



Church of the Epiphany

FROM THE MOUNTAIN TOP

Monthly Newsletter • Cloudcroft, New Mexico • January 2025



Happy New Year

From the Church of the Epiphany

With the completion of the twelve day of Christmas we enter the season of Epiphany. (That lasts until the 5th of March and first Day of Lent) Last Sunday the 5th of January, we celebrated our 17th birthday here at Epiphany.

Now we have hung the new calendar and stepped into the New Year 2025.

This act of hanging the new calendar gives us the opportunity to turn over the old last year and begin a new one. That is the idea of the new resolutions that we intend to hopefully start a bright new us. But deep down we know that the desire to change some behavior will be challenging. Those old habits are always stubborn and it is slow work to change them. But we can give it a good try. The new year gives us that opportunity to change the old Adam and old Self. We earnestly desire to turn over that last

and desires. The true transformations are something that God does and gives to us through old Self. We earnestly desire to turn over that last day of the year and bring on the transformation. We can try. The Good News is that Jesus still loves us just as much on the last day of the year as he does on the first of the new one.

With that said we can go about making new resolutions and telling the Old Adam in our heart to be quiet. It will be not in the strength we possess but in the strength of Christ who within us will provide it for us. The arrangement is that Jesus knows us so well and he willing to accept us unconditionally. He knows us so well and he is still willing to work with what we can offer to match the offer of his grace and understanding. In our lives then we will have the chance to find the way to beneficial changes we desire. Remember that when we fall by mistake it will be Jesus who picks us up and dusts us off.

Now in this Christmas and Epiphany season we are thankful for the birth of our Lord Jesus. With his arrival in God's plan for us and our salvation we are no longer just under the law. The Old Testament Law was good at showing us the path to heathy living. It was difficult to keep it even with careful attention. It is the Apostle Paul in his own confession admits to being unable to be the man he wants to be. He falls into being the very one he does not want to be. "Wretched man that I am."

This beautiful birth gives us the new opportunity in our own lives to make new starts and set goals for ourselves in 2025. In 2024

Pastor Fred continued

perhaps we spent time with our old temptations and desires. The true transformations are something that God does and gives to us through his Son Jesus who provides for us. We can get excited when we feel a little achievement in our old self but then in confusion, we are most likely to lose any gain we achieved. Permanent resolve will be the work of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. That improvement will be lasting.

Let our new prayer be for permanent aid and support to the betterment in our lives. May the prayer of our heart be fulfilled.

It is a new year, and we are the same sinner who is still active. But with the birth of Jesus, we are free to be new and fresh from our past mistakes.

Let the prayer of our heart be to follow our Lord in new ways this year.

Happy New Year.

Pastor Fred+



**Request for Prayers for
all involved in California
fires**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I'm writing today to ask for your prayers for those in danger from the Southern California fires, including many members of the Diocese of Western Anglicans. Please pray for the safety of those in the path of the fires and for healing for those who have lost their homes.

Also, pray for the safety of the firefighters battling these infernos and for the first responders in the area—again, this includes many members of our diocese.

Blessings to you all,
Office of the Bishop

Prayers

Against Raging Forest Fires

O Lord, you who govern all forces of nature, have mercy, we pray, upon the lands that have been ravaged by fire; quench the fires that consume the forests, douse the flame that sets the mountains of blaze, shield the weak and take pity upon all creatures, great and small, so that the land might rest from its turmoil, and we might praise your mighty name. We pray this in the name of the one who safely carries his people through fire and water. Amen.

From *Prayers for the Pilgrimage* by W. David O. Taylor

In Times of Natural Disaster

Almighty God, by your Word you laid the foundations of the earth, set the bounds of the sea, and still the wind and waves. Surround us with your grace and peace, and preserve us through these winds and fires. By your Spirit, lift up those who have fallen, strengthen those who work to rescue or rebuild, and fill us with the hope of your new creation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

From *The Book of Common Prayer 2019*





GROWING CLOSER IN THE NEW YEAR

A quiet nudge. That is what I felt in mid-December when I was beginning a section of a daily meditation called New Daylight. The significance did not become clear until a few days ago.

New Daylight is published in the UK. This author had been living in Australia. Yet I was to learn from his brief biographical entry that his pathway to growing closer to the Lord paralleled mine in several ways. The author was older (born back in 1931). In fact, he died in 2023 after writing the particular series of daily meditations I was reading. He was raised in a church environment and loved the worship music. The music stayed with him all his life. But he did not know Jesus as Lord and Savior until the mid-1970s when he was exposed to the charismatic movement popularized by Fr. Dennis Bennett's book *Nine O'clock in the Morning*. I remember that step as an important part of my faith journey. The author also described leading *Life in the Spirit* seminars, a program which I remembered teaching with our Roman brothers a long time ago. As he grew closer to the Lord, the author eventually was ordained. I do not know whether he was involved in the *Cursillo* movement as I had been or in *Walk to Emmaus*, but his ministry involved serving a number of churches as a bi-vocational priest.

This is just a rough outline, but clearly, the author and I had stopped at some of the same waypoints (or growing places) in following the pathway to maturity in our faith. This was most remarkable in light of the distance between us. Our paths never crossed, but the same Lord was leading us to stop at some of the same places to refresh and renew our faith. So I am thankful for the quiet nudge and the learning experience. Anglicanism is worldwide. God will find us wherever we are.

How will you grow closer to the Lord in 2025? Perhaps it will involve some familiar growing places. Perhaps it will involve some important growing people. But more important than whether it involves programs or persons is whether it ignites (or re-ignites) a passion for the person of our Lord Jesus Christ! You may feel a quiet nudge during a time of prayer or you may recognize the touch of the Lord in some other way. It can be something you read, someone you meet, some experience you have, or even a particular remembrance. There is no universal prescription for spiritual growth, although some components are well-recognized (Scripture study, worship, fellowship, spiritual direction, etc.). What is universal is personal knowledge of Jesus Christ and Him crucified and a closer walk with Him.

I am confident that Jesus will reach out to you, just as He reached out to me and the late Australian author. My prayer is that you will recognize His touch and respond. Even if you have been walking closely with Him, He still reaches out. May He revive in '25!

Rev. Frank K. Wilson
Associate Pastor

Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 22, 2024

On Sunday, December 22, Epiphany celebrated Lessons and Carols and then everyone stayed to help decorate the church for Christmas. Since Annette and Madeleine Fazenbaker had already assembled the tree, we all set out to fill it with our decorations made this year and in the past. Lighted green boughs festooned the outside railing and inside with luminarios. We thank our decorators, Patrick Zima, Karlie Sorensen, Fr. Frank, Paul, Annette and Madeleine Fazenbaker, Esther Fyock, Donya and Trevor Conine and Pastor Fred and Nancy.



Christmas Eve at Epiphany

We celebrated Christmas Eve service with visitors from Austin and part of the Conine family and friends from Kingland, TX. Sandy and Stan Thomas came over from Ruidoso to join us. Tom and Fran Gregg from San Angelo and Charles and Susie Stigall were here to spend the holidays at their Cloudcroft homes. At the end of the service, Pastor Fred blessed the engagement of Donya's granddaughter, Kristen Conine and Gunner Ivy.



Pastor Fred blessing
Kristen and Gunner
on their engagement.

God's Beauty in all its forms!



A two inch Snowfall in Alamogordo on Thursday, January 9, Left this poor rose confused but still beautiful!

Photos by
Annette
Fazenbaker



Fr. Frank's Bible Study Wednesdays at 4:00 PM

At Grace Methodist Church 16th St. and Cuba,
Alamogordo. Wednesdays 3-4 pm.
They are studying the Book of Revelation.
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 studying "The Letter to the Ephesians"
We will break for the Holidays and resume on
Thursday, January 23, 2025
Plan to join us in January.

Epiphany Military Prayer List

Dominick Rankin, USArmy, Ft. Bliss, TX
Gabriella Murley, US Army, Ft. Bliss, TX
Mason Gregg, US Marines, Okinawa
Creed Napier, USAF
JW Grove, US Navy
Nicholas Tran, USAF, Joint Base Lewis-McChord,
Shawn Zima, US Army, Hong Kong
Wyatt Green, US Navy

Praise Reports

For Our Christmas services and good weather
for them
For the New Year!
For Epiphany's 17th year of ministry
For Mary Richins blessing us with her music
while Esther recovered from the flu.
For the first snow of the New Year bringing
much needed moisture

Prayer Concerns

For the city of Los Angeles and its citizens as
they continue to endure fires and for the Lord to
use this crisis to show forth His glory as He
brings His healing and comfort into this tragic
situation. *See prayers on page 2 of newsletter.*

For all fire fighters and first responders

For those that are recovering from various
"bugs" that are going around.
For Machele Lackey and Susie Sims
For Rev. Elias Rosales Mendez for heart surgery
For Fr. Frank and Carolyn Wilson, George
and Gayla Chapman, Patty Kendrick, and all
our caregivers
For the Diocese and Bishop Steven, and for
Annette Fazanbaker as a deanery
representative to the Standing Committee
of the Diocese.
For church plants within the diocese: Light of
Life Ministries, Emmaus Anglican Church,
Albuquerque; Comunidad del Rey de
Justicia, Iglesia Piedra Angular, Juarez MX;
Comunidad de Gracia, Xalpa, MX

January Event Schedule

January Service Schedule LEMS & Lectors

The Rev. Willis F Griffin, Pastor
The Rev. Frank K. Wilson, Associate Pastor

Epiphany - Sunday, January 5 - 10 AM

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Fred
LEM Karli Sorensen
Lector Annette Fazenbaker

Epiphany 2 - Sunday, January 12 - 10 AM

Holy Eucharist - Fr. Frank
LEM Patrick Zima
Lector Nancy Griffin

Epiphany 3 - Sunday, January 19 - 10 AM

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Fred
LEM Karli Sorensen
Lector Carolyn Ford

Epiphany 4 - Sunday, January 26 - 10 AM

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Fred
LEM Karli Sorensen
Lector Donya Conine

Epiphany 5 - Sunday, February 4 - 10 AM

Holy Eucharist - Fr. Frank
LEM Patrick Zima
Lector Paul Fazenbaker



From the Mountain Top

Sunday, January 5

Potluck after the service

Sunday, January 12

de-decorating of church after the service.

Sunday, February 9

Annual meeting after the service



Coffee Fellowship

January

Jan 5 - Potluck

Jan 12 - Nancy Griffin

Jan 19 - Karli Sorensen

Jan 26 -

Sign-up sheets are on the table.



January Birthdays

David Brinkley - 1

Rosie Henry - 6

Eddie Aguilar - 7

Patrick Zima - 7

Sandy Thomas - 15

Frank Wilson - 17

Larry Williams - 18

Fran Gregg - 19

Becca Price - 22

Taryn Zima - 28

January Anniversaries

Dwight Harp - Ordination 1/6

ACNA Lectionary C for January

Epiphany • January 5, 2025

Isaiah 60:1-9
Psalm 72:1-11
Ephesians 3:1-13
Matthew 2:1-12

Epiphany 1 • January 12, 2025

Isaiah 42:8-13
Psalm 89:20-29
Acts 10:34-38
Luke 3:15-22

Epiphany 2 • January 19, 2025

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 96
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

Epiphany 3 • January 26, 2025

Nehemiah 8:1-12
Psalm 113
1 Corinthians 12:12-27
Luke 4:14-21

Epiphany 4 • February 2, 2025

Malachi 3:1-4
Psalm 84
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40

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.

Donya Conine, Senior Warden

Annette Fazenbaker, Junior Warden

Doug Price/Bookkeeper

Church Board

Karli Sorensen Aguilar,

Patrick Zima, 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, Rev. Kyle MacKenney, 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;