



MARCH
HIGHLIGHTS

SPOTLIGHT ON
DINAH ROGERS

**INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:**

Spotlight	2
March Calendar	3
Thank You	3
Sr, Warden	4
Treasurer's Report	4
Spiritual Journey	4
Men's Fellowship	5
Youth Group	5
Adult Ed	5
Misc. Events	6
• Food	7
• Fellowship	7
• Community	7
Recipes	7
Housekeeping	7
Worship Schedule	8
Your Vestry	8
March Celebrations	8

The Shamrock

MARCH 2010

From the Pulpit Rev. Doug Neel

Dear Friends in Christ:

It's snowing out there! I am sitting in my living room with my laptop looking out at a wall of snow that comes halfway up my living room window. After a year and a half of being in Pagosa Springs, I am still amazed at life in snow country. We have had 110 inches of the white stuff this winter with another month of snow possible.

I know that for many of you long-term Colorado residents, living with snow is commonplace. But for me, constantly seeing mountains of snow remains an amazing site. I love it, though I have become more acquainted with my snow shovel than I have desired. I can see how the snow and the mountains can become part of our identity, forming how we live our lives, impacting both our work and play.

My father taught human geography at the University of Arkansas. He was constantly intrigued by the way the climate and surrounding flora and landforms influence local cultures. My fields of study were different, but like my

father, I am fascinated by the way our lives can be shaped and molded by external factors. For several years, I taught sacramental theology and apologetics (defense of our faith) to seminarians at the Anglican School of Theology in Dallas. I was



especially interested in the way a faith community and its history and identity can have such a significant impact on our beliefs and lives.

So it is at St. Patrick's. We are an Episcopal Church. Our church is the byproduct of the Church of England, the Anglican Church, with a strong overlay of good old U.S. constitutional division of powers and representative governance. But it is the influence of the very early British Isles Christians that intrigues me most. These early Christians are called Celtic Christians and we can

still feel their impact on our spirituality and worship. After all, our church – St. Patrick's – is named after one of the most famous of the Celtic Christians. And one of my favorite hymns, called St. Patrick's Breastplate, is based on a poem believed to be written by the blessed saint himself.

This year our Lenten Study dinners are focusing on this part of our heritage. I have to say that, after studying the Christian Celts, it does not surprise me that our church is named for one of them. Celtic spirituality is tied to a great reverence for the earth and its beauty as part of God's creation. Celtic prayer often included numerous references to the wonder of the surrounding environment.

Please try to be part of the Lenten Study Dinners this year. We will meet in the parish hall at 6:00 pm for a delicious soup dinner and study and the evening will end with the service of compline (evening prayer.) We should be heading home by 7:15. I hope to see you there.

Another Pagosa Pilgrim,
Douglass E. Neel

Spotlight on Dinah Rogers

Please share a bit about your background. I was born & raised in Denver with my 2 younger brothers. We were a close family - my dad was an architect with the federal government and my mom was secretary at our church, I went to a great high school which I loved. My dad was also Sr. Warden when I was young. I went to Colorado State University and Metro Denver, then worked for 36 years as research administrator for the chairman of Psychiatry at CU – and loved it. I met Ken there when we were both divorced, and he took over my job in the Biofeedback Lab when I transferred to a new job.

How did you come to Pagosa and why did you choose to worship at St. Patrick's. We came to Pagosa on a timeshare with our boys during fall break and we kept coming back! A friend had a house for sale which we bought and rented out until we retired and moved here in 2005. We found St. Patrick's and talked to Annie Ryder before we moved. We came during 'The Pope's' tenure, and it felt like home right away.

Are there ministries that you particularly enjoy being involved with at St. Pat's? I like working with the Prayer Quilt Ministry when I have time; they are so talented and productive, and very much fun to work with. Working in the church office is its own ministry; just being available to people, getting to know them better and being able to be of help sometimes!

Looking to the future, what changes would you like to see in St. Patrick's? I would like to see more young families and children continue to find us, and get involved in projects and youth activities together. Some of my best childhood memories are from my youth choir, youth group and camp. My best friend during that time now lives in Ignacio and works at Mercy Hospital, so we meet for lunch often on doctor visits.

What is your favorite book and why? *"Impossible"* by Nancy Werlin. After downsizing many times, I have shelves of my favorites in lots of different categories – mysteries, historical novels and reference books of all kinds..

What is your favorite movie and why? Some LONG-time favorites are *"Dances with Wolves"*, *"The River Wild,"* Jimmy Stewart movies, especially *"Shenandoah."* *"Phantom of the Opera"* (I saw the play with my daughter in NY!). A major transition was that I used to hate musicals because the music distracted from the story; I was converted by *"Paint Your Wagon."*

What types of things do you enjoy doing with your free time? I like reading, indoor gardening, getting back into music and practicing guitar. I love outside activities like swimming, hiking, canoeing, camping, outdoor gardening, traveling, snorkeling, skiing. Kids (mine and all our "extra's" – we unofficially have 13 grandkids,) animals, and the natural world.

Are there other organizations or activities outside of church that are important to you? I love outdoor activities and have a number of planned trips to go to ancient ruins, and to geological areas in Utah & NM. I greatly enjoy the musical talents in our area, and the artists.

Can you give us an example of a time that St. Patrick's played an important role in your life? This is the easiest question here. When I went through chemo and radiation treatments, I suddenly had a huge, close family here – providing meals, support, prayers, a quilt, and many rides to Durango for treatments. I got to know many people better, driving back & forth to Durango. Then people came to my rescue after back surgery, offering me access to exercise equipment. I've had setbacks, some due to over-doing things myself. The healing is due in great part to the people of St. Patrick's!

What's something you think members would enjoy knowing about you? I led a pack of 65 cub scouts and my own den of 8 boys for about 6 years, and I've climbed 3 Colorado Fourteeners. Also, my great-uncle was General & President Dwight Eisenhower; my grandfather Roy was his younger brother. We visited him a number of times when he was in Denver – he was a very genuine and warm great-uncle.





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.**

March 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. March 3	6 pm Lenten soup/supper/class
Fri, March 5	11:30 am World Day of Prayer, Methodist church
Fri-Sat. Mar. 5-6	Shamrock quilters, Parish hall
Mon. March 8	1 pm ECW, Barbara Saladino's home
Wed. March 10	6 pm Lenten soup/supper/class
Fri. March 12	6 pm Potluck dinner, Parish hall
Sun. March 14	Sunday Night Unplugged
Mon. March 15	2:30 pm, ECW Pine Ridge B-day party
Wed. March 17	4:30 pm St. Patrick's Day parade, downtown 6 pm Lenten soup/supper/class
Sat. March 20	8:30 am Men's Fellowship breakfast 10:30 am Spiritus
Sun. March 21	11:30 am Vestry meeting
Mon. March 22	Noon DOK, Boss Hogs No Loaves & Fishes in March
Sat. March 27	6 pm Seder dinner, Parish hall hosted by DOK
Sun. March 28	6 pm Youth group

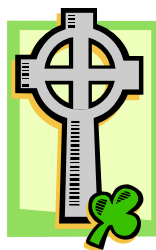
Thanks to....



Our Prayer Quilt Ministry who continue to provide prayer quilts for people in need every Sunday, to Mark Devoti & friends for a wonderful praise music service at Sunday Night Unplugged; to Joan Scott & Nancy Crouse who again made all the arrangements for the 5th Annual St. Patrick's Ladies' Mammogram Trip to Santa Fe, to Joanne Ferko for sharing her condo for accommodations; for those who stopped to help out with office duties especially Kelly Wilderson, the Boblits, Teri Sullivan, Bonnie Brooks and Jackie Cox, and to everyone who helped plan, cook, set up, clean up for our work day at Loaves & Fishes, and to all who helped with the Shrove Tuesday dinner. Thanks to all who plan and participate in St. Patrick's groups and ministries, who make so much happen!

Frank and Elinor Dickson wish to say muchas gracias for all the email and cards wishing Frank well after his recent heart episode and stent implants. He now is doing well in Cardio Rehab, which lasts 12 weeks! We will be back in Pagosa in April for awhile. Also a Big Big Thanks for the lovely Prayer Quilt that Teri mailed to him in Santa Fe. It is lovely and we know it was made with lots of love. Thanks again. The Dicksons

This is going to be a good year! Jim Vierbicher, Sr. Warden



"This is going to be a good year!" That's quoting Fr. Doug from more than one occasion when he and I have

been discussing activities and the program for 2010. 2009 wasn't too bad either; especially considering that it was the first full calendar year of Fr. Doug's tenure as Rector of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church.

Doug has gotten to know us. We have gotten to know him. He has gotten to try a few new programs from which we have seen pretty good results.

Average Sunday attendance increased to 83, going over 100 on a couple of summer Sundays. Contributions increased; our

deficit was less than expected. The music program grew in all respects including the successful Sunday Night Unplugged programs. By all measurable aspects 2009 was a good year, and if you grew spiritually, it certainly was a good year indeed.

Fr. Doug has said that his overreaching goal for 2010 is that we, individually and corporately as a congregation, grow deeper spiritually. Friday evening, February 19 and Saturday, February 20 the Vestry will meet in what has become our annual "kick-off" Retreat. Fr. Doug will flesh out for us that vision. Together we will set goals for 2010.

On page 8 of this newsletter you will find the current roster of Vestry members and their tentative assignment of activities.

The Vestry are your representatives. Please discuss your concerns, issues and by all means, your creative ideas with them. It is together, with the blessings of the Lord, that we can accomplish great things, that we can bring a greater piece of the kingdom of God to St. Patrick's; to Pagosa Springs.

Bishop O'Neil used as a basis of his scriptural teaching at last fall's Diocese Convention Philippians 2:5 "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus". Just as Paul urged the congregation at Philippi to move into a deeper relationship with their Lord, so are we, so will be challenged to do so this coming year.

- Jim Vierbicher, Sr. Warden

"The Vestry are your representatives. Please discuss your concerns, issues and by all means, your creative ideas with them."

Treasurer's Report - January 2010

Operating Budget	January	Year-to-Date
Giving	\$15,794	\$15,794
Other Income	\$955	\$955
Total Income	\$16,749	\$16,749
Expenses	\$19,043	\$19,043
Gain/(Loss)	(\$2,294)	(\$2,294)



St. Patrick

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.

Men's Fellowship by Bob Pohly



Our February meeting will take place on Saturday, February 27th at 8:30 am after the Shamrock deadline so new actions will be reported in the next issue of the Shamrock.

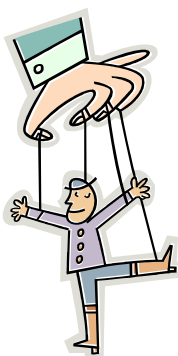
Don Sullivan organized a Men's night out on Monday February 15th while the wives were in Santa Fe. The dinner was held at

Boss Hogg's and all in attendance had a good time.

Our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Super was held on Tuesday, February 16th. Many thanks of our great cooks Bill Newell and Ken Jones. Many thanks to our helpers: Bryan Sickbert, Jim Ferko, Hank Williams, Michael McCrudden and Father Doug Neel. Our results were disappointing this year due to many factors including not having the event on the calendar and we only served 28 dinners. Next year the event will be on the schedule, will not conflict with the women going to Santa Fe and will be well publicized.

Youth Lenten Puppet Show by Sally High

Saint Patrick's puppet stage will make its debut on Sunday, March 21, during the 9 o'clock Sunday School hour. Our Youth Group will perform the story of Jesus' journey into Jerusalem. Palm Sunday is the following Sunday. The Youth Group recently made a dozen felt hand puppets that will be given to the Sunday School after the performance. It's hoped that the puppets will inspire many Bible story shows in the future. Thanks to the young people who participated in making the puppets.



Adult Christian Education Study

The Adult Christian Education Study (ACES) group will begin a Lenten Study the first Sunday of Lent, Sunday, February 21. Henri Nouwen's booklet "From Fear to Love" is a collection of daily readings for reflection on the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Join us for coffee, fellowship and an opportunity to prepare earnestly for worship each Sunday. We meet in the Parish hall library from 9:00-9:45 a.m. every Sunday.

Announcing the Men's Fellowship Helping Hands program by Bob Pohly

Effective April 1st, the Men's Fellowship is establishing a helping hands program for our church members in need of some assistance with household type chores/tasks. Some of our members have lost a male spouse, have a male spouse who is too infirm to handle chores/tasks that were previously handled by the male spouse, or is an infirm male himself. Our intent is to take the results of a skills survey and to create a small data base of men who are willing to donate some time and their skills. To date, we have 10 men who have completed the survey.

Requests for assistance with chores/tasks must be submitted in writing to Father Doug. He and Bob Pohly will use the data base to make potential matches.

General guidelines for chores/tasks consideration:

1. It is a chore/task that can be completed within 4 hours;
2. It is a chore/task that is not typically handled by a licensed professional;
3. It is a chore/task that is free from risk of bodily harm;
4. It is a chore/task that will not materially impact the property value of the requester if done improperly;
5. The requester is willing to sign a liability waiver that holds the volunteer and the church harmless.
6. The requestor is responsible for purchasing all materials required to complete the task.

Task list:

Air-conditioning window installation

Asphalt sealing	Hanging pictures and blinds
Auto jumping/towing	Hauling pickup loads
Auto repair (basic)	Household moving
Auto touch-up painting	Landscaping (basic)
Carpentry	Mowing yard
Deck building/repair	Painting
Drywall installation/repair	Plumbing (basic)
Electrical (basic)	Snow shoveling (light)
Electrical lighting/ceiling fan	Splitting firewood
Fence installation/repair	Sprinkler repair
Garage organizing	Trash removal
Gardening	Tree planting/trimming

How can I keep from singing? by Sally Neel, Organist/Director of Music



A few months ago, Mark and Erica DeVoti invited parishioners to enjoy St. Patrick's monthly potluck supper at their home. Towards the end of the evening, a few of Mark's friends came by with instruments in tow and sat down for a delightful "jam session" of wonderful Bluegrass music. It was not difficult to get into the spirit and rhythm of the music and enjoy the talents each person brought to the playing and singing of old familiar songs. (These sorts of sessions can go long into the night and often do!)

What is it about music that has that magical ability to pull us in, make us tap our toes, clap our hands, forget our limitations and sing with gusto? What is it about music that also can bring us to tears and moments of awe? There is no question that music has a direct connection with the Creator, the one who inspires and instills in us the need to be co-creators with Him. Whether we are singing music of great classical composers, the beloved hymns of the Church, or heartfelt gospel music, as we tune our voices in song, we become a part of the ongoing creation of beauty that connects us with God.

Each Thursday afternoon at 4 p.m., a dedicated group of singers from our parish comes together to prepare music to offer to God in worship. Together, we offer our gifts, our praise, our prayers, and our devotion to the One who created us all, the One to whom we owe our most heartfelt songs. Come and join in the song!



Join the Parade!

March 17th is St. Patrick's Day! Please join us in leading the parade with Fr. Doug at the helm dressed as St. Patrick. We'll gather in front of the old Sears store on 6th street downtown to decorate the "throne" and get in line for the parade. Please be there at 3 pm to help with the decorating. We already have lots of decorations, but bring more if you have them. Wear your green, bring your dogs and wear comfortable shoes for the mile walk.

Contact Charlene Short or the church office for more information.

Pine Ridge Birthday Party

The annual ECW St. Patrick's Day Birthday Party at Pine Ridge senior center will be on Monday, March 15. Please join us at 2:00 to help set up for the party at 2:30. All are welcome to attend this fun and rewarding event.

World Day of Prayer

All are welcome to join the World Day of Prayer service and luncheon on March 5th at 11:30 am at the Methodist Church. Please bring a salad to share.

The Women's Retreat

"First Century Traditions"

Friday & Saturday, April 23-24 2010

Sponsored by St. Patrick's Episcopal Church
Pagosa Springs, CO

Please put this date on your calendars and plan to join us at this year's retreat for women. The focus will be on life as it was in the first century, with a special emphasis on women. Come learn about first century culture, habits, and religious traditions. More information will be coming soon.





- Food
- Fellowship
- Community Outreach

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



Housekeeping Items

Recipes

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

This month's recipe is an easy dinner casserole and comes from Dinah Rogers;

Easy Nachos Casserole

1 Lb. hamburger	1 Cup grated mozzarella cheese*
Chopped onion	1 Finely chopped tomato
1 Tbsp. butter	1 Can diced green chilies
2 Cans refried beans	Restaurant-style white corn tortilla chips
2-3 Tbsp. medium salsa	Sour cream
1 Cup grated cheddar cheese*	* Or use 2 cups Mexican 4-cheese mixture

Brown chopped onion in some butter until clear. Add hamburger and brown. Drain. Mix in refried beans, medium salsa, and sprinkle with seasoned salt until well mixed. Pour mixture into a 9-12" pan and smooth it out. Top with the cheese, tomato and chilies. Bake at 350 with foil on top until heated; remove foil and bake until bubbly. Spoon onto plates, add some sour cream on top & eat on tortilla chips, with some fruit on the side. One of my kids' favorite dinners!

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.

Tamales?

Where do you get the best tamales in Pagosa? Please let Dinah know as she is compiling a list to share and may be able to arrange some kind or taste-test. Provide her the tamale-maker's name, phone number, cost, and kind of tamale they offer: beef/ chicken/pork/veggie; green/red chili.

Directory Updates

Update: Rumpf, Margaret

Email: mstrumpf1923@hotmail.com

Update: Scott, Ken & Dena Cell # 706-202-9563

March 12 Potluck



Please plan to join us in the parish hall for a great dinner and fellowship on March 12 at 6 pm. Muriel Cronkhite and Don MacLeod will provide corned beef for our

traditional St. Patty's Day dinner. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex; you are asked to bring cabbage, potatoes, carrots soda bread or dessert.

Shamrock Deadline

The deadline for the March issue of the *Shamrock* is Saturday, March 20th . Please give your articles to Dinah, fax to 731-5804, or email to: gophergirl1@me.com

Donation

Do you have a 5-drawer file cabinet or large storage cabinet with doors that you could donate to the church? Contact Teri Sullivan

March Worship Schedule - 10:00 am

March 7 - 3rd Sunday in Lent

Psalm 63:1-8; Exodus 3:1-15; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13;
Luke 13:1-9

Lector Jim Vierbicher
Chalicers Tom Thorpe & Charlene Short
Ushers Michael McCrudden & Kenny Rogers
Greeters Kenny Rogers
Coffee Hosts *

March 14 - 4th Sunday in Lent

Psalm 32; Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:16-21

Lector Muriel CronkHITE
Chalicers Ron Jyleen & Linda Warren
Ushers Don MacLeod & Ken Jones
Greeters Cherlyn & John Gwin
Coffee hosts *

March 21 - 5th Sunday in Lent

Psalm 126; Isaiah 43:16-21; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

Lector Bryan Sickbert
Chalicers Dick & Meg Boblit
Ushers Jim & Becky Dorian
Greeters Jeff Schaupp
Coffee Hosts *

March 28 - Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms - Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Gospel Luke 19:28-40. Liturgy of the Word - Psalm 31:9-16; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

Lector Sally High
Chalicers Jan Nanus & Don MacLeod
Ushers Rudy Sapper & Joan Scott
Greeters Linda Altman
Coffee Hosts *

* Coffee hours - 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.

Your Vestry at St. Patrick's

Welcome to our new wardens and vestry members designated by a * after their name and thanks to all for your dedication and service.

Fr. Doug Neel	Rector
Dinah Rogers	Clerk
Jim Vierbicher*	Sr. Warden & Finance Chair
Linda Altman*	Jr. Warden & Stewardship
Dick Boblit	Treasurer & Endowment
Bob Shipman	Associate Members
Loretta Barker	Welcoming & Nursery
Connie Sue O'Donnell	Sunday School & Youth
Erica Devoti*	Outreach
Lynne McCrudden	Fellowship
Rudy Sapper	Program Support
Tim Miller*	Buildings & Grounds, Landscaping
Teri Sullivan*	Administration & Ministry
Hank Williams*	Adult Education & Audit Chair

March Celebrations

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 Bud & Charlene Short | 19 Frank Meiners |
| 3 Jim Barker | 22 Lynne McCrudden |
| 7 Elinor Dickson | Frank & Elinor Dickson |
| 9 Ann Van Fossen | 25 Roland Seylar |
| 11 Ian McCrudden | 28 Joanne Ferko |
| 13 Nancy & Hank Williams | 29 Linda Greenberg |
| 16 Colin McCrudden | 31 Rich & Janelle Pendleton |
| 17 Joanne & Karl Irons | |

