



St. Benedict Episcopal Church, La Veta, CO

# St. Benedict News

Volume 2, Issue 1

January-February 2008



## Church Information



St. Benedict Episcopal Church

113 W. Field St.

PO Box 1186

La Veta, CO 81055

719-742-5202

Web: [stbenedictlaveta.org](http://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

### Bible Discussion:

Tu. 3:00 PM @ Church

### Healing Service:

Th. Noon @ Church

### Contemplative Prayer:

Fri. 3:00PM @ Dream Mountain Healing Arts

## Letter from the Vicar

A new year—a new beginning. Epiphany—a new manifestation of God in Christ—the breaking-in of God’s kingdom in new and unprecedented ways, offering new hope and new life. May this new year for each and every one of you be filled with new hope and may you all continue to be renewed in God’s transforming grace and love. God is good, so very good.

My first four months at St. Benedict have been filled with goodness and blessing—the goodness and blessing that all of you manifest in your ordinary” and “extraordinary” lives. I continue to be deeply struck by the giftedness

and richness of this diverse and remarkable community. You manifest God’s grace and love in so many ways—in visible ways through the various official church ministries in which you are involved, as well as in the countless ways that may be invisible to most—a call to check on someone after a big snow, an invitation to tea, a hug when it is most needed, a thoughtful card, an encouraging word, and on and on. It is with much joy and excitement that I embark on this new year with you all, honored to serve you, as you continue to serve one another so lovingly in the footsteps of Christ Jesus.

## St. B’s Photo Corner



Decorating the church



Scott Turner

## St. Benedict News Staff

Editor: Susan Simons

Publisher: Fran Sanden

## Contributing Editors

Lyn Burns

Stirling Lathrop

Don Lowell

Claudia Smith

## New Stained Glass Window

On December 23, we dedicated the third of our new stained glass windows generously donated by Sarah and Don Lowell, Margaret Pelton Webster and George Webster. Titled “Compassion,” the window incorporates sacred geometrical designs

and features deep blues and reds. It is more than a wonderful addition to St. Benedict. Jill Schwarz, who has designed and is making the windows, is at work on the last three. We expect to have all six windows installed by this summer.



# The Church in Advent

St. Benedict was a wonderful place to be during Advent. At the start of Advent, many of us joined in the traditional greening of the church with the poinsettias' red glowing against the greens at the ends of the pews and around the windows. Also a tradition at St. Benedict, Joseph and Mary started their journey from the back of the church to Bethlehem and the crèche, moving forward window by window each Sunday of Advent until Christmas Eve when they finished their journey.

The Saturday before Christmas, St. Benedict opened its doors to a

community carol sing followed by hot cider and many, many cookies in all shapes and flavors. Almost 50 persons joined us: our own parishioners and many from other churches and those who are not affiliated with any church.

Advent concluded with snow on the ground and a Christmas Eve service for about 30, again not only members of St. Benedict but others from throughout the larger community. Our Christmas Eve service was followed by another at the Cuchara chapel, led by our parishioners, Susan and Jack Risen.

We hope that you had a blessed Christmas in the warmth of family and friends.

## Winter in Maine

Tell folks that so far we have had 71 inches of snow in Blue Hill and it was 10 degrees this morning with a -20 wind chill. Geez and I thought La Veta got cold!

Claudia Smith, 1-4-2008

## Stewardship

There is "that word" again. What does that word bring to mind for you? Many, including myself, think of money. When I was asked to be stewardship chairman, I discovered that "stewardship" meant at least three areas of support to the church. They are time, talent and treasure. Treasure will come up again twice this year. But now,

let us look at talent and time. While they may not seem as important as money, for St. Benedict, they are essential if we are to be a strong, growing church and an asset to the community. What comes to your mind? Is it playing the piano, singing, painting as needed, serving as acolyte, serving on altar guild or Bishop's

*Stewardship means at least three areas of support to the church: time, talent and treasure*

Committee, preparing food, fund raising, hosting game nights, remodeling, making jelly or mowing the grass? Let us share our time and talents in the same spirit in 2008 as we did in 2007.

Don Lowell

## Pledging for 2008 and 2009

For several years, St. Benedict's fiscal year has started July 1 and ended June 30. Our pledging year has coincided with this fiscal year. However, the Colorado Diocese has directed that our fiscal year now must be the calendar year. Therefore, we now need to conduct two pledge drives. The first will cover the period from July 1 to

December 31, 2008. The next pledge period will cover the period January 1, 2009, to December 31, 2009. Thus, in May of this year, you will receive a request to pledge one-half of what you would have pledged on a yearly basis for the period July 1 to December 31, 2008. Then, in the fall, you will receive another request to pledge

for the period January 1 to December 31, 2009. Please contact me with any questions at (719) 742-6655 or by email at [lbsterize@yahoo.com](mailto:lbsterize@yahoo.com).

Stirling Lathrop

# Church & Community Happenings

For the size of our St. Benedict community in La Veta, the contributions so many make towards our church ministries are quite remarkable. I refer to those who contribute in an “official capacity,” as well as those who work so diligently, faithfully, and tirelessly “behind the scenes.” And please know, any time you pray—even one of those “God help us” kind of prayers, you are making one of the most powerful and significant contributions that you could possibly imagine—not only to our community but to the healing of this entire world.

**Bible Discussion**—The St. Benedict Bible Discussion group resumed its exploration of the Gospel of Mark this month at 3:00 PM Tues at our new church location. Mary White will help lead this group during January. Any-

one needing a ride, please contact Lyn or Stirling.

**Community of Hope**—Eleanor, Wanda and Lyn have been meeting regularly these past few months to plan the full launching of Community of Hope. With the support and cooperation of the Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center, a presentation to local leaders who represent many disciplines—civic, medical, religious and more—will be given in early February. The goal of the presentation will be to outline this international program that trains individuals to become lay chaplains, skilled in the art of *listening* and being a *compassionate and non-judgmental presence* to those in need in our community. As the Community of Hope at St. Benedict will eventually become the training

center for the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado, this is a major undertaking. Whoever would like to become involved can be assured of a “niche” to help out—we are going to need all the help we can get.

**Upcoming Acolyte and Eucharistic Visitor Training**—At a soon-to-be-announced date in late January, Edwina Burdekin, Deacon at St. Raphael Episcopal Church in Security, Colorado, will be visiting to provide training to all those interested in becoming acolytes and Eucharistic Visitors.

**Attention Knitters**—A Prayer Shawl Ministry can be such fun and reminds recipients of how much they are cared for and loved. Any interest? Contact Lyn.

## Visitors to St. Benedict

St. Benedict recently hosted two visitors whose work connects us through them to the larger body of Christ. On November 11<sup>th</sup>, Wills and Pat Long spoke about the keystones of Benedictine spirituality, with special emphasis on the influence such keystones as moderation, balance, silence, hospitality and humility have had on their lives. The “Benedictine Way” is a weekly program they initiated at St. Barnabas in Denver where people from the church and the community

gather regularly for soup and bread, silence, scripture, and prayer. St. Benedict has asked Wills and Pat to return in the spring to give a half-day retreat.

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Scott Turner spoke about the mission of Cross International to deliver food, shelter, and hope to the poorest of the poor. Scott Turner is a cradle Episcopalian from Texas who has long had a passion for the gospel call to assist the poor of the

world. His work as an Outreach Spokesman for Cross International gives him this opportunity. Cross International began in 1997 with a first donation of a million dollars and has parleyed that into an annual budget of over 200 million, 98% of which goes to services for the poor. They deliver goods (such as food, building materials, and recycled medical equipment) rather than money to a network of local churches and ministries around the world. Their methods can multiply the buying power of a contribution from 10 fold to eighty fold. Website: [www.crossinternational.org](http://www.crossinternational.org)

## St. Benedict’s Commitment to the Cuchara Valley Community

St. Benedict is, of course, committed to the welfare of its members. However, St. Benedict also is involved in and has an ever increasing presence in the larger Cuchara Valley community. Rev. Lyn is now a member of Rotary and the church is a member of the Chamber of Commerce. In addition, the church has an important

ministry in and through the Cuchara Valley Christian Community Services (CVCCS). CVCCS is primarily a service organization comprised of valley churches to provide year round financial and other help for those with emergency needs in the community. Among its major activities, CVCCS collects money and

assembles food baskets for those in need at Christmastime. This year, St. Benedict’s parishioners were among the most generous, contributing money and over 20 large boxes of food.

CVCCS coordinates several ecumenical services in the community, including Thanksgiving, Good Friday and a Memorial Service.