



Church of the Epiphany

FROM THE MOUNTAIN TOP

Monthly Newsletter • Cloudcroft, New Mexico • February 2026



Lenten Thoughts

Two times a year I seem to suffer with chapped lips. The simple solution is to keep a tube of ChapStick in my pocket or on the nightstand. Then when I feel the need I rub my lips with the stick and it relieves the problem for a while.

There can be in our spiritual lives a time of dryness that needs nourishing. The simple solution to this problem is to resort to prayer. You may have a scheduled prayer time in your day. Early morning is a good time for me but there may also be special moments that you can feel the call to prayer. Recently in my night sleep, I awoke and clearly felt the need to pray and to pray specifically for Peace. So, I thought about it and began to form some peace prayers. It seemed I had a choice. I could pray for personal reasons of peace but then there was the peace of others and the peace that this country could use, and the big one world peace.

All my personal prayers are my conversations with my Almighty Father. The Bible is full of this

type of prayer between an individual and God. We can find examples in many of the of Books the Old Testament and certainly in the conversations that took place between Jesus and His Father. The whole Book of the Psalms is a book of prayers.

One of the consistent themes in the New Testament's teaching about prayer is that we can be assured that God will hear and respond to our prayers. The apostle John points to this when he says, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, he hears us." It tells us that God knows our needs, and that God absolutely expects us to bring our needs to him through prayer.

In the study of prayer there have been identified four major types of prayer. Off of this list you can develop even more subheadings. The four major types are a Prayer of Adoration, where we praise God for his goodness and his majesty. It is a very simple prayer. After we have acknowledged God as our King we can begin to worship Him by confessing our sins against him. The Good News of Jesus is that in this getting right with God we can receive his forgiveness and we are restored by his grace in our spiritual lives.

Moving a step from that position, we are to give him a prayer of Thanksgiving for his goodness. Our lives, our health, our families and our faith are deemed to be the precious aspects

Pastor Fred *continued*

of our relationship with God. This prayer of Thanks is the one that we can pray continuously and rejoice in the process.

In a mood of Thanksgiving we will find ourselves to be a giving and serving people of God.

The final prayer of the four major types is a spin off from our being one of God's servants to practicing that responsibility in our lives as we lift up others who are in a time of trial. We can offer some help in the way of immediate needs, but we can do a vital service in our prayer concerns for those who find themselves in a time of stress.

The prayers on behalf of others is a wonderful personal service we can offer to God. With these prayers we can expand our love and worship and trust that God can then use the opportunity to lift the burden.

Some other types of prayer can be described. A prayer of lament in times of grief. We can offer at some special ceremony, a prayer of invocation where we request the presence of God in a special way. Every Sunday we offer up prayers of healing for those in our community we know to be in need.

God does answer prayers. We need to be aware that some of these prayers may not be answered just as we desire. God may have a bigger picture of the need and how to answer it. Through our prayer efforts we can feel the touch of God's grace on our lives.

With the approach of Lent, it is a Lenten service to increase our bible reading and to include time for worship and prayer. Keep it in mind that we are his servants and we need to stay close to be available for that opportunity to serve him and have a closer relationship with him. This is how we grow spiritually.

"For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory. for ever and ever. Amen."

Pastor Fred

*Church of the Epiphany
Lenten Schedule & Holy Week*

Ash Wednesday Service

February 18 - 1:30 pm

Community Lenten Luncheons

Wednesdays during Lent

**Beginning Wednesday February 15
Held at the Cloudcroft Methodist Church**

11:45 am to 1 pm

Stations of the Cross

Fridays during Lent

4:30 pm

Holy Week

Palm Sunday

March 29 - 10 am

Maundy Thursday

April 2 - 5 pm

Good Friday

April 3 - 4:30 pm



Easter Sunday

April 5 - 10 am



Looking at Lent

Traditions are an important part of who we are as Anglicans - at least those of us who have been Anglicans for ever and ever see it that way. **LENT** is one of those traditions that we respect each year. We remember that it begins on **Ash Wednesday** and we make it a point to be there for imposition of ashes. And we also remember that the day before, **Shrove Tuesday**, usually included an evening meal of pancakes and sausage at the church, reminding us that we are to use up all the fat and lard in the home as we begin Lenten fasting and self-denial. Memories from childhood include conversations and comparisons of what each of us was "giving up" for Lent, without much understanding of why that was necessary each year. Yes, we heard vague talk of preparing for Easter, but what we heard never got past generalities. Can we begin by **LOOKING AT LENT** once again? In any of these ways? Good traditions involve some or all of them.

LEARNING IN LENT - We remember Lenten Bible studies most every year, at least until Covid-19 came to town and we all stayed home. It is difficult to get back in the habit of setting aside time for travel and preparation, and the teachers now have other commitments. But the resources online are endless. But first, equip yourself with a good study Bible (like the ESV or NIV Study Bible). You can self-study the Letters to the Seven Churches in Revelation (the first 3 chapters).

LISTENING IN LENT - We remember audio tapes and CDs, but now we have YouTube and social media. How do we know who to trust? And what about old-fashioned prayer time together with other believers or even in some private setting? Listen in silence to hear the Lord's voice and sense His presence with you. Silence may seem uncommon and even oppressive to us anymore, but God's viewpoint may be radically different. He still answers prayer! He still walks with us!

LEADING IN LENT - We remember those who helped us along the way in our walk with the Lord. Give thanks for them. Prayerfully consider who might be waiting for you to reach out with a hand to help them take the next step in faith.

LOVING IN LENT - Are there ways you could love God more? An excellent way may be to love others more. Who do you know who is starving for personal contact and interaction? Who is missing you? Reaching out begins with the first step. Make that call. Send that text.

LIVING IN LENT - Each of these ways of looking at Lent can help us walk more closely with God, day by day, hour by hour. Often we have been left blind by sin, so repentance is an essential beginning. Then, as we follow these ways through **LENT** and beyond, our new seeds of belief in the Gospel will germinate, sprout, grow, and bloom. We will find that we can see the light of Christ shining more and more brightly. Others will see His light in us. May our **HOLY LENT** lead into **HOLY LIFE IN JESUS**.

In Christ,

Rev. Frank K. Wilson, Associate Pastor



Notes from the January 2026 Standing Committee Meeting

The Bishop reported on the College of Bishops meeting. He nothing but praise for Julian Dobbs, the interim bishop saying that his organization and ability to communicate effectively and efficiently with the bishop was very impressive. Despite the current situation with the former bishop Steve Wood's trial and the Derek Jones trial, the ACNA is growing, flourishing and still receiving large donations regularly from the private and corporate sectors. He is greatly encouraged that Julian Dobbs is the balm needed in this time of concern with the position of the ACNA and it's moral trials.

The Title 4 review of the Canons of the ACNA starts Feb. 1. This is in accordance with the re-written canons concerning the discipline of bishops. If you are interested, you can find them online and may respond if you have comments to Bishop Steven. An ACNA international zoom will be conducted in June to accept the changes.

The Rev. Chris Waters has resigned from the Owasso, OK church in our diocese. Bishop Steven has placed an interim priest in the position while a search continues. The church in Owasso unfortunately has sustained a split since the search began and the bishop feels that the placement of an interim priest will help them reestablish themselves.

The clergy meeting and retreat will be at the Norbertine Abbey in Albuquerque next month.

Prayer requests for Rev. Bob Sutton's wife who will start a medical trial of infusions for her cognitive decline. She is a candidate for this trial because they have determined through tests that she does not have Alzheimer's or another known form of dementia. The outlook is hopeful and Bob is greatly relieved for an opportunity to receive treatment.

Rev Eduardo Gonzalez of El Paso has been diagnosed with two types of liver cancer. Prayers would be appreciated. No further information was given on his situation.

Rev Phil Ray is recovering from 2 recent hospitalizations, most recently for double pneumonia and blood transfusions he received as treatment for his other maladies. He is praiseful and would appreciate continued prayers for his recovery.

The next Standing Committee meeting will take place in Juarez on Feb 5 and 6.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Fazenbake

February at Epiphany

The weekend of January 25 brought us a heavy snow storm and church was canceled as we all huddled to stay warm and some having to deal with a loss of electricity. Our Timberon people especially suffered without electricity for a full week. We are all grateful to Otero Electric Coop and the brave linemen who worked tirelessly to get power up and running again in adverse conditions. Machele Lackey and her Timberon group held a luncheon in honor of these workers on Friday, February 13. Over 100 were expected to attend. JR Hester kept us apprised of the conditions through texts and photos.

We recovered enough to have a great potluck celebrating the Super Bowl on February 8! Everyone was glad to be able to get out again and fellowship.

Bill Haynes has had his grandson, Garrett Haynes, visiting for several weeks before he goes into the Army National Guard. Garrett has been going to school in Oklahoma. His name will be added to our military prayer list. Please keep all our military in prayer. Patrisha Kellner and Emma Skidmore are in the process of deploying on ships.

Ash Wednesday - February 18

Easter being early - April 5 - we will celebrate the beginning of Holy Week this Wednesday with an **Ash Wednesday service with the imposition of ashes at 1:30 pm** at the church.

Preceding this service the Cloudcroft Community Lenten Luncheon with speakers will hold their first luncheon at 11:45 am - 1 pm at the Cloudcroft Methodist Church. Area Churches and pastors will take part and they will be held every Wednesday during Lent.

The first speaker will be Pastor Dan Sherrill from the Methodist Church. Epiphany's turn will be Wednesday, March 25, and we will provide soups and the speaker will be Fr. Frank. Please put this on your calendar as a part of your Lenten worship.

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated every Friday afternoon during Lent at 4:30 pm. If you have never attended this short devotion we encourage you to join us as we meditate on the Lord's path to the cross.



Top:
snow in
Timberon
Rt:
Snow in
Cloudcroft



Left: Bill
Haynes and
Garrett
Haynes
Bottom:
Feb. 8
luncheon





In Memoriam

James Wallis (Wally) Skidmore **March 1, 1929 - February 7, 2026**

Wally was preceded in death by his wife Bobbie and son Tom. They were members of St. Clement's Church in El Paso and members of the Church the Epiphany when they were in the mountains and enjoying their home on Sunset in the village. Wally leaves behind two sons, James and John, their families and 5 grandchildren.

Collect for Ash Wednesday

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Epiphany Military Prayer List

Gabriella Murley, US Army,
Mason Gregg, US Marines
Creed Napier, USAF
JW Grove, US Navy
Shawn Zima, US Army, Hong Kong
Wyatt Green, US Navy
Emma Skidmore, US Navy
Patrishia Wilson Kellner, US Navy
David Fazenbaker, USAF
Garrett Haynes, Army National Guard

Praise Reports

For The lives of Wally and Bobbie Skidmore
For Karli Sorensen's successful neck surgery
For The Community Lenten Luncheons and all the churches and speakers.
For the Otero Electric Coop linemen who worked in terrible weather to restore power to the mountain communities.
For the snow and the moisture it provided

Prayer Concerns

For a good Lent and our Lenten services
For Walter Ford as he recovers from a serious cold
For Donya and Trevor Conine to regain more strength and mobility
For Fr. Frank and Carolyn Wilson, Walter and Carolyn Ford, George and Gayla Chapman, Patty Kendrick, and all our caregivers
For churches in Alamogordo who are having searches for pastors: Grace Methodist Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church.
For the ACNA and Bishop Julian, and the ADSW Diocese, Bishop Steven, and the Standing Committee.
For Annette Fazenbaker as a deanery representative to the Standing Committee of the Diocese.
For Fr, Frank as a member of the Diocesan ROC committee and the Bylaws committee
For church plants within the diocese

February Service Schedule

LEMS & Lectors

The Rev. Willis F Griffin, Pastor

The Rev. Frank K. Wilson, Associate Pastor

Epiphany 4 - Sunday, February 1 - 10 AM

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Fred

LEM Patrick Zima

Lector Paul Fazenbaker

Epiphany 5 - Sunday, February 8 - 10 AM

Holy Eucharist - Fr. Frank

LEM Karli Sorensen

Lector Annette Fazenbaker

Epiphany Last - Sunday, February 15 - 10 AM

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Fred

LEM Patrick Zima

Lector Madeleine Fazenbaker

Ash Wednesday - February 18 - 1:30 PM

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Fred

LEM Karli Sorensen

Lector Machele Lackey

Lent 1 - Sunday, February 22 - 10 AM

Holy Eucharist - Fr. Frank

LEM Patrick Zima

Lector Carolyn Ford

Lent 2 - Sunday, March 1 - 10AM

Holy Eucharist - Fr. Frank

LEM Karli Sorensen

Lector Paul Fazenbaker



Coffee Fellowship

Feb 1 - Annette Fazenbaker

Feb 8 - Potluck

Feb 15 - Karli Sorensen

Feb 22 - Nancy Griffin

Sign-up sheets are on the table.

Sunday, February 8

Potluck after the service

Sunday, February 22

Annual meeting after service

Ash Wednesday Service

February 18 - 1:30 pm

Community Lenten Luncheons

Wednesdays during Lent

Beginning Wednesday February 15

Held at the Cloudcroft Methodist Church

11:45 am to 1 pm

Stations of the Cross

Fridays during Lent

4:30 pm

Ecumenical Bible Studies:

Wednesdays - 3-4 pm

Gospel of John

Fr. Frank - Grace Methodist Church

Alamogordo

For more information, call or text Fr. Frank at

575-442-1354.

Ladies Bible Study

Thursdays - 10-11:30 am

Gospel of Matthew

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Alamogordo

For more information

For more information call or text Nancy

at 575/495-3811

February Birthdays

Gayle Tullis - 7

Daphne Griffin - 7

Karli Sorensen - 17



February Anniversaries

Dwight & Marge Harp - 24

**ACNA Lectionary yr. A
February 2026**

Epiphany 4 • February 1, 2026

Micah 6:1-8

Psalms 37:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

Epiphany 5 • February 8, 2026

2 Kings 22:8-20

Psalms 27

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Matthew 5:13-20

Epiphany Last • February 15, 2026

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalms 99

Philippians 3:7-14

Matthew 17:1-9

Ash Wednesday • February 18, 2026

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalms 103:8-14

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Lent 1 • February 22, 2026

Genesis 2:4-9, 15-17, 25-3:7

Psalms 51:1-12

Romans 5:12-21

Matthew 4:1-11

Lent 2 • March 1, 2026

Genesis 12:1-9

Psalms 33:12-21

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-16

The Head of the Church is Jesus Christ

The Anglican Church in North America,

The Rt. Rev. Steve Wood, Archbishop

Diocese of the Southwest,

Bishop Steven Tighe

The Church of the Epiphany

The Rev. Willis F. Griffin, Pastor

The Rev. Frank K. Wilson, Associate Pastor

Musicians: Esther Fyock, Stan & Sandy Thomas.

Senior Warden

Annette Fazenbaker, Junior Warden

Financial Committee: Paul Fazenbaker, Machele Lackey,

Doug Price

Church Board

Karli Sorensen Aguilar Patrick Zima

Machele Lachey, JR Hester

Nancy Griffin, Clerk

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide a warm and welcoming atmosphere where the Word of God fills each person with an understanding and renewal of their faith in Christ.

Outreach, both within our own community as well as abroad, is a further extension of this faith.

Romans 10:17 ~ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ.

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The Anglican Diocese of the Southwest. Bishop Steven Tighe

The Church of the Epiphany, Cloudfcroft, Rev. Fred Griffin, Rev. Frank K. Wilson

Christ the King, Albuquerque (Rev. Peter Falk, Deacon Bill Lock); Church of our Lord, Albuquerque (Rev. Harold Trott, Michael Kline); Emmaus Anglican Church, Albuquerque (Revs. Greg & Noel Pfeifer; Christ Church, Farmington (Revs. Carl & Barbara Brenner); St. Clement's, El Paso (Revs. Bill Cobb, Rick Milliom, Eduardo Gonzalez, Michael Sheehan, Deacon Courtney Brown) Rey de Paz, El Paso (Revs. John Dixon, Ken Hanna); Good Shepherd, San Angelo (Rev. Hal Scott); St. Stephen's, Roswell (Rev. Bob Tally); All Saints' and St. Paul's, Midland Texas (Rev. Tom Finnie); Iglesia La Trinidad, Guadalajara (Lay Leader, Miguel Meriono Lobos) Iglesia de Jesus & Jesus es la Resurreccion, Aguas Caliente, Mexico (Revs. Elias Rosales Mendez and Maria del Rayo Jimenez Victoria, Deacon Roger Griffin); Gran Pastor, Fresnillo, Mexico (Sr. Warden, Norma Rodriguez, Missionary Meredith Omland); Good Shepherd, Hill New Mexico (Rev. Farhid Adabache); Iglesia Anglicana, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (Rev. Jack Wehrs, Deacon Fernando Sandoval); St. James, Dalhart, Texas (Rev. Philip Ray). Emmaus Anglican, Castle Rock CO (Rev. Theron Walker; Resurrection Anglican Fellowship, Greenwood Village, CO (Fr. Phil Eberhardt) St. Paul's Anglican Church, Owasso, OK (Fr. Chris Waters); Christ the Redeemer, Oklahoma City, OK (Fr. Brad Van Deventer); Iglesia Piedra Angular & Comunidad de Fe, Rey de Justicia, Juarez, Chihuahua;