

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

NEWS

DECEMBER – JANUARY 2010–2011

The Seasons of Advent & Epiphany

The journey from the First Sunday of Advent to The Epiphany unfolds as all good stories should, step by step. There are enough narrative events there to keep us on track and focused on it, and enough mystery and implausibility to fire the imagination -- prophetic imagination and anticipation.

This year, Advent begins on Sunday, November 28. The word advent is Latin for 'a coming or arrival'. The idea behind it is that God came to earthly life and lived among us. He "moved into the neighborhood," as Eugene Peterson translates John 1:14. It's something to celebrate and rejoice -- that our God is not far away nor unfamiliar with the struggles of human life.

Advent is also a season of spiritual preparation during which we make ourselves ready for that coming. In the next four weeks, we may observe a season of prayer, fasting and repentance, followed by anticipation, hope and

joy. We thank God for Christ's first coming to earth as a child, but we also prepare for and anticipate his final coming at the end of time.

Our preparation and anticipation are fulfilled during the season of Christmas, when we joyfully proclaim the coming of Jesus Christ into the World. Christmas begins with Christmas Day, December 25 (a principle feast in the Episcopal Church) and lasts, as the song suggests, for twelve days -- a period that is sometimes called Christmastide.

The Advent Wreath is a circle of greenery, marked by four candles that represent the four Sundays of the season of Advent. An additional candle is lit as each new Sunday is celebrated in Advent. Advent wreaths are used both in churches and in homes for devotional purposes. The candles may be blue, purple or lavender, depending on local custom. Some Advent wreaths include a white candle in the center known as the "Christ Candle," which is lit on Christmas Eve.

Epiphany is the climax of the Christmas Season, which is usually counted from the evening of December 25th until the morning of January 6th, which is the twelfth day. In following this older custom of counting the days beginning at sundown, the evening of January 5th is the Twelfth Night. This is an occasion for feasting in some cultures, including the baking of a special King's Cake

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308 Mountain View

P. O. Box 846

Powell, WY 82435-0846

THIS NEWSLETTER
IS ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
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as part of the festivities of Epiphany.

The term epiphany means “to show” or “to make known” or even “to reveal.” It remembers the coming of the wise men to visit and bear gifts to visit the Christ child, whose visit reveals Jesus to the world as Lord and King. During the Sundays after the Epiphany we explore Jesus acting in the world – changing water into wine, healing, and anointing.

The season of Epiphany extends from January 6th until Ash Wednesday, which begins the season of Lent.

Bishop John S. Smylie made his first regular visit to St. John’s October 22–24th. He and his wife, Jill, spent Friday evening visiting with clergy and their spouses during dinner at the Lamplighter Inn. Saturday, he and Jill had a short tour of the Heart Mountain Volunteer Medical Clinic, Homesteader Museum, and the Heart Mountain Internment Camp before having lunch with Nick and Madeline Morris. In the late afternoon, Josephine DeWitt gave them a look at the Thrift Shop, where Jill made a few wise purchases.

Carra Wetzel hosted a gathering of church leadership, at which John heard about our various ministries and plans for new work. After, Dolores Woods and Diana Anderson organized a dinner in the undercroft for the congregation to meet and talk with Jill and John, and to have a question and answer period. The Bishop preached and presided at the Eucharist on Sunday morning. The visit was a wonderful opportunity for us to get to know the Smylies, and for them to know us.

The Powell Chamber Series, taking place at St. John’s throughout the winter, presents 2 concerts in December and January. Sunday, December 5 at 3pm will feature Solo Guitar and Sunday, January 9 at 3pm a Late Beethoven String Quartet. An informal reception follows each performance. Proceeds benefit the Heart Mountain Volunteer Medical Clinic.

The Thrift Shop will close for the Holidays on Friday, December 17 and will reopen on Wednesday, January 5, 2011.

2010 was a very busy year for the Thrift Shop. The front room of the shop was remodeled and painted. The outside of the shop and the new shed were also painted. Please come and see! Some of the organizations that received assistance from the Thrift Shop include \$500 to each of the following: Powell Valley Hospice, Weekend of Hope, Loaves and Fishes, Powell Lifeline, Boys and Girls Club, NW WY Family Planning, Powell Council of Community Services for Christmas Baskets, NWC Diversity Awareness Committee, and \$1200 to St. John’s Outreach Committee. More money will be dispersed in December.

- Thank you to Katy Lytle for all of the beautiful fall decorations we have enjoyed in October and November.

- The Altar Guild Annual Meeting and Brunch takes place on Saturday, January 8th, at 10am in the Undercroft. Altar Guild business for the coming year will be discussed and election of 2011 officers will be held.
- St. John’s Annual Meeting will take place in mid to late January. Look for upcoming announcements.
- Powell Valley Loaves and Fishes contributions are always needed and appreciated. There is a basket in the Narthex for items. They are delivered to the Annex.
- The Rev. Megan Nickles (754-4218) is available at any time. Please call to make an appointment or for any emergency.

Events to Remember:

Altar Guild:

December: Katy Lytle and Annis Doto
January: Dolores Woods and Jo DeWitt

Vestry Meeting:

December: TBA

Powell Valley Care Center Birthday Party:

Monday, January 10, 2:30pm

Powell Valley Care Center Service:

Sunday, January 30, 2:30pm

Thrift Shop Cleaning Days:

Monday, January 3, 1pm
Monday, January 31, 1pm

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Adele Doughty
4 Patricia Haberstroh
6 Claudia Hassler
7 Kim Dillivan
12 Jane Woods
30 Margaret Clabaugh

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

24 Deb & Pete Chidsey

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

15 Gretchen Beerline
20 Walt McCauley
30 Carra Wetzel
31 Nancy Bonner

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

3 Cynthia & Martin Garhart

(Revised) Notes for Lectors

St. John's is using the **Revised Common Lectionary** (RCL) available on-line at <http://www.io.com/~kellywp/> Other sites with the RCL can be reached through Google or any other search engine, but this is the easiest site to navigate – just be sure to click the “RCL” link for the day, not the “BCP” which is the Book of Common Prayer Lectionary.

The complete readings are also printed in the Lectionary book at the lectern. These

pages may be photocopied, if you wish to take them home for practice.

If there is a choice between two Hebrew Bible lessons (Old Testament), we will be using the first choice, which offers a loosely chronological narrative of stories of The Great Family. If the preacher decides to use other readings, you will be notified.

Sometime during the week before you read, you will get an email from Diana

Anderson or Megan Nickles with a link to your reading – this is just to be sure we are all on the same page.

If you want to understand the context of your reading, there are many excellent websites that provide notes and background for each lection. Go to <http://textweek.com/> for quick access to these sites.

Complete notes for Lectors can be found at powellepiscopal.com

	November 28	December 5	December 12	December 19	Dec. 24 @ 6pm
	Advent 1	Advent 2	Advent 3	Advent 4	Nativity
Service	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist
Greeters	Deb Chidsey Pete Chidsey	Mary Dillivan Kim Dillivan	Sue Woods Walter Johnson	Martha Moewes Jennifer Jensen	Elaine DeBuhr Rob Rumbolz
Acolyte	Carol Bendick	Walter Johnson	Deb Chidsey	Justine Larsen	Carol Bendick
Worship Leader	Rob Rumbolz	Laura Greathouse	Diana Anderson	Kim Dillivan	Jan Lenhard
Lector 1	Rob Koelling	Scott Larsen	Charlotte Patrick	Carol Bendick	Josey Nickles
Lector 2	Steve Nickles	Jennifer Jensen	Deb Koelling	Katy Lytle	Rob Koelling
Preacher	David Fox	Diana Anderson	Megan Nickles	Carra Wetzel	*
Intercessor	Diana Anderson	Carra Wetzel	Kim Dillivan	Jan Lenhard	Laura Greathouse
Presider	David Fox	Megan Nickles	Megan Nickles	Ron Lytle	Megan Nickles
Sound	Justine Larsen	Rob Rumbolz	Scott Larsen	Elaine DeBuhr	Monte Nickles
Coffee host		Dillivan		Bendick	*
Flowers	Dillivan	Dillivan	Anderson	Anderson	Koelling

	December 26	January 2	January 9	January 16	January 23	January 30
	Christmas 1	Christmas 2	Baptism of our Lord	Epiphany 2	Epiphany 3	Epiphany 4
Service	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist
Greeters	Carol Bendick Walter Johnson	Rob Koelling Deb Koelling	Deb Chidsey Pete Chidsey	Martha Moewes Sue Woods	Carol Bendick Jennifer Jensen	Kim Dillivan Mary Dillivan
Acolyte	Deb Chidsey	Walter Johnson	Justine Larsen	Carole Bendick	Walter Johnson	Deb Chidsey
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Lector 2	Laura Greathouse	Mary Dillivan	Steve Nickles	Scott Larsen	Carol Bendick	Deb Koelling
Preacher	Ron Lytle	Megan Nickles	Diana Anderson	Carra Wetzel	Ron Lytle	Warren Murphy
Intercessor	Rob Rumbolz	Laura Greathouse	Diana Anderson	Mary Dillivan	Jan Lenhard	Carra Wetzel
Presider	Megan Nickles	Ron Lytle	Megan Nickles	Megan Nickles	Megan Nickles	Warren Murphy
Sound	Monte Nickles	Scott Larsen	Monte Nickles	Justine Larsen	Diana Anderson	Sue Woods
Coffee host	Cookie Carry-In	Koelling		DeWitt		
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