



The Messenger of St. Mark's



1908 Central Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82001

December 2011

Meet St. Mark's New Children/Youth Director

My name is Amy Robinson and I am a mother of two beautiful boys. My oldest son is Darren Jr. and he is 6 years old. My youngest son is Gabriel and he is 3 ½ years old. They are the loves of my life and they definitely keep me busy and on my toes! I grew up in Cheyenne since I was in 5th grade; so needless to say, I call Cheyenne "home." Of course, I have moved away a number of times, but always to return. Some hobbies I enjoy doing in my free time include: spending time with my family and friends, cooking, organizing, drawing/painting, reading, music, and anything outdoors! I try to stay actively involved with my son's schools and plan on joining the PTA at Buffalo Ridge Elementary. I recently received my degree in Psychology and plan on continuing my education. My full-time job is as a Victim Advocate for victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking through Safehouse. I have been there for two years now and I am extremely passionate about my work and love my job! I am so excited to be a part of St. Mark's and extremely grateful for the opportunity to guide our youth. I look forward to meeting and getting better acquainted with each and every one of you. Thank you!

Pledging for 2012

The Stewardship Team thanks you for praying about and discerning how you are called to give to St. Mark's Episcopal Church in 2012. We are blessed that so many people have pledged of their time, talent, and/or treasure to make sure that ministry continues to happen through this Christ-focused light-house in Cheyenne. If you have not pledged yet, forms can be found through the church office. Our budget and our specific ministries are planned based upon how much you agree to pledge. Thank you!

2012 Budget Input Session

On Wednesday, December 14 at 5:30 p.m. at St. Mark's, you are invited to a 2012 budget input session. Please bring your questions and ideas. While you are invited throughout the year to give the vestry your input, this will be a focused time on next year's budget that will be presented at the annual meeting on Sunday, January 15 following a single 9:30 a.m. service.

Thank You!

The Junior Warden extends a big thank you to Bryan Coffman for completing the sheetrock work in the Children's Chapel and beginning the mudding and taping. This project is to build a fire resistant wall on the east side of the 2nd floor children's chapel as required by the Cheyenne Fire Dept. This is one of several projects to be completed to enhance the fire safety of the parish hall and church.

Wyoming Family Home Ownership Program

The WY Family Home Ownership Program thanks you for providing a "hand-up" to lower income working families with children. To date, our first 10 families are in their own homes, including 29 children. In addition, we have 18 families in the two years of preparation...living on a budget, working to improve their credit scores and saving \$100 each month as their preparation and contribution towards home ownership. Please consider making an early New Year's Resolution and join us with your skills as a mentor, friend and advocate to one of our single parent to two parent families. Training will be provided. Contact Terry Williams at wylfhop@bresnan.net or call him at 307-287-0540.

Plans for Thanksgiving?



Enjoy Thanksgiving with your St. Mark's family on Turkey Day, November 24 at 2 p.m. If you're not going out of town or have company coming, why not join us in the Parish Hall? Turkeys will be provided, but the rest will be potluck. (Sure beats slaving over a hot stove!) The sign up sheet in the Parish Hall. This is open to the public.

New Worship Planning Time

Mondays at 5 pm. In Fr. Rick's Office

All are welcome!

Vision

Compassion to the Power of ²

Core Values

G - God

R - Rely on Each Other

A - Accepting of All People

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

E - Excellence

Leadership 201:

Suggestions for Practicing the Core Values in Ministry

G - God

- Prayer to begin and/or end every meeting

R - Rely on Each Other

- Have at least two coordinators per ministry

A - Accepting of All People

- No discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic

C - Caring for All Creation

- Every ministry serve in at least one way inside St. Marks and one way outside St. Marks

E - Excellence

- Create a ministry support team (Vestry)
- All ministries have clearly defined goals – include timelines for ministry goals
- Training for volunteers (when, how often, who leads, what do we do if some do not show up?)
- Term limits for ministry coordinators - minimum 1 year/maximum 3 consistent years - No more than 2 or 3 ministries as coordinator
- Teach Shelem Meeting concept (set agenda / time limits in advance - changing would require the whole groups approval)
- Vestry would review, at least once a year, their goals for the church, and have updates of their goals at every meeting.

Poinsettia Plants

It is time again to order your poinsettia plant(s). There will be order forms in the back of the church or you can email the church office with how many you want and who you would like them dedicated to. The plants are \$15 each and you can drop your payment in the offering plate or mail it to the church office and put PLANT in the memo line. You may take your plant home after the Christmas service. Deadline for plant orders is



December 11.

Happy New Year!

(No - I'm not ahead of time ;-). Did you know that the Church Year is not the same as the calendar year? The Church Year does not start on January 1st but on the first Sunday of Advent and this year that is Nov. 27th. Advent is the first season of the Church Year and it is always four Sundays long.

Advent is one of my favorite seasons because it has wonderful traditions with lots of symbolism. One symbol is the very large wreath with special candles that will be in our sanctuary. The wreath is a visual symbol of progression of the Season; the first candle is lit on Advent 1, then two candles are lit on Advent 2, etc. until all four are lit on the 4th Sunday. You will also notice the church hangings and vestments will change to blue (the color associated with Mary, the mother of Jesus). Some churches also start out with an empty crèche that grows with more and more figures as the season progresses. And some also celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas on Dec. 6th providing an opportunity to explain to children the true origins of our modern day Santa Claus. Some people also mark the progression of the season in their homes with a special Advent calendar.

The word Advent comes from the Latin *Adventus* which means coming – not only referring to Christ's first coming years ago in Bethlehem but also to his coming again at the end of time. This Advent season, I encourage you to take time in the busyness of the holidays for quiet reflection and to look for the light of Christ in your life. Listen to the voices of Isaiah, John the Baptist and Mary in our Sunday readings. Take time to prepare the way for the coming of Jesus in your heart this Christmas and the Kingdom of God in your life and the world around you in this New Year.

Many Blessings,
The Rev. Carol E. Peterson+

Rector Forums

November 27 – December 18

Between Services / 9:15 – 10:05 a.m. / In the Guild Room

November 27 – Forum: How Are We Doing at St. Marks?

- This will offer a chance for people to speak up, offer ideas, and ask questions about how we are doing as a church.

December 4 – Forum: How Are We Doing In Liturgy and Worship?

- This will offer a chance for people to speak up, offer ideas, and ask questions about how we are doing specifically in liturgy and worship.

December 11 – Forum: Teaching The Liturgy

- If you are curious why we do what we do each week in worship, this is your class. Feel free to bring questions as well.

December 18 – Forum: The New Anglican Covenant

- What is this about and how will it affect us at St. Marks?

Outreach

African Team Ministry – Helping to Educate & Feed Children in Africa

This December we will again have hand-crafted items available for sale from African Team Ministries (ATM) in the Parish Hall. ATM is a Christian organization working as an intermediary between African and American churches. Support for the people of east Africa is provided in two ways. First, items created by the people living in the African countries of Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania are purchased, providing a means of support, and then they are sold in the U.S. through Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran and other churches. Second, they then provide funding for orphan and refugee relief work in East Africa.

The support they receive is sent to partnering Bishops in those countries to provide school fees, tuition, books, food and uniforms for school aged children. This support helps the children receive an education and a measure of stability for a better future.

In addition ATM is currently attempting to help address the issue of millions of Kenyans facing starvation due to the worst drought and famine in 60 years. In the famine areas almost 10% of the children under age 5 might die because children weakened by malnutrition are more susceptible to diseases such as measles and malaria. The ATM web site reports that each \$10 purchase of craft items will provided 100 meals of oatmeal and 150 servings of soup to hungry people in the famine areas.

Craft items will be on sale in the Parish Hall following both services on December 4th and 11th. Stop by and get a start on your Christmas shopping while helping our sisters and brothers on the other side of the world!

Blessings, Deacon Carol +

Family Promise

Unfortunately we didn't have any families to host for Family Promise this time around. A very special thanks to all who volunteered to host during the week: Susanna Garrett and Jim Garner, Amy Trelease Bell and Mike Bell, Nancy Abraham and Alice Ruble, John Rogers, Kelly Rankin, EFM, Father Rick, Lori Millin, Lynne and Larry Swanson, Darwin Pace, Outreach, Foy Jolley, Rosemary Todd, Harriet Chase and Catherine VanCarnbee. We will host again in early January and I will get the date to you as soon as it is available.

The future dates for hosting Family Promise are:

January 8-16

March 18-25

May 27- June 3

Aug 5-12

Oct 7-14

Dec 9-16

Thanks!

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



Christmas Outreach

It is time again to share our generosity with those in the community that have so little. The Christmas tree will soon be lit and covered with decorations with the names of five different families. The Outreach committee gathers the family names that need a little help over the holidays from the county health nurses. Our congregation then picks one or two names off the tree. We ask for canned food or other non-perishable food items for the family's Christmas dinner. The names on the tree will have ages, sizes, and sex of the child so it will be easy to purchase a gift for them. Sometimes the child has asked for a particular gift. The tree can be found in the parish hall before December 4 and the gifts and food will have to be returned by Sunday, December 14.

COMEA Shelter and Christmas Stockings

St. Mark's is once again sponsoring the COMEA House Christmas stockings. Our goal is to fill 100 stockings. Some of the items needed are travel type toiletries (razor shampoo deodorant tooth paste, tooth brush. Other items in need of are thermal underwear, hats, gloves, sweat shirts, sweat pants. Maybe some hard candy, small flashlights or any other small items. We will have stockings available in the back of the church starting Sunday November 13th. Please contact Cheryl Lambert or John Ott with any questions.

61 Shoe Box Gifts Collected for Operation Christmas Child!

St. Mark's collected 61 Operation Christmas Child shoe box gifts in October!!! All of the boxes are now on their way to needy children around the world to bring joy, hope and the gospel message. Thanks to you, the empty shoe boxes have become extraordinary gifts for children in need.

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 **December 7** in the Guild Room

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



"Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.'"

-Matthew 19:23-24

How comforting for a traumatized child to receive a new blanket during Advent and Christmas! Or anytime! Lots and lots of blankets will be blessed on November 20 during the 8 and 10:30 services. Many, many thank yous to all that helped in this effort! Just as Linus in Charlie Brown 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. We will make more blankets in 2012! Those blankets we make are like a lasting hug.

We need donations of either money or gift cards from Hobby Lobby or Walmart. 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.

Our next Linus workshop will resume in January 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."



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.

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.

Vehicle Needed

A parishioner is looking for a good running, automatic transmission, used car for around \$1500. Please contact the church office if you know of one: stmark307.ad@gmail.com



Get Connected - Girlfriends FUN Groups

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

Mommies United (for mothers of young children)---Caroline Veit-Funcilitator-If you are interested in this group contact Caroline.

Yoga with Fran—Fran Kline—Funcilitator and instructor—First Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. (Dec. class cancelled)

Chrismon Creators—Betty Lee-Funcilitator 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-Funcilitator—meets the 1st and 3rd Fridays in Read Hall starting at 11 a.m.

Flick Chicks—Sylvia Stewart—Funcilitator—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 —Funcilitator.

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—Funcilitators—Meeting on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in St. Mark's Guild Room (no studies in December).

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.



New Veteran's Ministry

A new ministry has been created at St. Mark's that is specifically geared to serve families of military veterans. The ministry will assist families when needing direction to the appropriate agencies in order to file veterans' benefits claims for such things as grave markers, military ID's, the reporting of the death of a retired military member, etc. Any questions may be directed to Foy Jolley at 307-630-5286 (cell) or 307-632-7750 (home).



Girlfriends Unlimited “Wonder Full World” Retreat

On Saturday, November 12, the St. Mark’s Parish Hall was transformed into the seven continents of the world and the women of St. Mark’s traveled around the world in just 7 hours! Our travelers made their journey via imaginary hot air balloons crafted by our creative decorating team.

During this amazing journey we didn’t explore the wonders of the world like the Great Pyramids or the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, we explored the wonders of a woman’s heart and discussed such questions as: I wonder if anyone cares about me? I wonder what’s ahead for me? I wonder if I can make a difference? These questions and many more were discussed in relationship to several Bible references with a focus on Mark 5:25-34 (The woman who touched Jesus’ cloak). Even the Guild room was transformed into the beautiful yet frigid and arid Antarctica complete with harsh cold winds and native penguins. While in Antarctica, our travelers reflected and meditated on the difficult question; where is God when life is hard?

Our worldly travelers experienced delicious international cuisine prepared and graciously served by the young ladies and gentlemen of the Culinary Science class at Triumph High School. We sampled such dishes as Kibbee from Asia, Feijoada from South America, Caribbean Coconut Chicken from North America, Moroccan Orange Salad from Africa, for dessert we were treated to Pavlovas from Australia, chocolates and cheeses from Europe.

As we sang the upbeat music, some old familiar tunes from our Sunday school days to more contemporary music, our hearts were touched by God’s amazing love. Many of us will be humming snippets of these tunes for days to come.

During our Wonder Full World retreat, we experienced stories and music that touched our hearts while fellowship and service projects warmed our souls on a windy cool November afternoon.

I would like to thank **all** the ladies involved in this Wonder Full World retreat. We had a vision that you made a reality.

With love and blessings,
Karine Sneesby, Girlfriends Unlimited coordinator

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.

Baptism

If You Desire Baptism, Be Sure To Mark Your Calendar For The Next Baptism Date: January 8.

Contact the church office for more information.

New Members and Transfers

Transfers in:

Jake, Abbi, and Enzo Fedrizzi

Transfers out:

Baptism:

Isabella Williams, Liam Esp

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.

Parish Life

Team 1 serves in December

Kay Perry Lynne Swanson Betsy Taggart Mary Guthrie
Marshall Smith Cheryl Hudson Jolley Alice Ruble

Ministries

* Represents scheduling only

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 _____, _____

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.

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church Small Groups

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

Rector's Forums

On Sundays between services, from 9:15 – 10:05 am in November and December

- How are we doing St. Marks? Nov. 27
- How are we doing in liturgy and worship? Dec. 4
- Teaching the liturgy Dec. 11
- The Anglican Covenant Idea Dec. 18

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.

Girlfriends Unlimited (Women's Ministry)

Contact Karine Sneesby at gsneesby@juno.com to learn more about these different groups. Descriptions can be found later in this newsletter.

Mommies United, Yoga with Fran, Cuisine Queens,
Chrismon Creators, Peace Makers, Flick Chicks,
Lit 'n' Latte, 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.

December Birthdays

Dec 2	Meg Rose	Dec 19	Matt Willis
Dec 3	Maddy Hotle		Liam Prey
Dec 4	Chuck Mills	Dec 21	Lee Stevens
	Kayleigh Hood		Erik Woolley
Dec 5	Ryan Lance	Dec 22	Katerina Smith
Dec 8	Terry Hendrix	Dec 23	Claire Davis
Dec 9	Rick Davis	Dec 24	Necia Nicholas
	Cindy Langmo	Dec 25	Jane Swanhorst-Ringolsby
	Catherine Rogers	Dec 27	Huey Robinette
	Beth Lance		Derek Turman
Dec 10	Charlotte Bell	Dec 28	Richard Barker
	Marti Gonzalez		Keith Hotle
	Sarah McDonough	Dec 29	Patrick Millin
Dec 11	Abbi Fedrizzi	Dec 30	Bob Boyle
Dec 13	John Ott		Sutton Willis
Dec 15	Tony Rose	Dec 31	Vanessa Mancill
Dec 16	Jake Fedrizzi		



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