community.

These are a few of my resolutions and dreams for the year 2010. Please join me in dreaming and going deeper.

By the way, this year I plan to climb Pagosa Peak and see a black bear ... hopefully not on the same day. Surgery kept me from climbing the peak last year and luck – good or bad – kept me from seeing a bear. One of the Neel family resolutions may be unfolding even as you read this article. We have located the “right” house and are closing in on closing. As always, keep the Neels in your prayers just as we keep you in our prayers.

Your fellow pilgrim, Fr. Doug

Epiphany Service

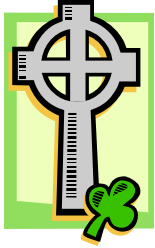
This year our Epiphany service will be on January 6 at 6:00 p.m. Epiphany is one of the major feast days of our church year. In fact, in many parts of the worldwide church, Epiphany is as important, or even more important than the celebration of Christmas. An “epiphany” is a “showing” or a moment of great understanding. The Feast of the Epiphany is the day when we remember that God “shows” God's glory and self in the person Jesus. It is also the day when we celebrate the arrival of the wise men at Joseph's and Mary's house in Bethlehem with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the young Jesus. Epiphany completes the series of seasons that begin with Advent and continue through Christmas. Please plan to be a part of this service.

Annual Parish Meeting

St. Patrick's annual parish meeting is on January 17, immediately after the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Service. There will be a short break after the service and then the meeting will begin in our worship space. There is a lot of important business to be considered. A few changes have been made to the parish bylaws in order to make them consistent with the National and Diocesan Canons and to bring them in line with the customs and practices of our parish. In addition, we will elect members to the vestry and will review the 2010 budget recently adopted by the vestry. Please plan to be part of this important meeting.

Nominated for the Vestry: Tim Miller, Hank Williams, Teri Sullivan, Erica DeVoti (to complete a position left vacant that she filled by appointment in 2009)

Change Jim Vierbicher, Jr. Warden



So we have embarked on a new year, actually the first year of the second decade of the 21st Century.

Can you believe it? It seems like only yesterday that we were all hearing the dire predictions for what would happen as the clock rolled over from December 31, 1999 to January 1, 2000.

How little we knew! Had you ever heard of Al-Qaeda? Did you think then we might be fighting TWO wars for much of the ensuing decade? Did you anticipate the burst of the technology bubble, the collapse of the economy in 2008?

We all know we were ten years younger then. Some of us were

still working then, not retired. Others were just beginning their careers, or getting settled in. Our families have grown with children and grandchildren. Unfortunately, for some, we have also lost family members and friends. We have dealt with all kind of adversities and unexpected blessings. Our lives have changed!

St. Patrick's has changed too. Ten years ago we met in the double-wide on Lewis Street. Our rector was Annie Ryder. Today we meet in a new multi-million dollar facility on South Pagosa Blvd and have a new full-time rector, Fr. Doug. In between there has been much controversy, angst, and even tears. Things change!

One thing has not changed; **God has not changed!** God is the same today as he was ten years

ago. As a matter of fact, God is the same as he was 2000 years ago when he sent his Son into the world to save us. God "so loved us (then) that he sent his only beloved Son into the world that..."

What will the next ten years bring? Will 2020 be the same for us then, as it is now? Probably not. But one thing we do know: God will be the same. **God will not change!** God will continue to love us. He will continue to care for us. We can put our trust in God.

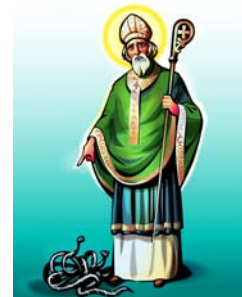
May God bless you in 2010 and the next year, and the next year, and the next.....

- Jim Vierbicher, Jr. Warden

“God is the same as he was 2000 years ago when he sent his Son into the world to save us. God ‘so loved us (then) that he sent his only beloved Son into the world that...”

Treasurer's Report - November 2009

Operating Budget	September	Year-to-Date
Giving	\$11,624	\$133,460
Other Income	\$164	\$2,081
Total Income	\$11,788	\$135,541
Expenses	\$16,625	\$173,427
Gain/(Loss)	(\$4,837)	(\$37,886)



St. Patrick



Supporting the Diocese and its
Congregations
for Generations to Come...

The Colorado Episcopal Legacy Society was created by the Colorado Episcopal Foundation to promote and support the faithful stewardship of God's gifts and resources in local congregations through the creation of legacy societies in churches throughout the diocese. They produce a monthly online newsletter to which you can subscribe. The website address is:

http://coef.org/for_individuals/legacy_society/

Thanks to....



THANK YOU

The Sullivans for hosting the Wine & Cheese get-together for our newcomers; to Linda Warren, our bakers & helpers who put on a fabulous Christmas Tea and sold cookies to raise over \$900 for the Shamrock Quilt expenses this year; to Muriel for hosting a very fun Chinese auction and a delicious Christmas luncheon for ECW; to the men's group who braved the snow, helped clear out the church, shampooed all the carpets & reset the church up for services; to everyone who helped with office duties (Suzie, Linda W., Don, Gina, Susan, Lynne, the Boblits); all of St. Patrick's volunteers who rang the Salvation Army

Bell; to Joanne Irons who coordinated our wonderful "Las Posadas" pageant for our Sunday Night Unplugged service; to Don Sullivan, Jim Dorian, Jim Barker and Jim Ferko who put in new lighting for quilters' area; to our snow shovelers and deciders on Sundays and through the week, particularly Dick Boblit, Jim Dorian & Don Sullivan; to everyone who made the beautiful gold and white Crismon ornaments for our church Christmas tree; to Teri Sullivan for setting up our Project Empty Stockings to provide many gifts for needy persons in our area; to Ken Jones for taking over as head usher; to Connie Sue O'Donnell & Julie Greenly and all our children who made the nativity pageant on Christmas Eve so special, and to everyone involved in making our Christmas services so beautiful.

Stewardship Focus 2010

Happy New Year! Those of you who returned the self-addressed pledge envelopes will have them back by now. Many more of you also called or emailed and let me know you intend to devote "time, talent and treasure" to the many missions of St. Patrick's. I thank each and every one of you for your support.

This month let us focus on some thoughts from Bruce Rockwell taken from the fall/winter issue of Colorado Episcopalian:

"It took me a while to realize that everything I was calling mine was a gift from God. I am learning that we are created in the image of God and that is truly generous."

"God knows we need to make thankful, sacrificial offerings to God if we are to be in relationship with God".

Join me in prayerful thanksgiving for this new year of opportunity to show our gratitude.

All God's Blessings Linda Altman, Stewardship Chair

WHAT LOVE MEANS TO A 4-8 YEAR OLD...

Slow down for three minutes to read this. It is so worth it.. Touching words from the mouth of babes. A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds, 'What does love mean?' The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined See what you think:

'When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.' Rebecca- age 8

'When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different.. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.' Billy - age 4

'Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs..' Chrissy - age 6

'Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK.' Danny - age 7

A four year old child whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his Mother asked what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, 'Nothing, I just helped him cry.'

Mark Your Calendar

Annual Mammogram Trip



The 5th annual Pagosa Girls Santa Fe Mammogram trip, also known as the "Boob Bus" will be February 15 to 17, 2010. Contact Nancy Crouse at 264-9355 or email wcrouse@centurytel.net for more information.

The Women's Retreat

Friday & Saturday, April 23-24, 2010

Wallace Bruce Cabin, Pagosa Springs, CO

Sponsored by ECW, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

www.stpatrickspagosa.org





- Food
- Fellowship
- Community Outreach

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



Housekeeping Items

Recipes

Every time we have a potluck we realize that we have such wonderful cooks in the parish! Let's share recipes. Please send your favorite recipes to Kathy Pohly at gophergirl1@me.com and she will print them each month in the Shamrock.

This month's recipe is a delicious appetizer and comes from Marlene Meiners;

Pecan Surprise

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 8 oz. cream cheese | 2 & 1/2 oz. jar of dried beef |
| 1/2 cup sour cream | 1/4 tsp garlic salt |
| 2 tbls dehydrated onions | 1/2 cup chopped pecans |
| 1/4 cup chopped green pepper | 2 tbls melted butter |

Mix the cream cheese, sour cream, onions, green pepper, dried beef and salt and place in a baking dish. Mix the pecans and butter, spread on top of mixture and bake at 325 degrees for 20 minutes. Serve with crackers.

Adult Education

Beginning with the Christmas Season, Dec. 27, the A.C.E.S. will study St. Paul's letter to the Galatians using William Barclay's book as a guide. This study will continue until Lent, February 17. Join us for fellowship and interesting conversation in the church library, 9:00-9:45 am as we prepare for worship each Sunday.

Shamrock Deadline

The deadline for the February issue of the *Shamrock* is Sunday, January 24. Please give your articles to Dinah, fax to 731-5804, or email to: gophergirl1@me.com

Directory Updates

Add: Chuck & Patti Bankhead 731-1614
 Patti email: trishabankhead@yahoo.com
 Chuck email: cpb78@yahoo.com
 Update: Jean McKeithen, PO Box 2583, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
 Update: Robert Pope, New email: robertgpope@earthlink.net

Sign up now for 2010 events!

In 2010 please plan to host a coffee hour, a potluck dinner or volunteer for one month as a Kitchen Angel to keep our kitchen clean and tidy, or schedule some time to help in the office answering phones and greeting people who stop by.

New sign-up sheets will be put out soon-let's fill them up now! (We can always make adjustments or trades if something comes up and you can't fulfill your obligation.



January Worship Schedule - 10:00 am

January 3 - 2nd Sunday After Christmas

Psalm 84; Jeremiah 31:7-14; Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a; Matthew 2:13-15 or Luke 2:41-52 or Matthew 2:1-12

Lector Muriel Cronkite
 Chalicers Ron Jyleen & Linda Warren
 Ushers Dick & Meg Boblit
 Greeters Joyce Ramberg
 Coffee Hosts..... *

January 17 - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 36:5-10; Isaiah 62:1-5; I Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

Lector Jim Vierbicher
 Chalicers Tom Thorpe & Loretta Barker
 Ushers Bill & Nancy Crouse
 Greeters Bob & Kathy Pohly
 Coffee Hosts..... *

January 31 - 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 71:1-6; Jeremiah 1:4-10; I Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

Lector Sally High
 Chalicers Dick & Meg Boblit
 Ushers Don MacLeod & Bud Short
 Greeters Linda Altman
 Coffee Hosts..... *

January 10 - 1st Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 29; Isaiah 43:1-7; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Lector John Gwin
 Chalicers Don MacLeod & Charlotte Jones
 Ushers..... Jim & Becky Dorian
 Greeters..... Jeff Schaupp
 Coffee hosts *

January 24 - 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 19; Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; I Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

Lector Don MacLeod
 Chalicers Jan Nanus & Bill Crouse
 Ushers..... Kenny Rogers & Ken Jones
 Greeters..... Kenny Rogers
 Coffee Hosts..... *

* 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.



January Celebrations

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Jim Vierbicher | 19 Don Sullivan |
| 5 Scott Kay | 20 Bill Crouse |
| 6 Wilma Espoy | 20 George & Linda Greenberg |
| 6 Jo Kay | 21 Tim & Sabra Miller |
| 6 Bert & Elaine Baloun | 21 Henry Beckman |
| 8 Bette Allen | 23 Jackie Cox |
| 9 Marilyn Harris | 24 Susan Thorpe |
| 10 Wendy & Jeff Rockett | 25 Buddy & Siri Schuchardt |
| 13 Nancy Williams | 25 Kell Rasnic |
| 14 Deb Aspen | 25 James (Wes) Lewis |
| 15 Taylor Lewis | 29 B. Ann Luffel |
| 16 Susan & Tom Thorpe | 30 Fran Smith |
| 17 Karl Irons | 30 Bob Shipman |
| 19 Mary Prueter | 30 Joe Allen |