

# A Voice in the Wilderness

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST



## February 2012

### Lenten Reflection

Repentance, turn, return—in Hebrew these three words have a common root: *teshuvah, lashuv, shuvah*. Lent has a character of turning away from those things that often preoccupy us and moving in another direction, as Jesus did when he entered the wilderness. Lenten disciplines are a turning away from those things that dominate and control us. It is turning away from those things that hinder us from sensing and living in the steadfast abundant love of God. Lenten turning is a path into the “wilderness” just as it was for Jesus.

In life’s wilderness experiences, times of doubt, illness or loss, the temptations to question the loving presence of God are many. The temptation to put ones ultimate trust in the false gods such as power, materialism, or worldly success, is strong. So for the forty days of Lent we intentionally take the path that turns into the wilderness. We take on simple

# A Voice in the Wilderness

## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

disciplines, prayer, fasting, acts of compassion and service, to show our willingness turn from our thoughts and actions that hinder us from experiencing the abiding presence God.

We fast as a sign of our willingness to set boundaries for ourselves. We fast as a sign of our connection to all those whose daily lives are affected by hunger. We pray for forgiveness, for a right relationship with ourselves, with creation, with God. We do acts of compassion and service to incarnate the love of God which encompasses us.

“The word is very near you,” says the Lord. (Deut. 30:14) Not so you can merely hear it or think about it, but so you can do it and be it in the name of Christ. Returning to God is not just a mental exercise, but a turn that changes us and the way we live.

Blessings,

Father Michael

# A Voice in the Wilderness

## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

### Senior Warden Report

The Vestry at St. John's wishes to thank all who generously pledged for 2012! The budget prepared by our diligent and skilled Treasurers Eric and Lorie and adopted by the vestry is nearly balanced. However, it should be understood that 2012 is not a typical year financially. Because Fr. Michael is only "half-time", our salary and rector's expenses are less than what they would be with a full-time priest. In order to support a full-time rector, we will need to figure out how to meet that commitment through a combination of revenue increases and/or expenditure decreases. I only mention this now so that you can pray and think over the next few months possible solutions to our "situation".

I am passing along the following message from Don Hicks:

Insuring the future of St. John's Granby through the St. John's Granby Legacy Society.

"A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children *Proverbs 13-22*. And are we not all children of God? Therefore leaving a legacy to the church helps to insure that all of God's children will be fed with the word of the Lord after our passing – at St. John the Baptist in Granby, Colorado.

Our Diocesan Legacy Society was started in 2003 by the Colorado Episcopal Foundation as an umbrella organization for legacy giving for all Diocesan parishes and missions. The Legacy Society at St. John's was initiated in 2004.

Please pray about your legacy to the church, especially to St. John's. If you haven't already done so, make or update your will.

Please consider joining the other 6 families of our congregation that are members of the St. John's Granby Legacy Society.

If you have questions or would like to join the St. John's Legacy Society, contact Don Hicks (970-887-3921) or the rector at the church office (970-887-2742).  
Pay it Forward.

# A Voice in the Wilderness

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

## **The Annual Meeting**

We had good attendance at the annual meeting – approximately 40 members. Following a delicious pot-luck lunch, each committee had the opportunity to report on the accomplishments of the year just past. Fr. Michael and Deacon Diane each addressed the group. Lorie Wheeler presented the proposed budget for 2012. The budget still needs final approval by the vestry. Finally, the membership elected Joan Von der Heiden and Stu Findley to fill the vestry posts vacated by Kathe Morck and Beth Collins. Amy Zacek-Smith will remain on vestry but is stepping down as Jr. Warden due to her busy schedule. Fr. Michael has asked me to serve another year as Sr. Warden.

--BRAD--

# A Voice in the Wilderness

## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST Search Committee Report

Your Search Committee continues to progress towards our ultimate assignment of recommending to the vestry a list of candidates for our next rector.

Please be reminded that in the Episcopal Church, a new rector is St. John's responsibility. Best we get it right! Of course, we do get lots of help from the Bishop's Office throughout the process. Help comes primarily from Rev. Canon Lou Blanchard, but even Bishop O'Neil finds time to get involved. All candidates must be vetted by the Diocese prior to any recommendations from the vestry. In fact, Bishop Rob, and Canon Lou have just instituted a new policy. They will visit the search/vestry teams of every church that is in the search process. Ideally, these visits will be timed to coincide with profile(s) completion. Knowing how incredibly busy they both are, their visit might be sooner or later.

In the January Newsletter, we anticipated that the survey would be sent out some time mid January. It actually was sent out on January 4.

Survey response has been OK for sure, but we still have many more people to hear from. If you wonder whether you are qualified to fill out yours, the answer is YES!!!!!! Please keep in mind, for example, that our hope is to hear from both spouses, not just one.

We have been working on the parts of the profile that can best be started (but not completed) prior to the survey results. Members of the committee have individual assignments such as history, facilities, community and county descriptions, educational opportunities, etc, etc,etc. Your continued input and interest will help us to be accurate and thorough.

We absolutely must be accurate in forming the job description for the potential candidates who are interested in becoming our next rector ~ also known as the next "Chief Executive Officer" of St. John's and Cranmer.

There are obviously many more steps in the process, so please stay tuned for the next installment.

# A Voice in the Wilderness

## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Meanwhile, if you have taken the time to read this, please take another half hour or so to join in the process by completing your survey.

For the Committee, Thank You!

Ken Von der Heiden, Chair

# A Voice in the Wilderness

## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

### CHILDREN'S

O

R

Dear Boys and Girls,

N

It's time to eat pancakes! For dinner? Why not? We're going to have a Pancake Party at

E

St. John's on the day before Ash Wednesday in celebration of Shrove Tuesday.

R

Why do Christians call the day 'Shrove Tuesday'? The name 'Shrove' comes from the old word 'shrive' which means "to confess". On Shrove Tuesday, during the Middle Ages, people used to confess their sins so that they were forgiven before the season of Lent begins.

What is Shrove Tuesday? Well, it is a day of celebration as well as penitence, because it's the last day before Lent. Throughout the United Kingdom people indulge themselves on foods that are traditionally not eaten during Lent.

Why are pancakes eaten on Shrove Tuesday? Lent is a time of abstinence, of giving things up (as well as adding a holy practice). So Shrove Tuesday is the last time to indulge yourself and to use up the foods that aren't allowed during Lent. In England it is traditional to eat pancakes on this day because they contain fat, butter and eggs which were forbidden during Lent. Made from batter and fried in fat, the ingredients in pancakes have special meaning: eggs symbolize creation, flour represents the staff of life, salt signifies wholesomeness, and milk symbolizes purity.

When does Lent begin? Ash Wednesday, the day after Shrove Tuesday, is the first day of Lent which lasts for 40 days and ends the day before Easter Sunday.

What is Ash Wednesday? It is a day of penitence to clean the soul before the Lenten fast. Christians use ash as a symbol of being sorry for things they have done wrong and want to get rid of forever.

Why is it called Ash Wednesday? Ashes were used in the past as a symbol of being sorry. The tiny smudge of ash put on our foreheads is a sign of sorrow at not having always been good over the past year.

What do the ashes symbolize? Using ashes to mark the cross on the forehead symbolizes that through Christ's death and resurrection, all Christians can be free from sin.

Please bring your family to church on these two very important days in February. I hope to see you in church on Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday so that we can begin the journey of Lent with everyone in our St. John's Family.

Blessings,  
Deacon Diane

P.O. Box 954 Granby • CO 80446 • (970) 887-2742

---

# A Voice in the Wilderness

## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

### DRESSES FOR HAITI

One of my favorite quilt shops in the metro area, Holly's Quilt Cabin, is collecting homemade sundresses in a variety of children's sizes for Littleton Church of Christ's mission trip to Cap-Haitian and Port- au- Prince, Haiti this month. The missionaries hope to provide 900 dresses for the little girls, and, the little boys will receive a gift, too, as 770 wooden toy cars and trucks have been donated by Toys for God's Kids. The missionaries will be helping a school of 600 children with food and clothing as well as assisting 2 orphanages.

The dresses need to be brought to St. John's by Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, in order to be delivered to the quilt shop in time to be packed for the trip. If you need the pattern you can find it at a link available at [www.quiltcabin.com](http://www.quiltcabin.com). Thank you to all of our sewers for taking the time to make these pretty sundresses. I know I had a lot of fun sewing, as well as lifting up the recipients in prayer so that they know that someone they haven't even met loves and cares about them. Can you imagine the smiles as the girls receive a brand new dress?

At coffee hour a group of women started to brainstorm about having a "Sewing Day" in which we can gather with our fabric (you know, the stash in the back of your closet), and our sewing machines, for a time of uninterrupted sewing so that we can make lots of dresses for Haiti's little girls for a future mission trip. If you don't have sewing skills but would like to help, we could probably use helpers who can accurately measure, cut, or pin fabric. Interested? Let Deacon Diane know if you would like to help!

### NEWS FROM THE COLORADO HAITI PROJECT

In Haiti, the residents of Petit Trou de Nippes are awaiting the completion of a bridge that is the first step to completing Route 206, one of the major roads out of Port au Prince to the west. Since the first days of the Colorado Haiti Project, Petit Trou has been literally at the end of the road. We are optimistic that the completion of this bridge will pave the way for a sustainable future, abundant with opportunity.

On the education front, we had a successful working Education Mission in November of 2011. On this mission the roadwork was laid to restart the Women's Sewing Program, which has been on hold since the 2010 earthquake. The sewing school should be up and running soon for the remainder of the school year. At the same time, we have started work on a vocational school that will initially be housed under the umbrella of the sewing school. But will eventually have its' own building and site.

The mission of St. Paul's Vocational School is to offer continuing education to the people of Petit Trou region to enable them to develop careers in support of their families without having to leave the community. Most adults in the region do not have the opportunity to work for any kind of wage and so to make an income, individuals must leave the area for Port au Prince. The Haitian government, the UN and other development organizations now realize that a stable economic future in Haiti depends on decentralization. Haitians must have access to means for economic

# A Voice in the Wilderness

## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

security, health care, and education outside the major cities. St. Paul's school provides the opportunity for an education, and the vocational school, will take us one step closer to the goal of economic security for the region!

### **COMMUNITY HEALTH**

In March, there will be a Women's Health Mission that is a follow-up to the 2010 mission. Several members from the original team will be attending. The community is excited to welcome the mission and plans are underway to address a variety of women's health challenges.

### **WATER PROJECT**

Board member Don Snyder and Fr. Abiade Lozma are working to train local project managers who will train additional well repairmen and provide oversight for all aspects of maintenance and repair in each of the 12 communities where CHP built wells as part of the water project. This work is vital in meeting our goal of building both capacity and self-sufficiency.

# A Voice in the Wilderness

## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

As we begin our Lenten journey this month let us reflect on the Great Commandment. The following is from 40 Day Journey with Kathleen Norris;

The Great Commandment, to love God with all your heart and soul, and your neighbor as yourself, seemed more subtle than ever. I began to see the three elements as a kind of trinity, always in motion, and the three loves as interdependent. It would be impossible to love God without loving others; impossible to love others unless one were grounded in a healthy self-respect; and maybe, impossible to truly love at all in a truly secular way, without participating in the holy.

Reflect on;

What does it mean for you to love God?

What it means to love yourself?

What does it mean to love others?

How are these three loves connected for you?

Thank God for all the people you love and who love you (name them); pray that your love for them and their love for you might deepen and be an expression of your love for God.

Submitted by Kaye Piper

# A Voice in the Wilderness

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

February 2012

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
			1	2	3	4
					3 PM CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER	8 AM MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST * 5 PM HOLY EUCARIST AT CRANMER CHAPEL
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:45AM HOLY EUCARIST					3 PM CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER	8 AM MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST * 5 PM HOLY EUCARIST AT CRANMER CHAPEL
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:45AM HOLY EUCARIST					3 PM CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER	8 AM MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST * 5 PM HOLY EUCARIST AT CRANMER CHAPEL
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:45AM HOLY EUCARIST & SUNDAY SCHOOL		SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER AT ST. JOHNS			3 PM CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER	8 AM MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST * 5 PM HOLY EUCARIST AT CRANMER CHAPEL
26	27	28	29			
8:45AM HOLY EUCARIST						