

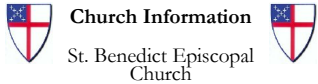


St. Benedict Episcopal Church, La Veta, CO

St. Benedict News

Volume 2, Issue 2

March-April 2008



Church Information
St. Benedict Episcopal Church

113 W. Field St.

PO Box 1186

La Veta, CO 81055

719-742-5202

Web: stbenedictlaveta.org

The Rev. Lyn Burns, Vicar

Office: 124 N. Main St.

719-742-5202

Hours: Tu. & Th. 9AM-Noon

Contemplative Prayer:

Mon. 12:15PM @ Church Office

Breakfast Group:

Tu. 8AM @ Sammies

Healing Service:

Th. Noon @ Church

Contemplative Prayer:

Fri. 3:00PM @ Dream Mountain Healing Arts

St. Benedict News Staff

Editor: Susan Simons

Publisher: Fran Sanden

Contributing Editors

Lyn Burns

Eleanor Foley

John Frederick

Don Lowell

Susan Simons



Claudia's 96th Birthday Party

Letter from the Vicar

The season of Lent and Easter represent the spectrum of human existence—birth and death—those ultimately defining moments of our lives—as well as the many little births and deaths that we experience throughout our lives. During Lent we were invited to be more intentionally quiet in order to reflect upon our lives more deeply. In our journey to the Cross, through readings and sermons, we explored some of the more humbling and often painful aspects of what it means to be human.

At our Maundy Thursday service at St. Benedict, we experienced Jesus' self-giving love and

service by participating in a foot washing ritual. An ecumenical service held at Christ the King Catholic Church that evening raised our awareness of the significant impact each one of us makes on the world through our individual attitudes and behaviors. At the same time, the joyous fact was that individuals representing several different Christian traditions had come together as one in Christ.

In commemorating the traditional "passing over" from bondage to freedom and death into life during the Saturday night Easter Vigil, St. Benedict was deeply blessed by the baptism

of Carolena Quiroga in her new life in Christ.

The sound of our "Alleluias," so welcome after 40 days of silence, continued at the celebratory Easter Sunday service. The triumph of life over death and the promise of endless renewal in Christ Jesus was vividly illustrated when every member of the congregation came forward during the service to cover a bare, free-standing cross with beautiful, fresh flowers.

I pray this Easter that the picture in our minds of the beauty of transformation of all that dies—as God's eternal promise to us—will remain deeply etched in our hearts and our minds and bring us all deep comfort, joy and peace.

Celebration of a New Ministry

Each year, the Bishop of Colorado visits St. Benedict. Always a special occasion, this year's visit by Bishop Rob O'Neill on June 1 promises to be even more so. As part of the Sunday Eucharist ser-

vice which Bishop Rob will celebrate, Rev. Lyn will be officially installed as Vicar of St. Benedict.



Carolena's Baptism Party

Church & Community Happenings

Stations of the Cross Presentation—In early March, Sherrie Niermann and Diane Moore, co-founders of Mary's Hope, gave members of St. Benedict and the wider community an opportunity to experience a deeply moving presentation entitled Journey to the Cross. The presentation featured about 180 images of the bronze Stations of the Cross in San Luis, along with selections of sacred music which carried the viewer from Pilate to the resurrection. For those unable to make the trek

up the mountain in San Luis to see the Stations, this was a wonderful way to bring the mountain to them; for those who have done the trek, the new perspectives afforded by the beautiful images added an unexpected richness and depth to our Lenten experience.

Celtic Spirituality—Several St. Benedict members recently attended an excellent presentation at St. John's Cathedral in Denver given by poet, scholar and teacher, J. Philip Newell. Philip Newell is internationally acclaimed for his

work in the field of Celtic spirituality. He has played a leading role on both sides of the Atlantic in the re-birthing of a creation spirituality for today.

Lenten Movies—For a second year, St. Benedict participated with the United Methodist Church in a Lenten movie series. Held weekly during Lent, the movie series explored a wide range of issues and themes—from the death penalty in *Dead Man Walking*, to forgiveness and reconciliation in *At the End of a Spear*. In a

continued from above...

lighter vein we saw *Finding Neverland* which was a poignant reminder of the joy and delight of childlike innocence. Other movies included *The Pawnbroker*, which painted a heart-breaking picture of life without hope, *The Grapes of Wrath*, and *Secondhand Lions*. The evenings included snacks, fellowship, and a brief discussion following each movie.

Centering Prayer—During Lent, St. Benedict opened its doors for half an hour each morning and late afternoon during the week for Centering Prayer. Individuals from St. Benedict and the larger community had an opportunity to be quiet in the prayerful and sacred space that St. Benedict provides. A number of individuals took advantage of the Centering Prayer workshops

offered by Rev. Lyn. These involved watching a video by Thomas Keating on Centering Prayer and discussing the practice. Those of you who wish to continue Centering Prayer on a regular basis are asked to call Rev. Lyn at 742-3627. For further information on Contemplative Prayer: www.centeringprayer.com

Upcoming Rohr/Keating Conference—Fr. Richard Rohr, a Franciscan of the New Mexico province and founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, NM, and Fr. Thomas Keating, a Cistercian monk at St. Benedict's Monastery in Snowmass, CO, one of the founders of the Centering Prayer movement,

will be the presenters at a conference entitled, "The Inner Room." The conference, which will be held from June 27-29 at the Center for Action and Contemplation will help participants "increase their conscious contact with God" through the practice of prayer and meditation.

For further information: www.cacradicalgrace.org/conferences/inner/

We welcome all contributions to our newsletter, which is published bimonthly.

Presentations by the Congregation

During the last few months, individuals from St. Benedict and others have made extremely interesting presentations after Sunday services.

Retty Schreiber shared with us her two-week experience of rebuilding homes in Mississippi as follow-up to the Katrina disaster with a group sponsored by UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). Retty felt that she really received more than she gave.

In February, Bill Starke was also involved in a mission trip with UMCOR – this time to Greenburg, Kansas, a town almost totally flat-

tened by a tornado. Being able to help people who were in that much need and who had that much faith in God was for Bill an “incredibly gratifying experience.”

Sharon Cairns Mann, author of the recently published book, *Mother of Exiles* gave us insights into the art of writing and answered questions about her gripping new book set in a women’s correctional facility and written from the perspective of a young chaplain.



There is Hope! Community of Hope

Our current training class began on Friday, March 28th, at St. Benedict. In the first class we learned about COH, talked about our call to ministry, and considered our expectations. Classes will continue every Friday morning from 8:30-10:30 AM until approximately June 20th. Topics to be covered include pastoral care; listening

skills; understanding family systems; death, grief and loss; confidentiality and debriefing. A tuition fee of \$50 to cover program materials is suggested. Funds may be available to offer scholarships or to reduce the tuition fee.

Community of Hope has a spin-off called Circle of Care which

continues year round after we are trained. The Circle is beginning visits to the Walsenburg Veterans Hospital and to others in our community. We welcome names of those needing a listening presence. Also, we are sponsoring the cancer survivors with a reception meal which will begin the Relay for Life on June 13th.

Eleanor Foley

News from Jene and Anita Moore

I think we are winding down after several months of emotional and physical highs and lows. Early in December, Jene and his brother, Jack, celebrated their 85th birthday at our house with a huge family gathering. Two days later, my sister, May Runge Kissko died unexpectedly and peacefully in her sleep.

Jene’s increasing leg pain evolved into replacement of a hip joint in January. He is diligently participating in rehab to get back in action.

Meanwhile, projects around this house and yard go on. Jene is building an island for this kitchen, changing out some light

fixtures, and so on. Anita continues to work on the changeover to Arts and Crafts style décor and on native plant landscaping for the yard.

Looking ahead, we are preparing to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary, which is in November, but we plan to start celebrating July 12 and will want St. Benedict to help us

Stewardship Report

There are three "T's" in stewardship. Time, Talent and Treasure! Time and Talent are necessary to keep a church running smoothly and your commitment to these two areas is greatly appreciated.

Treasure is also a key component to St. Benedict's viability! In early 2007 our congregation responded with open hearts and purses after our discernment led to three areas of commitment: (1) supporting a full-time priest, (2) sharing the Community of Hope with others in our community, and (3) offering a Celtic spirituality retreat. Our pledges matched our commitment. We are blessed that Rev. Lyn Burns is here to

lead us in our spiritual journey. We are fortunate to continue our commitment to the Community of Hope and the Celtic Spirituality Retreat.

Prior to 2008 the Diocese of Colorado provided much needed financial support toward the salary of our priest. Beginning in 2008 we have been nudged out of the nest to fly on our own. We will need an overall increase of 10% in our pledge drive to meet the goals of our 2008 budget.

And speaking of the pledge drive, we will have two this year. Due to the change to a calendar fiscal year, St Benedict will hold a

pledge drive in April/May for the six month period July-December 2008 (the current pledge year ends June 30th). In September/October we will hold a second pledge drive for the 2009 calendar year. Don't worry, it may sound confusing, but we'll keep you informed!

And finally, Time and Talent. After more than five years as chair of the Stewardship committee, it is time for me to step aside in July. I know that waiting in the wings are special individuals ready to lead and serve St. Benedict in this capacity. Could that be you? If so, please let Stirling know.

Don Lowell

Treasurer's Report

Our small congregation now has big time financial reporting capabilities thanks to the incredible undertaking begun in 2006 by our former treasurer, Van Muhn. Our income and expenses are properly recorded and verified by our local accountant. Budgeting and financial forecasting are now easily available. The new system also allows proper recording of pledge

payments. Many of you received a statement for your 2007 pledge payments and the treasurer can give you an update on your pledge payments any time thanks to this new reporting system.

In January, St Benedict changed our fiscal reporting year from a July-June fiscal year to a calendar year to comply with the Colorado Diocese requirements. This has

necessitated a change in our pledge drive season (see Stewardship article in this issue). As a result, the Bishop's Committee has just completed a calendar year 2008 budget to be presented to the congregation in April.

Please know that the financial controls put in place by Van Muhn will be continued by John Frederick under the direction of the Bishop's Committee.

John Frederick

Discretionary Fund

Each month, a percentage of the Sunday service plate offering is put towards Rev. Lyn's Discretionary Fund, which is used for charitable gifts for those in need. In recent months, St. Benedict has been able to contribute to some extremely worthwhile causes.

Currently we are supporting a child's attendance at Clouds to Rainbows Kid's Kamp, a camp sponsored by Sangre de Cristo Hospice and Palliative Care to help children in their grieving process following major loss.

Through the Discretionary Fund, we have contributed to Cuchara Valley Christian Community Services which

helps needy individuals in our community. At the request of the Presiding Bishop, Katharine Jefferts Schori, our Easter Sunday plate offering, totaling nearly \$200, was sent to the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East as a token of our support and love.