

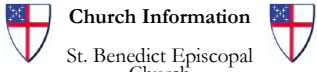


St. Benedict Episcopal Church, La Veta, CO

St. Benedict News

Volume 2, Issue 3

Summer 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

Centering Prayer

Mon-Fri 8:00AM & 4:30PM @ Church

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

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Contributing Editors

Lyn Burns

Stirling Lathrop



Bishop Rob & Lyn before her renewal ceremony

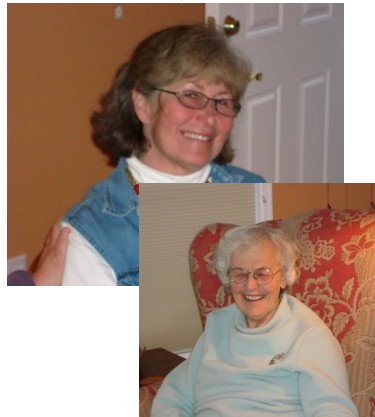
St. B. Photo Gallery



Anjillee Schwarz & Teddi Hall at installation of last stained glass window



Successful repositioning of the tabernacle!



Carran Muhn & Betty Elwell at pot luck dinner

Fran Sanden, Sarah Lowell & Marta Moore quilting



Helpers at the Relay for Life survivors' dinner



New stained glass window

VICAR'S LETTER

Ordinary Time – Extraordinary Time—A glance at a liturgical calendar shows nearly every day from now until December in green, which signifies “Ordinary Time.” In fact, “ordinary” in this sense comes from “ordinal” meaning “numbered” rather than “common,” which I think we ought to know, because this time, and all times, are anything but “ordinary.” This is extraordinary time. Any and every time we participate in knowing and making known that the Kingdom of God is in our midst in the blessed “ordinariness” of our daily lives, life is experienced in an extraordinary way – a richer way, a more

meaningful way. Perhaps as summer reaches its fullness, with the prolific birdsong, the magnificence of the light on the mountains and valleys, our glorious long summer evenings, we know the Kingdom in the gentleness of the cool evening breezes, or in the warm companionship of friends at a cookout, or in the delight of seeing children and grandchildren who are taking time off from their busy schedules. God is in it all, delighting, I have no doubt, in our “Sabbath time.” Whatever is going on for us this summer, my prayer is that each of us takes the time at some point to look carefully at every petal of a wildflower, to listen to

the crickets and look up at the magnificent starry heavens above us late at night, to savor all that is beautiful, all that is precious to us in our lives, and marvel at the magnificent works of our Creator.

Centering Prayer—Centering Prayer for many is a life-long practice. How we experience it is unique to each of us. Although Centering Prayer is intended to involve virtually no effort at all, I find it exceptionally difficult. Try to stop that “monkey mind,” with thoughts that jump from one branch to another at breathtaking speed – try to “let go” of my thoughts rather than write a ser-

continued from above...

mon in my head, organize my paperwork, recall an earlier conversation, or think about my daughter about to leave for Africa!!! And yet the results over time are powerful and life-changing. Some who do centering prayer are able to experience a marvelous stillness during the practice itself. Stirling Lathrop, who has been practicing on a regular basis for some months now, says of Centering Prayer: “Within the metaphor

of place, it is possible to get to a place where the rapid-firing thinking is gone and you really can experience the presence and loving grace of God.” My experience is usually an awareness of an inner stillness that begins to pervade my whole sense of being long after the 20 minutes of doing Centering Prayer. I know it as a “resting place” inside where, no matter, what is going on around me and in the world that might be threatening, uncomfortable,

frightening, or painful, I am grounded, and connected to something that is infinitely real, unchanging, and eternally hopeful. St. Benedict will continue to be open each weekday at 8:00AM and 4:30PM for Centering Prayer.

The Exquisite Quilt—What a delight it was to see a number of women from St. Benedict at Debbie Donnelly’s quilt store recently cutting out circles for the quilt that is going to be auctioned over the July 4 weekend to raise

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money for outreach at St. Benedict. It is now almost completed. What a wonderful job they have done, and how grateful I am to everyone who is making the creation of this beautiful quilt possible.

Special Thanks—I want to express my heart-felt thanks to all of you. This is my first summer in

La Veta, and I now understand just how busy it is, and how busy you all are. Yet, despite that, and all the additional demands on your time and energy in preparations for the Bishop’s visit and my installation, you “made it all happen” with such grace and kindness. I have seen this over and over again, and am always amazed how things “come together” through your thoughtful

participation and cooperation. I am so grateful to you all, and feel so blessed to be with you. Thank you.

Welcome to Summer Visitors—This is the first year I have experienced the sheer delight of seeing a face pop up in the congregation again after the winter break. It is such a joy to have you back! Welcome!

A Celebration of the Renewal of Ministry

June 1st, with its blue skies and sunshine, reflected the joy of the day as Bishop Robert O'Neill formally celebrated the welcoming of Reverend Lyn as the new vicar of St. Benedict. Although Lyn has been with and among us as vicar since last September, the liturgical Celebration of Renewal of Ministry and Welcoming of a New Vicar was the formal recognition that she is our vicar, pastor and priest. An important part of the liturgical celebration was the presentation to Lyn by members of the parish with gifts symbolic of her ministries as vicar -- healing oil for Lyn's ministry of bringing the reconciling presence of Christ

to those who seek healing; an icon for Lyn's prayer ministry, a bible for Lyn's ministry of telling the Good News to the world; and a stole as the symbol of Lyn's ministry as our pastor and priest.

Appropriately, the sunlight gloriously illuminated all six of the church's stained glass windows as Bishop Rob also blessed them at the end of the service.

The service was followed by a celebratory luncheon at the retreat center, Villa Jubilee, being built by Sharon and Stan Mann atop a mesa south of Walsenburg. The guests, including Bishop Rob, Deacon Edwina Burdekin and out

of town guests, feasted on both the excellent meal and the beautiful landscapes in all directions visible through Villa Jubilee's walls of windows.

To honor the occasion of Lyn's formal installation as St. Benedict's vicar, Carran Muhn and her family presented Lyn with something she has long desired -- a telescope for viewing our incredible starry skies. The telescope had been Van Muhn's, and Carran and her family are sure that he is happy that the telescope will now be enjoyed by Lyn.

Celtic Spirituality

On Saturday, September 27th, St. Benedict will host the Third Annual Celebration of Celtic Spirituality. This year's one day workshop will be led by Reverend Jack Stapleton, Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Greeley, Colorado. With Rev. Stapleton, we will explore how the spiritual insights and practices of Celtic Christianity might renew the modern church and the individual seeker through a way of life including such practices as care for creation, simplicity of lifestyle,

spiritual pilgrimage, and healing of fragmented peoples and communities.

In 1994, Rev. Stapleton established the St. Aidan Trust in the United States, now the Community of St. Aidan and Hilda. It serves as a resource for Christians who seek the balanced spirituality and the gentle yet passionate evangelism that characterized the Celtic saints.

The morning session will be from 9:00-11:30 AM and the afternoon session from 1:00-3:00 PM. A continental breakfast will start at 8:30 AM. Lunch

will be on your own. Rev. Stapleton will offer a Celtic Eucharist on Saturday afternoon. As with the previous celebrations of Celtic Spirituality, the service at St. Benedict on Sunday, September 30th, will be a Celtic Eucharist Service.

The event will be held in the La Veta Public Library and cost \$35 per person in advance or \$45 at the door. The registration form can be found on the St. Benedict website at www.stbenedictlaveta.org. Because space is limited to 60 participants, early registration is encouraged.

Stained Glass Windows

The last two of our six stained glass windows were installed at the end of May, in time for Bishop O'Neill's blessing of the windows after the celebration of Reverend Lyn's formal installation as our vicar. The window on the east wall, titled "Unity", was donated in honor of God by Nancy and Jack Britton, Linda and John Fre-

derick and Wanda and Bill Hunter. On the west wall, the window titled "Creation" was donated in honor of God by Teddie and Jack Hall. As with all of the windows, artist Anjillee Schwarz, has set the beauty of the windows to sacred geometrical forms and colors. (We will include photos of them in the next issue of the

newsletter.)

We look forward to opening the church to give the community the opportunity to see the windows and speak with Anjillee about them as part of the Studio and Gallery Tour sponsored by the Spanish Peaks Arts Council (SPACe) in August. We also are going to have note cards and Christmas cards made with the images of the windows on them.

Bishop's Warden's Letter

I see every day that St. Benedict is not just a church building, nor just a financial concern, nor just a place where, once a week, people attend services. No, every day I am blessed to see that St. Benedict *is* its members, who live a faith of generosity, of caring concern for each other and for those who are not parishioners, and of helping, at great sacrifice of personal time, in the myriad things that make St. Benedict an amazingly vibrant experience for all who are touched by its members.

This was confirmed again at the recent Relay for Life, at which members of Community of Hope, helped by others from St. Benedict, served dinner to cancer survivors. Eleanor Foley told me at the Relay

itself, of the many people who came to her and said, "What a really nice church you have." They were not referring to the church building; they were referring to all of you. You are a warm and open group always ready to serve and help others.

This is expressed as well within our church community. So many of you volunteer in so many ways and areas. Whatever the need, whatever the occasion you are there – from Community of Hope and the Celebration of Celtic Spirituality to fund raising for our outreach ministries, to the altar guild, to what I believe is our famous hospitality, to service as acolytes, ushers and lectors; to hosting Bible Study, mowing the

lawn and installing the tabernacle, and to the many administrative and financial tasks necessary to keep St. Benedict operating. I would acknowledge each of you by name, but I fear I might leave someone out. Rest assured, all of us know, and on behalf of all of us, I offer you infinite thanks and a prayer of gratitude that you make St. Benedict more than just a church building.

I must conclude by thanking Reverend Lyn, with her warm, truly compassionate and loving presence among us and among the larger community, for the blessings of her energy and commitment to all that we do and to all that she does for others in need of her help and understanding.

You really are a nice church.

Summertime Fundraisers--Strawberry Shortcake, A Beautiful Quilt and Late Summer Peaches

Because of popular demand, St. Benedict will once again be selling homemade strawberry shortcake at the Art in the Park Festival on July 5th & 6th. Proceeds will go to the St. Benedict Outreach Fund to help the needy locally, nationally and globally. Our booth, facing Ryus Ave., will be manned by a cheerful staff of servers choreographed by Retty Schreiber and Susan Simons.

At our booth, you will see a beautiful

quilt for which there will be a drawing at the Festival with proceeds again going to the St. Benedict Outreach Fund. As Lyn has noted in her Vicar's Letter, the quilt was made by a group of hard working, talented St. Benedict Church quilters who met for weeks at Debbie Donnelly's Mountain Valley Quilt Shop to cut and piece it together. Debbie will put the finishing touches on it by quilting it with her new long-arm quilter.

In early July, you can place orders for peaches grown in the Palisades, Colorado, area. Many of you know that these special peaches can't be found in stores or at farmers' markets. We are offering 10 lbs for \$20.00 & 18 lbs for \$28.00. \$7.50 & \$10.50 respectively of the proceeds will go to the St. Benedict Outreach Fund. Order forms will be available at the church starting on July 6th. We encourage you to order for yourselves and friends and families. The peaches will be available at the church for pick up on August 24th; completed order forms should be returned by August 3rd.

2008 Relay for Life

Members of St. Benedict were more than present for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life on June 13th, a dusk to dawn event in which participants walked the La Veta High School track to raise money for cancer research. The track was lined with luminaries honoring survivors and cancer victims. With funds coming in through August 15th, the event has so far raised over \$30,000.

Eleanor Foley, organizing committee "Survivor Wizard," led the St. Benedict participation. She, and St. Benedict's Community of Hope and other members, sponsored, prepared and served a Survivors' Dinner to over 50 survivors, their caregivers, friends and families. She also organized a team of St. Benedict walkers who had solicited sponsoring contributions. In all, 25 teams participating, most with at least 15 members.

A breast cancer survivor, Eleanor said

she participated in the honor of God's grace in allowing her to walk in good health, in honor of her mother, also a breast cancer survivor, and as a memorial tribute to her husband, Jim Foley, our friend, and a cancer victim.

As part of the event, members of St. Benedict walked a special lap in honor of Van Muhn, lost to cancer this year. Don Lowell walked in the survivors' honor lap in honor of his eight year old granddaughter, Emma, who is fighting non-Hodgkin lymphoma.