



Church of the Epiphany

FROM THE MOUNTAIN TOP

Monthly Newsletter • Cloudcroft, New Mexico • November 2025



Thanksgiving Thoughts

When November rolls around our thinking begins to focus on several fall events. The World Series, Football and Thanksgiving. The event primary in our thoughts is on the last Thursday of the month and the gathering with family and friends to share a great meal and enjoy the fellowship of pleasant company and of course to watch football.

Thanksgiving is one of the major cornerstones of America culture since its early beginning as fact and heritage in this countries' history. As widely celebrated this holiday is, not many people would likely know how its history emerged.

It is possible to read various historical and semi-fictional accounts of the first gatherings of Pilgrims to give thanks to God for his many blessings in their lives. Other recorded celebration accounts claim to be the first early Thanksgiving.

A religious connection was a part of the overall festival for a good corn crop and the survival of the colony. Since the War of Independence 250 year ago this religious connection has diminished to making Thanksgiving a mere secular holiday on the calendar. This shift in opinion has resulted into a discussion is Thanksgiving is a Religious or a National holiday.

At Epiphany this year we will celebrate Thanksgiving with music on the Sunday before but not with a special service on that Thursday. The Prayer Book has readings for that day and you may use them for your home service. Keeping God and His Son Jesus Christ in our thoughts this month, we have many fine scripture verses to use in our own celebration. Psalm 100 is a fine example.

"Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him, bless his name! For the Lord is good, his steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all

generations.” (Psalm 100 3-5) in the New Testament, Paul gives advice to the Philippians, “In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be known to God.” One of the Church’s favorite scriptures is John 3:16. “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

As Christian faithful believers we will celebrate Thanksgiving with our thoughts and our prayers of gratitude to God. The nation will use that day as the springboard to Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

The American Thanksgiving holiday has a rich and multifaceted meaning extending way beyond the dinner table. This day is a reminder to us of the values that united us as a nation, and it is a day to remember our diversity and reflect on our history.

Let us thank the Lord.

Amen. Pastor Fred

*Every GOOD
and PERFECT gift
is from above.
JAMES 1:17*



Thoughts for Advent

AUTHORITY FOR CHRISTIANS 1.0

Regrettably, the contentiousness that has dominated the political scene (at least nationally) for the past several years appears to be continuing unabated. Even as the season of Advent approaches, as we prepare to once again celebrate the miracle of the Son of God coming to earth in the flesh as an infant, there seems to be little peace on earth and even less good will towards men.

What are we as Christians to do? Holy Scripture has no “FAQ” section for such times. The Bible does not usually provide direct answers to such problems. More often, the events and characters in the narrative aid us in understanding how God has worked with and through His people in difficult and sometimes impossible circumstances, some far worse than ours.

In the Old Testament narrative, God’s Chosen People were to occupy the Promised Land and live happily ever after in obedience to God’s commandments and laws. God Almighty was to be only governing authority. But the people then demanded that God give them a King (read chapter 8 of 1 Samuel). Now the people would be subject to a secular authority in addition to, or alongside, the sacred authority. We know how that worked out, or didn’t.

When we begin reading in the New Testament, we find that the secular authority no longer saw

itself as subordinate to the sacred authority. More frequently, like today, it was the other way around. In Luke chapter 2, we see Joseph and Mary, in obedience to the secular authority, on their way to Bethlehem to be registered in order to be taxed by that authority. A little later in the narrative (now in Matthew 2), we see them fleeing the secular authority as Herod, the governor, sought to kill the infant king (of the sacred authority) whom he saw as a threat to his secular authority. In each of the four Gospels, we read about then-governor Pontius Pilate and how he related to what was ostensibly the sacred authority (the Jewish High Council) and the people. At first, Pilate tried to stay out of what was obviously a matter for the sacred authority. But then he yielded to the clamor of the crowd (as primed by the sacred authority) and directly injected the authority of government into religious affairs by executing the alleged blasphemer.

Contrast that with the story in Acts, Chapter 18, in which the Jews dragged Paul before Gallio, the proconsul of Achaia. Like in some other cities described in Acts, those who saw Paul and his teaching about Jesus to be a threat to the *status quo* tried to enlist the secular authority to support their effort to shut him up in order to protect their turf. In this case, Gallio would have none of it. He told them quite clearly, v. 15, "But since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves. I refuse to be a judge of these things." Even when the crowd began beating Sosthenes, whom they perceived as an ally, if not a cohort, of Paul, right in front of Gallio's tribunal, v. 17, "But Gallio paid no attention to any of this." Apparently, human rights violations were not particularly important to the secular authority back then. Of course, if I were the one being beaten outside the courthouse, I would fervently hope

that some authority, *any* authority, would put a stop to it! Much depends on one's perspective.

So as we begin the season of Advent, perhaps you might consider how many contentious issues can be analyzed, and perhaps even logically resolved, by asking questions, simply and unemotionally. For example, what is the proper role of government, the proper role of the church, and the proper role of the individual, as to a particular issue? We may differ on how that role should be acted out, but we all pray that the government would act rationally, that the church and the individual would act obediently to the proper authority, and that all would act consistently and even-handedly. As Christians in such a politicized world, we are called perhaps more than ever to live prayerfully, think critically, and speak and act lovingly.

Fr. Frank K. Wilson, Associate Rector

*Prayer for the Synod of the Anglican
Diocese of the Southwest
November 20-22*

Gracious and everliving Father, you have given the Holy Spirit to abide with us for ever: Bless, we pray, with the Holy Spirit's grace and presence, the Bishop(s), Priests, Deacons, and all the Laity who assemble in your Name; that your Church, being preserved in true faith and godly discipline, may fulfill the will of him who loved her and gave himself for her, your Son Jesus Christ our Savior; who now lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



Notes from the November Standing Committee Meeting

2025 Synod of the Anglican Diocese of the Southwest

Sacramento Conference Center, Sacramento New Mexico
Thursday, November 20 - Saturday noon, November 22

Ordinations at Synod:

Deacon Tara Jernigan will be ordained as a priest at Sacramento prior to the opening of the synod on Thursday morning at 10:30 am. A contingent from Church of the Epiphany will be there to celebrate that occasion with her and support her new direction in conveying the word and message as well as her continued commitments to educate those seeking holy orders through the ROC and other avenues.

New Deacons in the Diocese will be ordained at the opening evening service on Thursday.

Meredith Omland Holt has been a SAMS missionary for many years in Mexico. With her recent marriage to Tim Holt in El Paso, she has been on furlough from SAMS through Jan. 1. She is seeking a new assignment on this side of the border to continue her mission work, and the diocese is instrumental in working with SAMS to give her a new position. The proposed title thus far is "Ministry Ambassador to Mexico."

As many may have seen, Archbishop Steve Wood is taking a voluntary leave of absence as Primate of the Anglican Church in North America while the accusations against him are investigated. Two other bishops of the ACNA will take on his responsibilities while he is not active. Bishop Ray Sutton is setting up a board of inquiry, larger than usual, to include many sets of eyes and ears to hear and discern the known information.

If anyone has questions as to this or the matter of where the ACNA stands with the new Archbishop of Canterbury, please talk with Pastor Fred or Fr. Frank. There are some statements from Bishop Steven Tighe on the table in the narthex.

Prayer for the Universal Church: Gracious Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son our Savior. **Amen.**

Anglican Book of Common Prayer

Report submitted by Annette Fazenbaker

November News From Epiphany

We celebrated All Saints Day on Sunday November 2 by remembering the names of all who have gone to their eternal rest from this parish and from our families and friends. Since it is a feast day, we had our first of the month potluck to coincide with the celebration. Visitors included Bill Kilcup from Alamogordo and his dog, Inca, and Holly Peterson from El Paso who was up here working on her 3 Air B&B properties. If you are coming to the mountains and need a lovely place to stay, let us know and we will put you in touch with Holly. She has one that will take up to 14 people. It is 100 yrs old and was an original bunkhouse for the railroad workers. It has been spectacularly renovated.

The Fazenbakers traveled to Scott Air Force Base in Illinois last week to celebrate the promotion of Paul's nephew, David Fazenbaker, to Brigadier General in the Air Force on Friday, November 7..

We are praying for all our military people and have added to our list Navy Lt. Commander Patrisha Wilson Kellner, daughter-in-law of Paul and Bobbie Kellner, who have recently joined our



Brigadier General David Fazenbaker with his uncle, Paul Fazenbaker.

A word about one of Epiphany's new outreaches through Operation Soldier Smiles:

At our vestry meeting in October, it was decided that Epiphany would add to it's outreach list, Patriot Paws (patriotpaws.org). through Operation Soldiers Smiles which has been a long running Fazenbaker family charity since 2003.

Patriot Paws' mission is to provide service dogs to veterans that need them, but their system is unique, and one we would like to support for several reasons. The people that are charged with training the service dogs are prisoners in 3 Texas prisons, men and women who have shown an interest, grown a trust, and wish to give back to their country by participating in this program. They are first instructed to become a trainer and must pass a test to prove themselves a good investment in this program. The dogs that are trained to become service companions for veterans are dogs that have been found, assessed and chosen from humane societies in Texas, and deemed to be good, healthy candidates for service. We do not know the background of the prisoners who participate in this program, but we are assured, some of them may have military backgrounds themselves. The term salvation comes to mind in the thought of all the aspects of this program.

Operation Soldier Smiles, Inc. will continue to fundraise in its various ways, with this new focus of supporting those men and women who have served their country. As of October 2025, all our efforts and resources will be spent on continuing financial support of the successful Patriot Paws program.

The Fazenbaker family wishes to thank all those who have supported Operation Soldier Smiles throughout the years, and to invite them to continue the outreach to our veteran community. We will always be committed to the care of those that have served our country.

Paul, Annette, & Madeleine

November Pictures All Saints Potluck and Visitors



Right: Esther Fyock's grandchildren, Callan and Cohen



Right: Annette Fazenbaker and Holly Peterson sharing a joke!



Top: Marcus Thomas and Bill Killcup and Inca





Annual Ronald McDonald House Delivery

The Fazenbakers delivered items to the Ronald McDonald House Amarillo last week. Ms. Jan Plequette, Ms. Jackie and Ms. Shelley met us, as always, with big smiles. Given the limits of our vehicle and further destinations on this trip, we were able to take most of our delivery to them which included: 326 pillowcases, 40 NICU blankies, 60 Carter's onesies, 15 pairs of pajamas, 75 baby beanies and 75 baby crowns for the NICU, 4 baby afghans, 30 kitchen towels and 15 kitchen aprons, and 62 filled busy bags. This brings the total of pillowcases donated to over 2500 in the last 12 years. Thanks for all the pop tabs you have collected for Ronald McDonald House. We had 2 giant shopping bags full to deliver also. Thank you to all you lovely people who have donated fabric and yarn to the cause. God is good, and you are the hands of God.

Annette and Madeleine

Epiphany November Notes

As noted on our prayer list, We are grateful to Wayne Conine Jr. and Bill Haynes for the repair of badly compromised porch stairs on the east side. As discussed at our vestry meeting in October, we planned to pay for the repair with a jewelry sale (thanks to Bill Haynes generosity) on Memorial Day weekend in 2026. Since the stairs were in such bad condition, it was decided to go ahead and repair them before the snows. Wayne Conine Jr. has repaired them and we have a safe

exit from our building off the porch.

Wayne Jr. is Donya's son, and he has moved here permanently from Kingsland and is doing construction around the area. Wayne did most of the renovation when we moved into the church in 2010. If you are looking for anyone to do light construction and repair we highly recommend Wayne. You can call or text him at 325/348-1341.

We also welcome JR Hester and Darcy Ellis back safely from their respective travels and we pray travel mercies for anyone who is traveling over the Thanksgiving Holidays.

Madeleine Fazenbaker will be busy using her two new cameras at Synod as she is the official videographer for the proceedings.

Epiphany's Calendar for November through December 2025

Sunday, November 2 - All Saints Day

Advent begins, Sunday, November 30

Sunday, December 7 - Star Party &
potluck,

Sunday, December 21 - Lessons and Carols
and decorating the church



Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24

4:30 pm

There will be no service Christmas Day

Sunday, January 4, 2026
Epiphany celebration and potluck



Ecumenical Bible Studies

Fr. Frank's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 3:00 - 4:00 PM

At Grace Methodist Church 16th St. and Cuba,
Alamogordo.

They are studying the Gospel of John.

**For more information, call or text Fr. Frank
At 575-442-1354.**

Combined Ladies Bible Study

Thursdays, at 10 am

at Westminster Presbyterian Church,
2201 15th St., Alamogordo.

We are taking a break through the holidays and
will resume on Thursday, January 8, with a study
of the Gospel of Matthew using the book, "Let's
Study Matthew" by Mark E. Ross.

Class leaders: Katy Bailey, Nancy Griffin and
Dawn Wilder

Books are available now.

**For more information call or text Nancy at
575/495-3811**

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
Patrisha Wilson Kellner, US Navy
David Fazenbaker, USAF

Praise Reports

- For** Donya Conine's successful conclusion to litigation and continued recovery for her and Trevor.
- For** new porch steps on east side of building, thanks to Bill Haynes and Wayne Conine Jr.
- For** Paul Fazenbaker's nephew's promotion to Brigadier General in the US Air Force.
- For** the Fazenbakers' safe trip to Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, to attend the ceremony.
- For** our outreach donations

Prayer Concerns

- For** The 2025 Synod of the ADSW to be held November 20-22 at Sacramento Conference Center, NM. *Please pray for good weather.*
- For** the ordinations to be held at Synod.
- For** Donya and Trevor Conine to regain more strength and mobility
- For** Becky Florsheim as she recovers from a stroke and for her parents, Walter and Carolyn Ford.
- For** Fr. Frank and Carolyn Wilson, 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 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: Emmaus Anglican Church, Albuquerque; Comunidad del Fey Rey de Justicia, Iglesia Piedra Angular, Juarez MX; Comunidad de Gracia, Xalpa, MX

November Service Schedule

LEMS & Lectors

The Rev. Willis F Griffin, Pastor

The Rev. Frank K. Wilson, Associate Pastor

All Saints Day - Sunday, November 2 - 10 AM

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Fred

LEM Karli Sorensen

Lector Paul Fazenbaker

Pentecost 22 - Sunday, November 9 - 10 AM

Holy Eucharist - Fr. Frank

LEM Patrick Zima

Lector Carolyn Ford

Pentecost 23 - Sunday, November 16 - 10 AM

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Fred

LEM Karli Sorensen

Lector Annette Fazenbaker

Pentecost Last - Sunday, November 23 - 10AM

Holy Eucharist - Fr. Frank

LEM Patrick Zima

Lector Madeleine Fazenbaker

Advent I - Sunday, November 30 - 10 AM

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Fred

LEM Karli Sorensen

Lector Machele Lackey

Advent 2 - Sunday, December 7 - 10 AM

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Frank

LEM Patrick Zima

Lector Paul Fazenbaker



Coffee Fellowship

Nov 2 - PotLuck

Nov 9 - Nancy Griffin

Nov 16 - Machele Lackey

Nov 23 - Karli Sorensen

Nov. 30

Sign-up sheets are on the table.

November Event Schedule

Sunday, November 2

Potluck after the service

Sunday, November 16

Vestry Meeting after the Service

Ecumenical Bible Studies:

Wednesdays - 4-5 pm

Gospel of John

Fr. Frank - Grace Methodist Church
Alamogordo

Ladies Bible Study

Thursdays - 10-11:30 am

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Thursday, November 13 is the
last Bible study before the Holidays

**The Bible Study will resume on Thursday,
January 8, 2026**

For more information

See article in this newsletter - pg.8



November Birthdays

Murl Tullis - 10

Esther Fyock - 14

Carolyn Wilson - 16

Avery Goodgame - 26

Nancy Griffin - 28

November Anniversaries

Eddie and Karli Aquilar - 23

David and Jessie Brinkley - 28

ACNA Lectionary C through

November 23, 2025

All Saints • November 2, 2025

Revelation 7:9-17

Psalm 149

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 5:1-12 or Luke 6:20-26

Pentecost 22 • November 9, 2025

Job 19:23-27a

Psalm 17

2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5

Luke 20:27-38

Pentecost 23 • November 16, 2025

Malachi 3:13-4:6

Psalm 98

2 Thessalonians 3:6-16

Luke 21:5-19

Christ the King • November 23, 2025

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm 46

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:35-43

Lectionary yr. A begins

Advent 1 • November 30, 2025

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 122

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 24:29-44

Advent 2 • December 7, 2025

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 72:1-15

Romans 15:1-13 Matthew 3:1-12

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, Cloudercroft, 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 Milliorn, 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;