

The Messenger of St. Mark's



1908 Central Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82001

January 2012

Preparing For

A Merry Christmas, A Blessed Epiphany, and A Spirit-filled Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars

Christmas Eve - Saturday, December 24

5 p.m. Eucharist with Children's Pageant,
11 p.m. Choral Eucharist / Prelude Music begins at 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day - Sunday, December 25

10 a.m. Eucharist

First Sunday after Christmas - January 1

8 a.m. Eucharist Rite I, 10:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite II

First Sunday After Epiphany - Sunday, Jan. 8 with Baptism

8 a.m. Rite I with Baptism, 10:30 a.m. Rite II

Annual Meeting - Sunday, Jan. 15

One 9:30 a.m. Eucharist followed by the Annual Meeting

This is the one time of year that we have ONE SERVICE Sunday morning followed by our Annual Meeting. The meeting will include voting on a new budget, new diocesan delegates, vestry members, and Centennial Foundation members. The State of the Church address will be given. It is also a chance for people to show off their best brunch creations. The day will include a POT-LUCK brunch! If you are interested in running for any of the above mentioned positions, please contact the church office.

Those running for vestry should plan on attending our first meeting of the year which is a weekend retreat that begins Friday evening, January 20, 7 p.m. and ends Saturday evening, January 21, 6 p.m. First American Title Company, downtown location, has graciously agreed to open their facility for the third year in a row for this retreat.



Friday Food Bags Fundraiser!

*St Mark's will be hosting several fundraiser open houses for **Friday Food Bags**. Purchase a Thermal tote that you can have personalized for \$15/\$20/\$22 and \$6 from each bag sold will go straight to FFB. Twenty-four designs to choose from and they make a great gift! Contact Heidi Hopkins 635-9011 or heidileehopkins@yahoo.com to place an order or come to St Mark's parish hall on Saturday January 7th from noon - 4pm or on Sunday January 22 from 1pm-4pm. Last year Heidi helped raise \$250 for this great organization that provides nutritious food to local under privileged children on the weekends. This year Heidi hopes to double that amount!!!*



Core Values

G - God

R - Rely on Each Other

A - Accepting of All People

C - Caring for All Creation (50/50 Approach)

E - Excellence

Vision

Compassion to the Power of ²

Positions Open For Vestry, Centennial Foundation, and/or Diocesan Delegate

We are looking for people to serve on Vestry, Centennial Foundation, and/or be a Diocesan Convention Delegate. The congregation will consider all of those interested in these positions and vote on them at our annual meeting in January. If you are baptized, a member of the church, and are a regular attendee of worship, consider running for one of these positions.

The Vestry, which meets monthly and includes a retreat (Friday evening, January 20, 7 p.m. – Saturday, January 21, 6 p.m.), is the chief support of ministry and leadership in the church. There will be up to four vestry positions open in January.

The Centennial Foundation, which meets every other month, manages funds that are used for ministry purposes in the church. These are people who help to manage our endowment. We are in need of two people for the Foundation.

We will be in need of a new adult diocesan delegate this next year, along with one adult alternate. We are also in need of a youth delegate and alternate delegate. Candidates should be at least sixteen years of age. All delegates would be required to attend pre-convention in August for one Saturday, and convention which is three days in October (Friday – Sunday).

Interested candidates should contact the church office with your intentions before the annual meeting on Sunday, January 15, and submit to the church office any applicable information below. There will be a nominations biography sheet printed prior to the annual meeting.

Full Name

Occupation

Current and Previous Church Involvement

Current and Previous Community Involvement

A Personal Ministry Statement

DON'T WAIT TO BE ASKED!

Pray about it and contact the Rector or any current Vestry, Centennial Foundation Member or Diocesan Delegate if you are interested.

Quick Word from our Children/Youth Director....



Hello church family,

I am writing to give you a quick update in what I have been doing, planning, etc. I have been able to meet individually with most of the volunteers, assistants, and staff that help out with the children of St. Mark's. I created the survey I sent out and have received GREAT feedback. I am now compiling all of that information into a spreadsheet that I will share with our Children/Youth team and then plan on how we can change, better adapt to, or keep same, the ministries we have in place for our children. I have met with our Children/Youth ministries team for a dinner meeting and met the wonderful people who so willingly give up their time and talents to make our Children/Youth ministries successful. I have scheduled a follow up planning night in addition to that meeting. I am currently looking into a future mission trip for our youth that I think is essential and will create a life-changing and humbling experience for those that will be involved with this. I am so excited for this upcoming year and will keep all of you informed and updated with what I am doing and with what our Children/Youth ministries are doing! Thank you for your time.

Amy Robinson

Outreach

Family Promise

St. Mark's will be hosting Family Promise beginning January 8. If you are interested in volunteering to host dinner or stay overnight, please let me know.

Thanks!
Sue Garrett 638-0463 or 421-0400 ggarretts@qwest.net

Letter from Bishop Smylie

To the members of the diocese of Wyoming,

Advent is a season of preparation, a season of anticipation and a time of transformation. For me it is also a time when we may contemplate the journey God has given us. Jill and I will be making one of those journeys in March of this year.

As I reported at convention, it appears that a relationship born of the Holy Spirit may be on the horizon: a relationship with the diocese of Kiteto a newly formed diocese in Tanzania. In May of 2011, I had the opportunity to meet the Rt. Rev. Isaiah Chambala. Isaiah is the first bishop of the Diocese of Kiteto in Tanzania. We attended classes together, ate meals together and learned of each other's ministry.

Isaiah's diocese has around 200 congregations and they have been growing at a rate of approximately 1,000 new members per week. I learned that Isaiah makes his living as a farmer, and volunteers his time as bishop of the diocese. Their budget is less than \$25,000 per year. Isaiah told me that after one service held at the Cathedral, the Dean ran over to let him know they had raised around \$75 in the collection plate—a very good day at the Cathedral.

Earlier this year, Isaiah wrote and told me that due to of lack of funds he was unable to make his visitation to several congregations. Financial stability is obviously a challenge for the Diocese of Kiteto. As I explore opportunities for mission, it is important that we not enter one of financial dependence. I wish to enter a relationship in which both sides will prosper, and this is what I will explore during our journey in March. I believe we could benefit in this relationship, particularly in the area of church growth. However, I need to verify this before we begin.

During this Advent season, I am asking you to prayerfully consider making a donation to my discretionary fund to support this new diocese. It will need to be marked "Kiteto" so we can account for it. Jill and I will present your gift to assist Isaiah with his ministry in his diocese. All monies received will be used at Isaiah's discretion and given as a sign of our appreciation for the mission and sacrifice he has taken on in service to our Lord.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and may God bless you as you draw near to our Lord during this season.

Warmly,
The Rt. Rev. John S Smylie
123 S. Durbin St.

What's Going On In Outreach

Over the past year the outreach team has continued to be active in our local community and church. During this year we have given financial support for City County Health, Episcopal Relief and Development, Friday Food Bag Program, COMEA Shelter, Linus Blankets, Wyoming Coalition for the Homeless, and our gift card program for people who come to the church in need. During the holidays we supported collecting turkeys for COMEA shelter for Thanksgiving, the Christmas and Easter giving trees and the stocking program for COMEA.

Outreach has also provided "hands on" support by providing dinners for Family Promise, and serving dinner at COMEA shelter, along with hosting cyclists this past summer as they road across country in support for cancer research.

For the upcoming year the outreach team would like to continue involvement with Family Promise and dinners at COMEA. In fact if anyone in the parish is interested in serving dinner at COMEA we will continue to serve on the third Thursday of each month at 5:30. We would welcome two people in addition to two members of outreach to serve each month.

We will also be having a potluck dinner in January to discuss our future plans and goals for the upcoming year. If you are interested in attending this meeting please contact the church office for details.

Happy Holidays,
The Outreach Team

Spirit of St. Mark's Outreach Award

Periodically a member of our congregation is nominated for a Spirit of St. Mark's Award. This award recognizes members of the church who are reaching out to our congregation and community.

Recently Foy Jolley and Sylvia Stewart were nominated by parish members. Our parish has noted that both Foy and Sylvia enrich our church by continually displaying their creative talents and volunteering to help where needed.

All Are Invited to Monthly Outreach Meetings

St. Mark's Outreach Committee
meets the first Wednesday of every month.

Join us 7:00 pm
On *January 4* in the Guild Room



*In Christ's love, we seek, welcome, embrace and
serve the human family.*

Leadership Thoughts

- Plan your exit from the beginning (have at least one ministry apprentice or co-facilitator when volunteering).
- Deal with conflict directly (talk to the person directly that you have a conflict with – avoid gossiping to others – avoid using emails for resolving conflict)
- Keep a sustainable, Spirit-guided pace in life and ministry (pray always and pray in all ways)
- Don't say someone else's "No" (the busiest people are often the most effective volunteers – don't prejudge their decision - have them pray about and discern where God is calling them to serve)
- Honor people's time. Often times, meetings start or end late. We decide to wait until everyone is present before starting rather than honoring the planned times. By starting late, by waiting for one or two people, we end up dishonoring the other people who arrived on time.
- Commit to the Commitments
 - Commitment to our Compassion Vision and GRACE Core Values
 - Commitment to Duties (whatever you are called to do)
 - Commitment to Worship, Read the Bible, and Pray regularly
 - Commitment to Give Sacrificially
 - Commitment to the Green Light Approach (encouraging people, giving the "green light", and saying "yes" to possibilities)

Homeless Memorial Day Service

honoring those who have
died this past year

Wednesday, December 21
12 Noon

On the steps in front of the Wyoming State Capital.

Rector Class Continuing in February 2012

Between Services 9:15 – 10:05 a.m.

A Glimpse of the Holy

(This story by Kathleen Hirsch is from
Christian Century magazine.)

On the Sunday before Christmas I was potting the last of some jam when my three-year old son disappeared from the kitchen. Then I heard the metallic tinkle of ornaments on the lower boughs of our Christmas tree in the living room. Minutes later he was standing beside me holding a stuffed red heart that he'd taken from the tree. "Mommy," he announced. "Pretend that I am Gabriel." I looked at the chocolate around his lips and his utterly sincere and serious eyes. "Kneel down, Mommy," he instructed me. I obliged. Gabriel and I were face-to-face, inches apart.

"Mary," he addressed me. "You shall have a son. And this," he extended the plush red heart toward my face. "This is your holy." Here, he paused for emphasis. "You must carry your holy with you always, Mommy - even around your neck - so that Jesus will know that he is holy too." I looked at the heart offering, velvet and gold, resting in my hand. What to do with the hot coals of a prophet? Then, perhaps overcome by the force of his own inspiration, my Gabriel turned and fled back to distribute more of the "holy" to the creatures assembled in the crèche.

Slowly I got to my feet. For a moment my son had seen heaven and had offered me a glimpse. Not long out of diapers, he had lanced the literal with the intuition of a sage. Truth's vital core, the beckoning center of everything, is its holiness. I looked at the heart again. My son was far better attuned to the ways in which the sacred speaks. It comes to us on the wing; it grazes the heart. "Lest you become like children, you can not enter the kingdom of heaven," the words rang in my ears.

*Wishing you a Holy Christmas,
The Rev. Carol E. Peterson +*

Saint Mark's Dinner Groups

Contact the church office if you are interested in participating in one of these groups. Thanks to Mary Guthrie and Marshall Smith who have just stepped up to coordinate this ministry.



Parish Life

Team 3 serves in January

Sylvia Stewart Karine Sneesby Dian Murphy Alice Ruble



Get Connected - Girlfriends FUN Groups

"If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am not for others, what am I? And if not now, when?"

-Rabbi Hillel quotes

In 2011 - 145 Blankets were made and donated to Project Linus, many, many thank-yous to all who help in this effort! Just as Linus, in the cartoon Peanuts, was comforted by his blanket, most children hug their own blanket. We help fulfill that needed comfort when a child, through no fault of their own is caught in a traumatic situation. The blankets we make are like a lasting hug. We will continue this effort in 2012.

We need donations of either money or gift cards from Joann's Fabrics, Hobby Lobby, Wal-Mart, and gift certificates from the quilting stores Around the Block or Quilted Corner would be greatly appreciated. Our greatest need at the moment is polar fleece, batting and flannel (in "Kid-Pleasing" designs). Or a gift of yardage, we use polar fleece in 1 1/2 yard lengths. Any and all donations are appreciated! We welcome all to come to a workshop, remember that NO sewing skills are necessary! If you can use scissors, you have the ability to make a wonderful token of love. Would you please come and help? Together we can comfort a child with a new blanket, a symbol of comfort.

Workshops are on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in Read Hall from 1:00 - 2:30. Our next Linus workshop will resume on January 11 and 25 at 1:00 - 2:30 in Read Hall.

It is our mission to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer "blanketeers."



The Girlfriends Advisory Board has reviewed all the retreat evaluations filled out by the Wonder Full travelers and we thank you for your opinions. The majority of our travelers enjoyed the experience and felt that the day provided them with a sense of travel, an opportunity to develop friendships and increased their awareness of God and his amazing World. The retreat format also provided a time of worship and quiet contemplation. "Overall, it was a very good time."

The GAB team would like to take this opportunity to thank many of our Girlfriends who made financial donations to the Retreat. Because of your generous donations all those who wanted to attend Wonder Full World were able. You are WONDER FULL!

Girlfriends Unlimited is St. Mark's women's ministry dedicated to the philosophy of befriending, belonging, believing and becoming.

As we wrap up the old year the Girlfriends Advisory Board is very pleased with all that has been accomplished in women's ministry at St. Mark's during 2011. We have changed our focus and have channeled our energy into developing small shared-interest groups where women can connect and share with other women. The small-shared interest group, known as a FUN Group, is the heart of our women's ministry. In this small group setting our quilters have learned new techniques and skills, the members of our book group have read and discussed many different genre of books, Chrismons have been created, a variety of movies have been viewed and discussed as we sampled the menus of local restaurants, during our yoga group many unknown muscles have been stretched and several of our Girlfriends are participating in the Simply Relevant Bible Study Series.

Although the activities have been as varied and diverse as our Girlfriends, the threads of faith, friendship, fun and laughter runs through all of our groups.

The GAB team is looking forward to planning new experiences and adventures for all our

Girlfriends in 2012. It is our hope that more women of St. Mark's will be able to participate in one of the FUN Groups that are available or perhaps help develop a new FUN group to meet the needs and interests of the women of St. Mark's.

Listed below are the FUN Groups that are currently active, if you are interested in participating in one of these groups, please contact the Funicilator or the church office for more information.

Yoga with Fran—Fran Kline—Funicilator and instructor—First Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. in the Guild Rm-January 7, 2012.

Chrismon Creators—Betty Lee-Funicilator Are you interested in helping create the lovely ornaments that adorn the Christmas tree in the sanctuary? If so, contact Betty at 635-5326 and we will make beautiful Chrismons together.

Peace Makers-- (quilt and stitching group)—Chris Connell-Funicilator—meets the 1st and 3rd Fridays in Read Hall starting at 11 a.m.

Flick Chicks—Sylvia Stewart—Funicilator—Flick Chicks will meet on the 4th Saturday of the month. Movie and time will be announced by e-mail...so be checking your e-mail for upcoming details.

Lit 'n' Latte—(book group)—Stacey Bray —Funicilator. Meeting on the 2nd & 4th Mondays at **Barnes & Noble** coffee shop at 6:00 p.m.

Simply Relevant Bible Study—Susanna Garrett and Karine Sneesby—Funicilators—Meeting on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the Guild Rm. Our next session will start on January 29, 2012.

If you have an interest that you would like to share, you too can start a FUN group. Just contact Karine Sneesby, or the church office to get started on the road to fun and fellowship.

Changing Hearts. Changing Lives. One Girlfriend at a time.



Message to Veterans

Veterans do you KNOW WHERE YOUR DD Form 214 (Certificate of Discharge or equivalent) is located? If so have extra copies made for the wife or family member that will be responsible for your affairs upon your death. A copy of this form will be given to the Funeral Director upon your death, this entitles you to receive a US Flag and the family can request the assistance of the Funeral Director in filing claim for a grave headstone/marker. VA Form 40-1330 (Application for standard government headstone or marker)

Foy Jolley 630-5286 or 632-7750

Joining the Saint Mark's Legacy Society

Starting in 2009, we began receiving and acknowledging special donations from people for the purpose of building our endowment through the Centennial Foundation. We have three families who have donated and become members of the Saint Mark's Legacy Society. One gave a life insurance policy worth around \$5,000. Another gave a check for \$250 and the third family gave a check for \$10,000. If you are interested in becoming a Legacy Society member, please contact the church office. We will have annual events to honor those in the Legacy Society, the first was in the spring of 2010. They have also automatically become a member of The Bishop's Society for the Diocese of Wyoming. Your commitment to this church will insure many more years of ministry because of the growing Foundation. Please remember your church as you plan for your estate and wills.

Spiritual Direction

If you would like to meet with either a clergy person or with our trained spiritual director, Norm Peterson, please contact the church office at 634-7709.

Columbarium

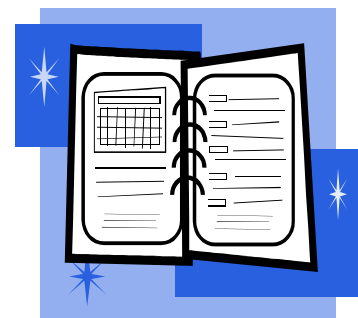
The St. Mark's Columbarium offers church members and others an opportunity to have their remains interred at the church as a memorial to their membership and service at St. Mark's. If you would like to request a niche, contact the church office at 634-7709.

January Birthdays

Jan 3 Drew Hill
Matthew Millin
Jan 4 Natalie Nicholas
Jan 6 Shirley McLelland
Jan 8 Barbara Dolby
Jan 11 Philip Ogle
Jan 12 Shelley Hood
Caroline Veit
Ashley Hotle
Jan 13 Alice Northcutt
Mary Guthrie
Jan 15 Robert McLelland
Madison McMinn
Colter Anderson
Jan 16 Michael Steege
Jan 18 Bill Lucas
Kathy Ogle
Debra Asscherick
Jan 19 Connor Keenan
Jan 20 Don Swanson
Kelsey Goetz
Jan 21 Chloe Illoway
Michael Steege
Jan 22 Susanna Garrett
Jim Garner
Jan 24 Mark Stewart
Jan 25 Jim Grubb
Jan 27 Mason DeVries
Jan 28 Jessie Murphy



If your birthday was missed please notify the church office at 634-7709.



New Photo Church Directory

The new photo directory is projected to be at the church by Sunday, January 15; just in time for the Annual Meeting. The directory is free to the people who had their photograph made for the directory. The directories will be placed on a table in the parish hall with names on them in alphabetical order.

Ministries

* Represents scheduling only

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church Small Groups

Contact the church office for more details on any of these groups.

Vestry Liaison - Nancy Abraham (Senior Warden)

Outreach Eric Nelson, Carol Peterson
Stewardship Nancy Abraham, _____

Vestry Liaison - Larry Swanson (Junior Warden)

Supplies and Repairs, Gardening, Service Contracts
Memorial Committee

Vestry Liaison – Bud Davis

Budget Team Bud Davis
Office Wanda Hughes
Music Betsy Taggart, Lynne Swanson

Vestry Liaison – Cheryl Lambert

Audit Team _____, Lynda Cook
Wedding _____, _____

Vestry Liaison – Darwin Pace

Daughters of the King Patti Jones, _____
Girlfriends Unlimited
Karine Sneesby, Susanna Garrett
Prayer Chain Lynne Swanson, Kay Perry
Linus Blankets Karine Sneesby, Laraine Hutchison
Web Page Chris Barlow, Jerry Jones
Pledge Rec. Pat Swanson, Betsy Phelan

Vestry Liaison – Lori Millin

Teen Ministry Vanessa Mancill, Tracy P
Health Ministry Carol Peterson, _____
Acolytes Bobbi Gard, Lori Millin
Catherine Rogers*
Welcome Dan Kline, Judy Weickum
Lectors (readers) Lynne Swanson, Norm Peterson

Vestry Liaison – Kelly Rankin

Children's Sunday School / Chapel

Parish Life _____, _____
Mara Funk, Kay Perry,
Sylvia Stewart
Staff / Contracts Rector / Wardens
Counters Darwin Pace, _____
Euch. Minister Jim Stewart, Carol Peterson
Euch. Vis./Hosp. Carol Peterson, Jim Stewart

Vestry Liaison – Alice Ruble

Adult Education Norm Peterson, _____
EFM Norm Peterson, Jim Stewart
Nursery Caroline Veit, Creta O'Holleran
Altar Guild/Flowers Marie Replogle, Alice Ruble
Ushers _____, _____

Bible Study

Thursdays 10 a.m. at Jim Dolby's house.

Dinner Groups

Sign up to be in a dinner group through the church office.

Education for Ministry (EfM)

Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m. This class begins in the Fall.

9 Girlfriends Unlimited (Women's Ministry)

Contact Karine Sneesby at gsneesby@juno.com to learn more about these different groups.

Mommies United, Yoga with Fran, Cuisine Queens, Chrismon Creators, Peace Makers, Flick Chicks, Lit 'n' Latte, Lit 'n' Lunch, Sunday Morning Bible Study

Membership Class (Baptism and Confirmation)

If you are interested in being a member of St. Mark's or being baptized or Confirmed, be sure to attend this class. It is led by the Reverend Rick Veit. Contact the church office for further details.

Men's Coffee

Every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. at Dazbog Coffee on Yellowstone.

New Members and Transfers

Transfers in:

Lucy Woodman

James Woodman

Transfers out:

Baptism:

Jake Fedrizzi

Abbi Fedrizzi

Enzio Fedrizzi

Confirmation:

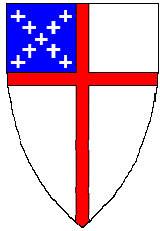
If you have come to St. Mark's recently and are interested in officially becoming a member please contact the church office at 634-7709.

Baptism

If You Desire Baptism, Be Sure To Mark Your Calendar For The Next Baptism Dates: January 8 and April 7

Contact the church office for more information.





St. Mark's Episcopal Church
1908 Central Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82001



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Happy New Year

Thank You!

Thank you to all the people who helped with the Christmas Giving Tree by donating food, gifts and delivery. The Peace Makers quilt group made stockings for the children that were beautiful. Thank you Dian Murphy for organizing this project.

Thank you Cheryl Lambert, on behalf of the Vestry for organizing the COMEA Shelter Christmas Stockings and the people who filled the stockings for the homeless. St. Mark's is lucky to have such giving parishioners.

Homebound Parishioners

If you would like Eucharist brought to you at your home, or in the hospital, please call the church office and this will be arranged. There is a contact number on the answering machine at the office if it is on the weekend.



Newsletter Articles are due the 2nd Monday of every month. The articles should be no larger than 1/8—1/4 page long. Please email them to the office at stmark307.ad@gmail.com.