

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

NEWS

SPRING 2011

Lent is a season of penitence and fasting in preparation for the Paschal feast, lasting forty days in imitation of Christ's fasting in the wilderness. Lent extends from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, omitting Sundays. Christians are invited "to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word" (*BCP, p. 265*).

Our observances in Holy Week begin Maundy Thursday. "Maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum novum*, "new commandment," from John 13:34. Maundy Thursday celebrations include hand washing, and commemorating the institution of the Eucharist by Jesus on the night he was betrayed with an Agape meal. Following this, the altar is stripped and all decorative furnishings are removed from the church.

A prayer vigil begins immediately, following Jesus' plea to "stay here and keep watch with me." You are encouraged to sign up for a time to be with Christ through the night. You may pray and sit with a partner; the outside doors will remain locked through the night so each person will allow the next one in at the appointed time. Meditative

music will be provided to help with your journey inward, if you choose. The vigil will continue through the night and morning until the Good Friday service at noon.

Good Friday is the solemn remembrance of Jesus' death on the cross. The liturgy of this day is marked by austerity and silence, and includes a unique responsive prayer called the Bidding Prayer.

Our principal service for Easter Day will include The Service of Light (kindling of new fire, lighting the Paschal candle, the Exsultet), Renewal of Baptismal Vows, and the Eucharist. Easter Day is the annual feast of the resurrection, and the season continues for 50 days, or a week of weeks. Easter sets the experience of springtime next to the ancient stories of deliverance and the proclamation of the risen Christ.

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THIS NEWSLETTER
IS ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
POWELLEPISCOPAL.COM

Preaching can be one of the most transformative experiences; it can also be the most agonizing and lonely. We are fortunate to have five preachers in our congregation who strive to improve their preaching skills and deepen their faith. In May, all of our preachers, **Carra Wetzels, Diana Anderson, Charlotte Patrick, Ron Lytle** and **Megan Nickles**, will attend a five-

day Festival of Homiletics in Minneapolis to renew their ministry and strengthen the bonds of collegiality. The festival brings together a wide variety of outstanding preachers and professors of homiletics to inspire a discourse about preaching, worship, and culture. The trip is supported by St. John's and by Commission on Ministry of the Diocese of Wyoming.



Bishop John Smylie is sponsoring a clergy-spouse conference in Jackson on April 11 and 12. The **Reverend Ron Lytle** and **Katy Lytle**, along with The **Reverend Megan Nickles** and **Steve Nickles** are attending. The guest speaker at the event is **Herb O'Driscoll**.

The concert series to benefit the Free Clinic came to a close on March 20. Concert attendees were treated to beautiful music each month, followed by successful receptions with home baked treats and wine. Thank you to **Dolores Woods** for coordinating the food, and to all who cooked for and donated to the series. A very special thank you to **Katy Lytle**, who took responsibility for all the decorations and decorating for each reception. Beautifully done!

Our sincere sympathy and prayers to **Jan Lenhard**, whose brother, **James Krotz** of Hay Springs, Nebraska, died March 15. Funeral services were held March 19 at Grace Episcopal Church.

St. John's Annual Meeting took place on January 30 conducted by **Sue Woods**, Senior

Warden, with reports from Junior Warden, **Kim Dillivan**, and the various church committees. **Kim Dillivan** was reelected to the Vestry for a two-year term. **Sue Woods** and **Katy Lytle** were elected as delegates to this year's Convention in Cheyenne and **Kim and Mary Dillivan** will serve as alternates.

Congratulations to the men for a successful Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on March 8! Proceeds will go to the Cathedral Home for Children in Laramie.

The Altar Guild will have a gathering on Saturday morning, April 16 at 9:30 a.m. to polish silver and brass.

Powell Valley Loaves and Fishes contributions are always needed and appreciated. The Annual Postal Food Drive will be held in May. 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.

Altar Guild:
April: DeWitt, Lytle, Moewes, Doughty
May: Patrick, Lenhard

Vestry Meeting: TBA

Powell Valley Care Center Service:

Sunday, May 15, 2:30 pm

Thrift Shop Cleaning Days:

Wednesday, April 27, 1pm

Monday, May 23, 1 pm

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

3 Nick Morris
4 Annie Woods
7 Katy Lytle
9 Elaine DeBuhr
10 Doug Greathouse
11 Amy Lee Cabre
15 Megan Nickles
24 Walter Johnson

MAY BIRTHDAYS

8 Elizabeth Patterson
11 Ellen Galligan
31 Augusta Larsen
31 Sandi Hensley

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

13 Elaine DeBuhr & Robert Rumbolz



Please contact Megan Nickles if you are unavailable for certain services.

*A note for the lectors:

Two lectors have been assigned for each Sunday, and the readings should be divided as follows:

Morning Prayer: Lector 1 reads the first lesson

Lector 2 reads the second and third lesson

Holy Eucharist: Lector 1 reads the first lesson and the Psalm

Lector 2 reads the second lesson

The appropriate selection has been given for each Sunday (Proper 4, Proper 5, etc.), and we are currently in lectionary Year C of the Revised Common Lectionary. The complete readings are printed in the lectionary book at the lectern. The readings are also available on-line at www.prismnet.com/~kellywp/ or you may Google Revised Common Lectionary and select the appropriate date.

Note 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.