



St. Benedict Episcopal Church, La Veta, CO

# St. Benedict News

...always we begin again...

Volume 1, Issue 1

November-December 2007



## 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)

Rev. Lyn Burns, Vicar

Office: 124 N. Main St.

Hours: Tu. & Th. 9AM-3PM

### Contemplative Prayer:

Mon. 12:15PM @ Church Office

### Breakfast Group:

Tu. 8AM @ Sammies

### Bible Study:

Tu. @ 5:30 PM @ Rev. Lyn's home

### Morning Prayer:

Wed. 9AM @ Church

### 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

Stirling Lathrop

Sarah Lowell

Retty Schreiber

## Letter from the Vicar

Welcome to the first publication of the St. Benedict's newsletter. I hope that reflection on our activities – past, present and future— will make us attentive to the fact that “It is not the Church of God that has a mission in the world, but the God of mission who has a Church in the world.” I hope that we will remain open and prayerful at all times to discerning the ways to which God is calling us as a community at this place and at this time.

To start this first newsletter, I would like to quote from the history of St. Benedict that was sent to me before I arrived in La Veta.

“God is good, so very good. We have seen God's grace and goodness poured out in abundance and we continue to entrust our daily life and our future to God's

continued love and care.”

I feel privileged, now, to have experienced “God's grace and goodness poured out in abundance” in so many ways, as part of this faithful, open, and generous community. Thank you, all! Also, I have deeply appreciated the Rev. Claudia Smith's graciousness and support as I have transitioned into the St. Benedict church family.

It has been such a pleasure to have some of you drop by the St. Benedict office for a chat or a cup of tea! Please feel free to continue doing so. The office, located at 124 N. Main, is open from 9:00-3:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

It was a great delight and pleasure to meet all the “summer folks,” who are sorely missed as they resume their lives in warmer

climes. I hope that this newsletter will help you who are temporarily absent feel as connected to us as we feel to you. Please let us know how you are doing, as we would like to include your news in subsequent newsletters.

After our goodbyes to the summer folks, Oktoberfest behind us, and the glorious color on the trees nearly faded, we sense a shift in mood. We look towards many things – the holidays, the celebrations, and Advent – that mysterious and wonderful coming of the Christ-Child. May this be a blessed time for us all. May God protect us, keep us, guide us as we enter into this profound season of reflection and anticipation.

Reverend Lyn

## Connection to Larger Body

Staying connected to the Diocese of Colorado on both diocesan and regional levels is vital to our sense of identity as a member of the larger body of Episcopalians in Colorado. It was a privilege this past October to attend the 120<sup>th</sup> Diocesan

Convention at the Cathedral in Denver with Retty Schreiber and Mona Young. The New Clergy Orientation, led by Bishop Rob O'Neill several weeks later, gave me an opportunity to meet several other new clergy in the Diocese.

A farewell lunch for Annette Brownlee, from Ascension, Pueblo in early November was a great way to foster the growing sense of interdependence in the Sangre de Cristo Region as was the Sangre de Cristo Regional (continued on pg 3)

# Church & Community Happenings...

**Daughters of the King**—Our prayer group of seven to ten women continues to pray daily for those in our church and our community. Recently, DOK members Lyn and Mona attended a regional DOK meeting in Colorado Springs where they learned how to make Anglican rosaries to reinforce daily prayer. We feel very lucky to have Lyn transferring her membership to us. We will be inviting new members to join soon. Questions or new prayer requests should go to Lyn, Eleanor or Mona.

**Lay Eucharistic Visitors**—Several members have undergone training and have been commissioned by St. Benedict and the Bishop so that they may take communion out to those

unable to attend on Sunday. Wanda asked Polly, the potter, to make us beautiful chalice and paten sets. We are now in the process of making up our own traveling communion bags. If you or someone you know wants communion brought to them, please let Rev. Lyn know and she will make those arrangements for you.

**Bible Study**- The first Bible study group, which met in mid-October, decided to undertake the daunting task of exploring the Gospels, starting with the Gospel of Mark. Far from being intimidating, this should be a fun and exciting process as we explore together the history, meaning and relevance in our own lives of these different accounts of Jesus' life during

the Roman occupation of Palestine in the first century. We meet at 5:30pm at the Lyn's house, enjoy some delicious soup and bread, and are done by 7:30pm. Rides will be provided whenever needed. For more information, please call Lyn.

**Library**—Thanks to many generous contributors, the St. Benedict library was "unveiled" on Sunday, November 4. An evolving project, the goal of the library is to provide some interesting, inspiring and informative resources for all who are seeking them. Your ideas for new books, your reviews and any books you would like to donate are most welcome. We plan to send the surplus books to a seminary in Africa. Please let Rev.

Lyn know if you have any creative ideas about how we might raise the money for postage. Please contact Susan Simons with your suggestions for the library and any questions you might have.

**Community of Hope**—We are trained pastoral caregivers. Pastoral care takes place "when a person is being 'present' in a listening, compassionate, non-controlling manner to an individual... seeking to respond to their spiritual needs." Our ministry continues as we minister to those near and dear to us now in crisis. We

each have a continued mission of serving those in need. Some of us also are taking communion to those unable to attend services. Our next session of classes will not start until we have a clearer idea of what the Colorado State Vets Home and Sangre de Cristo Hospice expect.

*"Pastoral care takes place when a person is being 'present' in a listening, compassionate, non-controlling manner to an individual... seeking to respond to their spiritual needs."*

**Thanksgiving Service** -This year, the annual Thanksgiving Service sponsored by the Cuchara Valley Christian Community Services (CVCCS) will be take place at St. Benedict. The service will be held at 5:30pm on Sunday, November 18.

All are encouraged to bring canned goods to this service, and on subsequent Sundays until December 16. The food will be donated to needy families at Christmas.

**Katrina Help**—The horrible aftermath of Hurricane Katrina is still with the people along the Gulf Coast of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Retty Schreiber is taking part in a hands-on effort to help with Katrina recovery. Sponsored by St. Benedict, Retty left for Gulfport, Mississippi on November 7 to spend two weeks helping to build homes for Katrina victims who, two years later, are still living in trailers. Retty has joined nine other area residents traveling to Gulfport as part of a project

organized through the United Methodist Committee on Relief. She will record her experiences in a journal and photographs which she will share with St. Benedict when she returns.

**Celtic Spirituality**—The Second Annual Celebration of Celtic Spirituality was a grand success. Tessa Bielecki, author of *Teresa of Avila: Mystical Writings and Ecstasy and Common Sense*, led a retreat and

workshop of more than 40 participants, a number of whom attended Sunday's Celtic Eucharist Service. Although not our goal, St. Benedict made a small profit, even without taking into account the generous \$1500 "seed money" from Chapel of our Savior in Colorado Springs. Sarah Lowell single-handedly managed registration, publicity, printing and finances. Unfortunately, Sarah and Don will be on their own Celtic adventure in Ireland when next year's Celebration of Celtic Spirituality takes place.

## A Note from the Bishop's Warden

Serving as Bishop's Warden is a privilege. As a warden, I have had the privilege of working with Rev. Christie and Rev. Claudia. At the same time, I have shared with all of St. Benedict the sadness of their departures. But we have begun again, and as we do so, I feel a renewed sense of privilege and blessing as I have the opportunity to work with Rev. Lyn.

In the six short weeks since Lyn has been with us in La Veta, I have seen her extend to our parish her energy, her warmth, her loving presence, her thoughtfulness, her excellent judgment and her spiritual guidance.

As Lyn leads our Sunday Eucharistic services, the liturgy is alive because it has deep meaning for her. We have a renewed Bible Study with a sense of community and thoughtful exploration of scripture. Lyn has embraced the Daughters of the King, our Eucharistic Visitors Program and the Community of Hope. She has met with and established contact with most of the pastors of the other churches in town and is involved already with the ecumenical Cuchara Valley Community Services Program. She has initiated contact with the Veterans Home in Walsenburg and the hospice program in the Cuchara Valley. Persons who are not members of our church nonetheless know Lyn

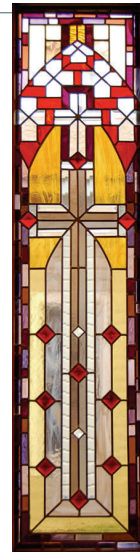
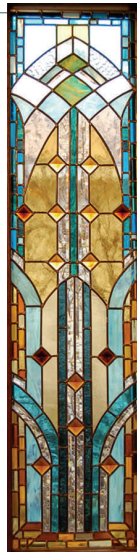
because of her general presence in the community. In turn, this has already enhanced St. Benedict's place in the community as an inviting church and a positive community resource. Most important, Lyn is reaching out to each of us as individuals to learn our stories so that her ministry to each of us is personal and meaningful.

I would also report here that, thanks to Van Muhn and John Frederick, we are on a sound financial footing. Our church building is likewise sound and well cared for. We have a new roof. Jene Moore is responsible for the new sink and the new cabinets and closets in the robing room. Through the efforts of

Retty Schreiber, Taylor Taylor, Jack Risen, Linda and John Frederick, Nancy Britton, Bill Stark, Tracy Webb and Rev. Lyn, the sanctuary and the robing room are freshly painted. After the painting, Tracy gave the carpeting a long overdue shampoo and cleaning.

We are a healthy church. More than that, we are a blessed church, and that is true because of what each and every one of you brings to St. Benedict.

Stirling Lathrop



### Connection to Larger Body (continued from pg 1)

meeting in Canon City on September 22. A Daughter's of the King regional gathering, attended by Mona Young and myself, was another marvelous opportunity to make connections in the region. From November 13-15 I will be attending the annual Clergy Conference in Colorado Springs.

Reverend Lyn

## Stained Glass Windows—Stirling Lathrop

Above all a church is its members, not its building. Nonetheless, the church sanctuary can help its members in their worship. It is with this in mind that St. Benedict is replacing all of the sanctuary windows with stained glass. To be sure, the new windows are beautiful in and of themselves, but they also add serenity and are full of Christian symbolism on which we can reflect as we gaze at them. La Veta resident Jill Schwarz has designed the windows and is making them. She has studied and is steeped in the Christian symbolism she is incorporating into the windows' designs. Made possible by the generosity of Betty Elwell, Lottie Hastings, Sarah and Don Lowell, Claudia Capps, Eleanor Foley, Nancy Britton and Wanda and Bill Hunter, all of the new windows should be in place by next summer.