

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

NEWS

FALL 2011

EfM

Every baptized person is called to ministry. During the Service of Confirmation we ask God to “Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at Baptism. Send them forth in the power of the Spirit to perform the service you set before them.” The Education for Ministry (EfM) program provides people with the education to carry out that ministry. EfM offers an opportunity to discover how to respond to the call to Christian service.

Through study, prayer, and reflection, EfM groups move toward a new understanding of the fullness of God’s kingdom. This process can be illustrated by a two-rail fence. One rail is the Christian tradition. The other is the collective experience of the group’s members. The rails are linked by fence posts which represent the seminar sessions where life and study meet. The fence is grounded in the soil of regular worship which is vital to the life of the group.

Participants are given weekly assignments to study with the help of resource guides. Students are responsible for setting their own learning goals. They spend between two and four hours in study and preparation each week. In the seminars members have an opportunity to share their insights and

discoveries as well as to discuss questions which the study materials raise for them.

Through discussion and guided reflection, the seminars furnish an opportunity to deepen understanding of the reading materials.

More important is the development of skills in theological reflection. The goal is to learn to think theologically. By examining their own beliefs and their relationship to our culture and the tradition of our Christian faith, participants can learn what it means to be effective ministers in the world. In coming to terms with the notion that everything we do has potential for manifesting the love of Christ, we discover that our ministry is at hand wherever we turn.

This year Laurel McKeen and Charlotte Patrick are studying Year One; returning students Sue Woods, Jane Woods, Deb and Rob Koelling, and Diana Anderson are working on Year Two. Megan Nickles is mentoring.



We live so close to so many treasures of the area: Yellowstone Park, Shell Canyon, Sunlight Basin, the Pryor Mountains. We also live close to a treasure of our diocese: Thomas the Apostle Center. TAC is an ecumenical, interfaith retreat center operating with the support of the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming. It is dedicated to fostering spiritual, physical, and intellectual growth in a quiet, reflective environment.

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THIS NEWSLETTER
IS ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
POWELLEPISCOPAL.COM

The center is just 23 miles from Powell, on the east side of Cody. From Beacon Hill road, just cross the Greybull Highway and follow the signs and the slope up to the center's campus. The center works with a variety of organizations to provide a place for training, retreat and socializing.

Just in the last few months, St. John's has been able to foster development in several ministries. Megan Nickles attended mandatory EfM mentor training with people from around Wyoming, Montana and California in August, and in September she participated in a lecture series "First Century Women's Peculiar Predicament". The seminar was lead by The Rev. Dr. Jack Guigere, pastor emeritus of the Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church in Michigan and consultant to Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington D.C.

In September, The Commission on Ministry held a workshop for Worship Leaders, Lectors, and Lay Eucharistic Ministers-LEMs (both who serve at the altar and taking the Eucharist out to the community) and included a review of preaching requirements in congregations and a discussion of the theology and utilization of acolytes. Diana

Anderson, Laura Greathouse, Carra Wetzel and Jan Lenhard attended; Charlotte Patrick presented a talk on enlivening the ministry of reading scripture.

Our senior warden, Sue Woods, went to a stewardship workshop lead by Greer Terry of Jackson, and our youth formation minister, Jane Woods, will be attending a workshop on Godly Play on October 8th.

TAC is also a connected to the diocese as a "Video Tele-Conferencing" site. Using the internet, video camera and large screen monitor, any meeting or workshop can be seen and heard at the eight other VTC sites around Wyoming. This technology allows for full participation from each site, and makes large gatherings such as the pre-convention meetings possible with significantly less travel and expense.

The best way to support TAC is to go there, enjoy the offerings and the excellent food. Upcoming workshops include pastoral care and making an attractive church.

For more information, talk to the two of our members who are on the Board of Directors at TAC, Sue Woods and Ron Lytle, or go their website: <http://tac.diowy.org/>

The next vestry meeting will be Sunday, October 9 at 9 AM. This meeting will cover news from convention, and the diocesan strategic plan will be discussed. There will likely be changes for each church in the diocese.

The playground equipment is going to be installed in October. Olson Fencing is going to take care of the sprinkler system as well as installation.

The United Thank Offering In-Gathering is Sunday, October 16. All offerings are used to support grants for ministries at home and

overseas as an outreach of the Episcopal Church.

St. John's Birthday Party will follow service on Sunday, October 30. There will be a Carry-In lunch and a table for gifts in the Undercroft. The church's gift "wish list" is posted on the bulletin board in the Undercroft.

In August, Robert Rumbolz participated in an Educator's Tour of Cuba, touring the island for seven days, to explore the viability of Cuba as field studies destination for students at Northwest College.

Students of Elaine DeBuhr will host the "Empty Bowls" fundraiser for Powell Valley Loaves and Fishes at the Commons on Tuesday, November 15, 5:30-7:00 pm.

Powell Valley Loaves and Fishes contributions are always needed and appreciated. There is a basket for Loaves and Fishes contributions in the Narthex for items that will be 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

October: Moewes and Lytle
November: Lenhard and Clabaugh

Vestry Meeting

October 9
Nov. 27 or TBA

Powell Valley Care Center Service

Sunday, Oct. 16, 2pm

ESL

Tuesdays at 9am and 7pm

Thrift Shop Cleaning Day

Monday, October 31, 1pm
Monday, November 28, 1pm

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

19 Martha Moewes
23 Grant Nickles
23 Ray O'Brien

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

6 Megan Barker
11 Annis Doto
13 Monte Nickles
18 Laura Scarbro
23 Bill Greathouse

Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, November 6.

Our love and prayers to Nick and Madelyn Morris as they mourn the loss of Nick's mother, Margaret Pancoast Morris, who passed away September 11 in West Chester, PA.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Hunter Patrick who is recovering from successful spinal surgery in Denver on September 21. He is now in the Northern Colorado Rehabilitation Hospital in Johnstown, CO for several weeks of recovery.

The ESL Program is busy each Tuesday with students both at 9am and 7pm. Please encourage any interested people to attend.

November 6 is All Saints' Day. We will be celebrating with a program presented by our Godly Play students.

