



The Shamrock

OCTOBER 2009

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

- Events Galore!

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From the Pulpit Rev. Doug Neel

Dear Pilgrims and Disciples, *Providibum Dominum*. It is a Latin phrase that literally means, "The Lord provides." Usually when we think of God providing, we think of something like "our daily bread." God provides the resources and skills we need to produce the food that ends up on our table. Or maybe we remember the miracle of an undeserved good grade on a test at school or the unexpected, but greatly deserved raise at work. For some of us a phrase like "the Lord provides" will cause us to ponder loftier concepts, such as *hope, forgiveness or salvation*. The Lord provides hope for the poor; forgiveness for the sinner; salvation for the lost. Then again, it might just be the miracle of driving behind the snowplow while crossing Wolf Creek Pass. *Providibum Dominum*.

My experience is that God often provides us with more surprises than anything else. Most of us live our lives with certain sets of preconceived ideas about how this world works. Gravity makes things fall. Good people do good deeds. We tend to have

these notions about God, too. After all, doesn't God help those who help themselves? We might be right about the laws of physics, at least the simpler ones. And some of us are actually pretty skilled at second-guessing our neighbors. But when it



comes to God, we seem to consistently underestimate the divine nature of *Providibum Dominum*. Who would expect that the last would be first; that we have to enter the kingdom of God as an inquisitive and accepting child; or that by treating a homeless person to a steak dinner we are actually dining with God's very own Son. Who would guess that the same Son would die on a cross so that we might have life and have it abundantly? Divinely shocking. Eternally surprising. *Providibum Dominum*.

By the time you read this, we will have started our annual stewardship campaign. As you consider your commitments to St. Patrick's of time, money and talent, please ask yourselves these questions:

- How has God provided for you?
- What do you like most about our parish family?
- What do you think are the most important ministries at St. Patrick's?
- How can your time, money and talents help those ministries?
- What do you like most about our parish family?

It takes a tremendous amount of faith to live by the belief that God provides. For a small church, St. Patrick's is a positive Christian presence in our community. In addition, we touch the lives of those who visit our parish by helping them to feel welcome. We help and touch each other's lives as well. But what does God have planned for our future? Dare we give enough of ourselves to make it happen? *Providibum Dominum*.

Your fellow pilgrim, Fr. Doug



Our Ministry

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

Reverend Doug Neel, Rector

Becky Dorian, Senior Warden

Jim Vierbicher, Junior Warden

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www.stpatrickspagosa.org

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.**

October 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
October 1-3	Diocese Convention in Pueblo
Wed. Oct. 7	6-8 pm Inquirers' Class
Friday, Oct. 9	6 pm Parish Dinner, Coyote Hill Lodge
Sun. Oct. 11	5 pm Sunday Night Unplugged
Mon. Oct. 12	1 pm ECW Meeting at St. Patrick's
Wed. Oct. 14	6-8 pm Inquirers' Class
October 16-18	Youth Retreat - Genesis
Sat. October 17	10:30 am Spiritus
Sun. Oct. 18	11:30 am Vestry Meeting
Wed. Oct 21	4 pm DOK Meeting
	6 pm Men's Steak and Stein Diner and Set up for Clothing Give-Away
Sat. Oct. 24	8-11 Clothing Give-Away
Wed. Oct. 28	6-8 pm Inquirers' Class

St. Francis Day

This year we will be celebrating St. Francis Day on October 4 with a traditional service of the blessing of the animals. This service will be held in our church parking lot at 11:30 a.m. Bring your dogs, cats, horses, hamsters, and goats, but in honor of St. Patrick, who drove all the snakes out of Ireland, please leave those slimy leg-less critters at home.

Genesis

Members of our youth group are going "Genesis" at Buena Vista. This year's theme is CRASH (heaven help Fr. Doug). And a big "thank you" to everyone who had their car washed by the youth on September 13. The group raised \$270 that will be used to cover some of the expenses of the Genesis retreat. Our youth and sponsors will be gone from October 16-18.

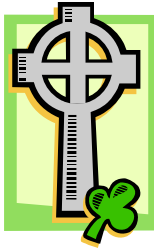
Sunday Night Unplugged

As currently planned, this month's Sunday Night Unplugged will feature the beautiful and meditative music of Charles Martinez. He is the flautist who regularly performs for Chimney Rock Full Moon events. This should be a very special worship experience. The Sunday Night Unplugged service is on October 11 at 5:00 p.m.

Adult Education

The Adult Christian Education Study (ACES) group will begin a study of St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians on Sunday October 4th at 9 am. We will use William Barclay's writings to guide us, anticipating that this study will take us to the Advent Season.

Blessed to Be a Blessing Jim Vierbicher, Jr. Warden



Several years ago Sharon and I participated in a two-year Bible study entitled *The Bethel Bible Series*. It was

detailed study of the Old and New Testaments, chronologically following God's unfolding plan through the Old Testament times, the life and teachings of Christ, and the various epistles of Paul and the apostles. The theme of the series was *Blessed to be a Blessing* based on God's covenant with Abraham (Genesis 12), "I will bless you and you will be a blessing." All Abraham had to do was respond, "Go!"

We at St Patrick's, both as a congregation and as individuals have been richly blessed. And St. Patrick's has responded. Our **OUTREACH** to the community is huge. For each of the past three years, including 2009, we have given on the order of \$20,000 annually to various community charitable organizations. We have and continue to pass out food boxes in excess of 200 this year alone (we distributed 51 in 2007, 102 in 2008), to those in need. Individually members donate hundreds of hours to Habitat for

Humanity, Big Brothers, Big sisters, Loaves and Fishes, LASSO, Hospice, the Pagosa Mountain Hospital, the Prayer Quilt Ministry, our prayer chain. The list goes on and on.

We also "Reach In," to our own members. How many of you have driven someone to Durango for medical treatment, visited them in the hospital or at home, prepared a meal for families who are temporarily overloaded or unable to prepare meals themselves? In the past we have helped out a family with their insurance bills when they became overwhelmed. We are a caring congregation and caring people.

Yet, is there more we could do? There was an interesting article on NBC's "Making a Difference" of a couple that had set up an anonymous Internet site to help those experiencing difficult times, especially now in these hard economic times. We already have a confidential "site" - Fr Doug and his Discretionary Fund. Fr Doug has at his disposal a sum of money derived from personal donations and monthly from the Operating Budget. He can use that money solely as he determines for charitable purposes, both for

members and non-members. The transactions are completely confidential, subject only to a year-end audit by a single member of the Audit Committee.

As we (the wardens and Fr. Doug) have discussed *In Reach*, the thought occurs that efforts could be expanded to much more than just financial support from the Discretionary Fund (and to a certain extent we do as noted above). We have many talented and experienced persons within the congregation who could, confidentially, provide informal direction on a variety of subjects from home improvements to medical reference to job searches to ????. We do so much for community **OUTREACH**, perhaps we can and should do more for our congregational **INREACH**.

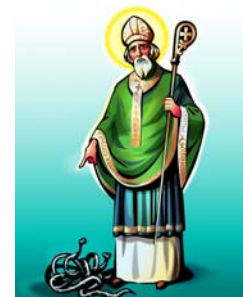
If you have ideas how we can effectively increase our efforts, would like to participate in an active **INREACH PROGRAM**, or know of someone who might benefit from these type of efforts, please discuss with Fr. Doug.

We are blessed to be a blessing!
Jim Vierbicher, Jr. Warden

"We do so much for community OUTREACH, perhaps we can and should do more for our congregational INREACH."

Treasurer's Report - August 2009

Operating Budget	August	Year-to-Date
Giving	\$14,518	\$96,192
Other Income	\$244	\$1,611
Total Income	\$14,762	\$97,803
Expenses	\$17,817	\$122,552
Gain/Loss	(\$3,054)	(\$24,749)



St. Patrick

Stewardship Focus 2009 Linda Altman, Stewardship Chair

SERVE ONE ANOTHER WITH THE PARTICULAR GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN EACH OF YOU. (1 PETER 4:10)

EACH ONE OF YOU, ON THE FIRST DAY OF EACH WEEK, SHOULD SET ASIDE A SPECIFIC SUM OF MONEY IN PROPORTION TO WHAT YOU HAVE EARNED, AND USE IT FOR THE OFFERING. (1 COR. 16:2)

It is now time to discern God's Will for each one of us in committing time, talent and treasure to St. Patrick's. Hopefully, you have all received, or will shortly, the booklet, *Finding Hope in Hard Times* and will use this booklet to pray

and meditate on what you are personally called to give.

Confidential pledge cards for your use will be mailed the first of October.

We can all do so much good for St. Patrick's and the community at large by being a congregation of generous givers. The needs are so great for so many right here in Pagosa Springs.

I will keep each one of you in my prayers this month as we continue our Stewardship Journey.

Yours in Christ,

Linda Altman Stewardship Chair

Thanks to....

Our Sunday School and Adult Ed

teachers, our nursery organizers and workers, to the Youth Group for doing a great

job raising funds for their Retreat by holding their car wash here after church, to all who cooked and worked at the St. Patrick's Loaves and Fishes luncheon, and to all who serve on the Vestry, and all who participate in all of our special ministries at St. Patrick's!



Clothing Give-Away October 24, 8-11 am St. Patrick's



For this important community event we need to collect clothes (jeans, sweatshirts, blouses, shirts, dresses, winter coats, hats, gloves, shoes, and boots) and linens (blankets, sheets, towels, and pillows).

We ask that all items be clean and in good condition and that they be brought to the church by October 22.

If you have questions regarding the clothing give-away, please call Teri Sullivan (731-2590), or Becky Dorian (731-9878), or the church office.

Quilting Workshops Resume

St. Patrick's next Quilting Workshop is scheduled for October 10th at 9 am in the parish hall. We will again meet the second Saturday of each month to work on existing projects and to learn new ones. A new project will be taught each month and your suggestions or requests are appreciated.

These workshops are open to all ladies, whether you already know how to sew or not. Bring a sack lunch and your sewing machine & supplies if you have them. Friends and non-parishioners are always welcome. Please sign up in advance in the narthex or contact Joan Scott at jscott77@centurytel.net or 731-1727.

Mark Your Calendars

December 12, 2009

ECW Christmas Luncheon

A holiday potluck brunch will be held at 11 am on Saturday, December 12 in the Parish Hall.

Please bring a dish to share as well as a wrapped tree ornament for an exchange.

Coffee, tea, orange juice, and champagne will be provided.



April 23-24, 2010

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



I Will Sing to the Lord.....

Sally Neel, Organist/Director of Music



Every Sunday morning a faithful group of people gathers to praise God and offer their songs, a gift to enhance our worship and to inspire us to lift our hearts to the Lord. This ensemble of singers, currently all women, meets each Thursday afternoon at 4 p.m. to learn the notes, practice blending their voices, and to prepare themselves for this important offering.

Are these devoted singers highly trained, have they had immense experience in choral singing? Do they consider themselves highly talented in their own right? In truth, I

doubt any would claim to be experts. So why do they volunteer and risk exposing their various gifts and talents to an entire congregation of **Join us!** worshippers?

Each person comes to the choir out of their own sense of call. But I daresay that all would agree that one reason they sing in the choir is because it is fun. Yes...you read it right. Singing in the choir is FUN! There is nothing quite as gratifying as making music with friends, working together through the difficulties and challenges, witnessing the improvements, and finally, enjoying the presentation of the gift.

The only way it could be *more* fun is to have more people joining us, adding their voices to the mix. Part of what makes ensemble singing fun is having plenty of people to sing the harmonies. You do not have to be a professionally trained musician to learn to do this. Indeed, my job is to assist non-professionals to sound like they have been singing in the choir all their lives! There is no audition required, there is no one passing judgment. Simply show up and follow direction. In no time, you will be a part of something quite special, a choir lifting their voices to the Lord. NOW, THAT'S FUN!

Join us!

Show off your talent and have some fun!

Fine Arts Show and Reception

Attention all budding artists, photographers, sculptors and woodworkers! We are planning a Fine Arts Show for sometime in either January or February at the church. The idea is to showcase all the talents in our church and community and hopefully raise a little money for special projects in the

church. Plans are just being formulated but this is to give you a heads up so that this fall you can start getting your artwork together. This will not be a juried show; just a come look and perhaps buy if the artist is willing to sell. If the artwork sells, twenty percent will go to the church. There will

be a special area for children's work too, so parents, please encourage your children to participate.

More information will be available as plans are formalized, but if you have questions, please contact Lynne McCrudden at pagosagirl@yahoo.com



Embark on a Quest



As we journey through life, each one of us ponders personal questions:

- *Who am I deep inside?*
- *What is my purpose?*
- *How can I have a fuller relationship with God?*

If you find yourself wanting to explore the answers to these and other life related questions, then perhaps it is time to consider meeting with a Spiritual Director. Spiritual Direction is a comfortable, inviting process whereby you meet with a person trained to serve as a companion on your journey. Together, you create that space that allows you to unfold the mysterious ways that God may be moving in your life. For more information on how you can begin this quest, please contact Loretta Barker at (970) 731-4440.



- Food
- Fellowship
- Community Outreach

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



Housekeeping Items

Potluck Dinner

The October Potluck is being hosted by Gina Willis, at the Coyote Hill Lodge, 4801 County Road 600, on October 9 at 6:00 pm. She will provide the main course and we will bring the rest. You are asked to bring a side dish, salad or dessert and adult beverages. Please make sure you sign up by October 6th so Gina has an accurate count. Directions to the lodge will be provided at sign-up.

NOVEMBER – We need a host for the November potluck (Nov. 13); this will be our last potluck of the year, as we are not scheduling one for December. Please sign up if you can host our November dinner.

First Century Gourmet

Do you want to join Father Doug on his quest to eat as Jesus ate? Check out his First Century Gourmet blog at the following website:

<http://firstcenturygourmet.wordpress.com>

It is fascinating to read about the food and dining customs of a long-gone era. Father Doug does an excellent job of sharing his vast knowledge and cooking expertise. He is looking for others to join him in his quest. Let's hope that the diet will provide him with enough calories that he doesn't float away!

Men's Fellowship Steak and Stein

All of the men of the Parrish are encouraged to attend our big event of the fall season. Invite a male friend and raid the freezer for your favorite meat to throw on our grill. Join us on Wednesday evening, October 21 for some great fellowship. The action starts at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall.



Our guest speaker is Mike Legoski, Emergency Operations Coordinator for the Archuleta County Emergency Operations Center. He will be speaking about the HINI flu preparations, Wildfire Safety and Preparedness, the Reverse 911 system, and other emergency response capabilities of the County. It is a very interesting and timely talk with lots of opportunity for questions and discussion. We are planning for the Men's group to furnish baked potatoes, salad, rolls, cookies and coffee. You and your guests should plan to provide your own meat and the adult beverage of your choice. (We are sure that Ken Rogers would be happy to take orders in advance for your favorite Pagosa Brewery brew.)

Please plan on helping to set up for the Clothing Give-Away immediately following the Steak and Stein event.

Shamrock Deadline

The deadline for the October issue of the *Shamrock* is Sunday, October 18. Please give your articles to Dinah, fax to 731-5804, or email to: pohlyrobert@msn.com

Directory Updates

- Schuchardt, Joseph (Buddy) and Siri - 795 Majestic, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, 731-9670
- Rockett, Jeff & Wendy new address: 9755 Bramblewood Way, Bethany, LA 71007 (318-938-8170)

October Sunday Worship Schedule - 10:00 am

October 4 - 18th Sunday After Pentecost - Rite I

Psalm 26 and Job 1:1, 2:1-10 or Psalm 8 and Genesis 2:18-24;
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

Lector Jim Dorian
Chalicers Linda Warren & Charlene Short
Ushers Bud Short & Don McLeod
Greeters Kenny Rogers & Jeff Schaupp
Coffee Hosts *

October 11 - 19th Sunday After Pentecost - Rite II

Psalm 22:1-15 and Job 23:1-9, 16-17 or Psalm 90:12-17 and
Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:1-31

Lector (1st Reading & Psalm) Cherlyn Gwin
Chalicers Jan Nanus & Tom Thorpe
Ushers Ken Jones & Ken Rogers
Greeters David Brooks & Meg Boblit
Coffee hosts *

October 18- 20th Sunday After Pentecost - Rite I

Psalm 104:1-9, 25, 37B and Job 38:1-7, (34-41) or Psalm 91:9-16
and Isaiah 53:4-12; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

Lector Jim Vierbicher
Chalicers Loretta Barker & Ken Jones
Ushers Bill & Nancy Crouse
Greeters Jamie Dinkler & Joyce Ramberg
Coffee Hosts *

October 25 - 21st Sunday After Pentecost - Rite I

Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22) and Job 42:1-6, 10-17 or Psalm 126 and
Jeremiah 31:7-9; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

Lector Sally High
Chalicers Dick & Meg Boblit
Ushers Jim and Becky Dorian
Greeters Charlotte Jones & Linda Altman
Coffee Hosts Marlene Meiners

*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.

October Celebrations



2 Penny Searles	18 Jim Ferko
3 Mary Sickbert	21 Ted Dinkler
Bill & Nancy	22 Trent Staggers
4 Don Luffel	25 Christelle Troell
5 William Brooks	Richard & Christelle Troell
8 Barbara Saladino	28 Joan Scott
11 Norma Hersey	Don Hersey
Suzie Reno	29 Joan Scott & Rudy Sapper
15 Ken Rogers	30 Jeff Versaw
16 Meg Boblit	
Sandy Gabel	

Vestry Resolution

9/20/09

The Vestry resolves that it believes Stewardship is:

What we do with all of our time, talent and treasure after we say, "We Believe." Furthermore the Vestry believes that by giving of our time, talent and treasure, the people of St. Patrick's fulfill God's plan for our parish and the community.