



Church of the Epiphany

FROM THE MOUNTAIN TOP

Monthly Newsletter • Cloudcroft, New Mexico • February 2025



ANGLICAN CHURCH
IN NORTH AMERICA

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

The first Sunday of Epiphany is our birthday. This year we are seventeen years old and in good shape and therefore it is a good time to look at our history and current position in the Anglican Diocese of the Southwest.

It was on Epiphany of 2008 that we wrote to the Diocese of the Rio Grande that we were an Independent Anglican Church. Retired Bishop Kelshaw had assured us that this was a viable position. That began an exchange of ideas of just what our position was and our future path. Blessedly we were guided in our forward move by Bishop John Guernsey through the process of becoming a Church affiliated with the Anglican Church in Uganda. Eventually we became a church in the United States Diocese of the Holy Spirit. With the establishment of the Anglican Church in North America and the installation of our first Bishop Robert Duncan we were on our way as an official Anglican Church. Thanks be to God.

In that rapidly changing time, we lost our

Ascension property and moved to the Cloudcroft Museum Chapel which had belonged to Ascension. We had moved it to the museum as an important building in early Cloudcroft history. That old 32 seat chapel was our residence until 2010 when we had our new home here at 400 Chipmunk.

One of the important people who contributed mightily to our new existence was a CPA in Tularosa. Michele Lackey guided us through the intricacies of obtaining our 501 C3 status and a new identify. I was amazed through this process of the paperwork required. Her magic stapler could hold together a fifty-page document. Wham and it was done, sent off to the government and our new identity established.

Since then, we have grown in our understanding of Anglicanism. But that raises the question what is an Anglican? *The Anglican Way* is an excellent book written by Thomas McKenzie in 2014. I would like to share with you some of his ideas on this subject and you can decide where you fit in the picture.

Essential to be an Anglican Christian goes back in church history to the three ways for us to hear from God. We have Scripture, Tradition and Reason. These three ways can be guides in our understanding of five reliable sources of identification. First, we believe in Jesus Christ. The Son of God is the face of God we can see. We know of his ministry to us by the words written in the New Testament. The Gospel Story gives us this important Good News of our salvation. The entire Bible is our complete resource of our relationship with God our

Creator. The next essential is our understanding of the long-held Traditions from the earliest Church without interruption or change. And that brings us to the Church today in this chain of understanding and the life we live. It is by the guidance of the Holy Spirit and our Bishops that we have a safe path of belief as Anglicans.

We therefore believe in the Primacy of Scripture, the understanding of the Trinity, the grace of our Salvation, the Word and Sacraments handed down, the Apostolic Succession from the Apostles, and the overall mission of the Church. Together we live in unity in our Churches and together with prayer and companionship we are the Anglican Way. Any departure from these essentials will be a reason to suspect authority. The Church of Our Lord Jesus is present in today's worship. This worship can have many forms and still be Anglican. We can be very orthodox in religious worship. Or we can be free in expression of the service, music, and unscripted format. High Church of Anglo Catholic format or more traditional worship can be found. Some may put a high emphasis on evangelism while others are more established in liturgical worship. Music can be either traditional or contemporary or a fusion of both. The gifts of the Spirit may be emphasized. but speaking in tongues is not the only way of being a certified Anglican. Many have had quiet long term conversions and many have had remarkable ones and that is part of the overall beauty of Anglicanism. Loving God and His Son Jesus Christ is vital to belonging to the Anglican Church. This is not a complete list of Anglican traditions to be found in the Church of today but a picture of the possibilities.

Our mission is as always to present Jesus to all who are moved to be know him. We follow the long path of Christianity every Sunday and daily in our lives.

Be close to Jesus and he will be close to you.
Pastor Fred+

Annual Meeting Report

Epiphany held its annual meeting on Sunday, February 9, 2025 after the service.

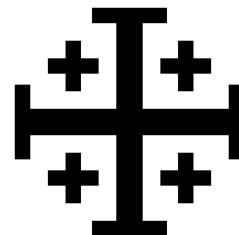
A financial committee consisting of Paul Fazenbaker, Machele Lackey, and Nancy Griffin, with Pastor Fred and Fr. Frank was appointed and they will prepare a proposed budget for 2025. Paul will be making the deposits. Many thanks to Donya Conine who has faithfully done this for many years.

New Church Board members elected are Machele Lackey and JR Hester. Other members are Annette Fazenbaker, Junior Warden; Karli Sorensen; and Patrick Zima. A board meeting will be held on Sunday, February 23 after the service. New committees will be sent up for various functions of the church.

We will also designate our outreach monies from our 2024 Garage Sale.

Annette made a report on the two day meeting of the Diocesan Standing Committee in Juarez on February 7-8. Please take the time to read it for a deepening understanding of Anglicanism within the Anglican Church in North America in 2025. It is good for us to understand exactly who we are when we meet people who ask "What is Anglicanism?" How would you answer that question?

Prayers are requested for Donya Conine who is recovering from serious illness and for her sons and daughter, Wayne Jr., Trevor, and Kelli, in their caregiving.





Lent Again!

Seeing LENT on the horizon may not help us to reflect the limitless joy in the Lord that we often like to associate with our relationship with our heavenly Father. After all, we are now in February and Spring has yet to begin sprouting, even in Southern New Mexico. Some of us are dealing with our miserable failure to keep even one of our New Year's Resolutions. Yes, we laugh at the celebration of Ground Hog Day and most of us feel a special warmth with those we love on Valentine's Day. But Ash Wednesday looms too soon with too much gloom! All too often, Lenten disciplines are too much like work.

But perhaps the cause isn't just the calendar or the climate. Might we be focusing too much on our own feelings and not enough on the steadfast love of the Lord? We pride ourselves on our self-sufficiency, but in doing so we can find ourselves enmeshed in a cycle of self-focus. It can happen easily and can continue virtually unnoticed. Self-help resources abound and many of them appear successful.

One example that comes to mind is the title of the popular book *The Power of Positive Thinking* by Dr. Norman Vincent Peale. His ministry has spawned the popular *Guideposts* magazine and a number of equally popular daily devotionals. Carolyn and I are subscribers. And most of us recognize that positive thinking is much healthier for us than negative thinking.

My concern is that the words of the book title tend to lead us to self-concern rather than God-concern. More appropriate wording might be *The Power of Faith-Filled Thinking*. That title might not have sold as many books, but it puts the emphasis on our relationship with our heavenly Father and not on ourselves. The power is not in how we think but in Who is at the center of our thoughts.

So what might a book so titled contain? To what resources might the reader be directed? We should expect it to help us find ways to fill our thoughts with faith in God. It should help lead us into the presence of the Holy Trinity in different ways, most particularly in the exercise of our spiritual gifts. The book would emphasize that faith-filled thinking can enable God's power to go forth through us into the world in ways we might not otherwise discover. In truth, I do believe that God has used Dr. Peale's book in just such ways, despite my discomfort with the title he chose.

Regrettably, I have not written such a book and so I cannot send it to everyone this Lent. And perhaps the book would simply have provided a new approach to the Lenten disciplines with which we are already familiar. For with the proper focus, those same old disciplines will lead us into faith-filled thinking. That will lead us into the presence of God. Let's go there together in Lent 2025. We already have the books we need, starting with *The Holy Bible*. See you on Ash Wednesday.

In Christ,
Rev. Frank K. Wilson,
Associate Pastor



Anglican Diocese of the Southwest

Standing Committee Report

The following report covers a two day meeting, February 7-8, that was held in Juarez, Mexico. There is much information in this report about our Diocese that we hope you will take time to read.

The Standing Committee just had its annual training meeting. Clarifying a few questions about the church in general and the outlook of our diocese was the basic training goal. The Standing Committee has 3 sub-committees under it: ROC, Finance and ABC committees. The ROC committee deals with the training, education, and qualifications of postulants into the ministry. The Finance Committee is self-explanatory, and the ABC committee deals with the Canons etc. The Bishop stressed that the diocese and the entire national and international church want the membership to know that the Anglican Church governs from the bottom up and the laity is important.

In the Anglican Church in North America presently, there are non-geographical diocese and geographical diocese. The Diocese of the Southwest is a geographical diocese. There is a movement to make all diocese geographical again. The reason being that currently churches can decide which diocese to be affiliated with. This takes some churches within our geographical boundaries out of our diocese, thus financially supporting other diocesan agendas. Currently we are one of the largest dioceses in North America and financially the poorest in income. If geographical boundaries were enforced, this would benefit us financially. The College of Bishops is currently considering the enforcement of such an issue.

The College of Bishops discussion regarding enforcing geographical boundaries affects other issues as well. One issue is the ordination of women in the diaconate and priesthood. Each diocese in the ACNA may choose their own position on this issue. Our diocese welcomes women as both deacons and priests. We have a female Archdeacon, and we have female priests in Mexico. Some of the Anglican churches that reside within our boundaries that choose not belong to our diocese are churches that do not want female clergy. Currently, a majority of the bishops in the College of Bishops believe that women do not have a place in clerical roles. However, the priests under those bishops, in their respective dioceses, do not all agree with their bishops' opinions. And it is well noted that the congregations polled in those dioceses also disagree with their bishops and believe that women should have ordination as clergy. As the ACNA is a church that is led by the laity, we can expect this issue to be resolved in the next few years nationwide. The next assembly is in 2029, where this will likely be an issue. At some point, the entire ACNA must agree on this issue so that we represent all laity and clergy with equal regard.

It was also mentioned, regarding the fact that we are financially the poorest diocese in the ACNA, and that while we have few financial resources in comparison to other dioceses, we have been providing the Trinity School of Theology some of the most valuable resources. As the bishop said, "the most is asked of the poorest", and we have risen to the occasion. Trinity school has been coming to us for instructional materials. Our diocese has been sharing and providing those materials and opportunities with the Trinity Seminary school and has been able to increase their enrollment and interest in serving the Spanish speaking churches and membership in the Anglican Church. While our diocesan income and financial endeavors may be sparse and limited, our ability to encourage and

Standing Committee Report *continued*

increase education in those seeking theological training has been proven to be very valuable to the ACNA and Trinity Seminary and has not gone unnoticed. Spanish educator David Zamora, an instructor with Trinity, recently re-located to Albuquerque. His wife has been employed by UNM and his presence in this diocese has become very useful on several fronts. Continued growth in his specialty is expected to be one of the largest and fastest growing populations served by the ACNA and Trinity in the near future, as it is showing to be here in our diocese now.

That leads into the fact that Mexico requires accreditations for all pastors to conduct their ministries legally. Our Mexican pastors are all accredited, and more are seeking those credentials.

School for Ministry (run by our diocese in accordance with the ACNA) sessions are open for everyone in our diocese who is interested. Some lectures and programs are available on a private YouTube channel and members of the church may view them with a link from the School for Ministry upon request. The School of Ministry offers classes for audit and for credit, and church member in good standing, wishing to audit need only to contact the school. These lessons are not available to the general public on YouTube, but only through the church's private channel. The reason for this is that we are not opening our teachings up for public debate and commentary on those who wish to wreak havoc on others for sport. We treat the messages seriously, and do not use them for any other purpose than to teach our membership. For those church members who have been approved for further study and wishing to attend seminary, either here by online instruction, or in person at Trinity, scholarships are available only to those qualified to seek holy orders.

A program of summer internships and/or church planters is being discussed for those currently enrolled in the ROC, and looking to lead a parish in our diocese. These would be interns that are training for holy orders within our diocese and wish to remain as clergy in our diocese.

An explanation of the ACNA West was given - that it includes the diocese of California, Arizona, San Joaquin, Cascadia, Ft. Worth, and our Diocese of the Southwest. It is a partnership for the office of canonical examinations for the ordination process of those seeking holy orders. It is also a group partnership agreement with the Ft Worth church examiner, Kristi Heffron to whom reports of misconduct can be made and examined. She is the legal counsel on such matters. The diocese participates in the Safe Ministry program that trains members on safe relationship practices in and concerning church business and primarily with children. This program requires a background check on all members who do outreach ministry and it is part of the process. I am the person for our parish that is certified and has completed the training. I have done this training before, and for those who are required to do the training, it must be renewed every 2 years. Anyone who represents the church in the community should do this training, for the legal safety of our parish and our diocese. All members of the Standing Committee are required to do the training and pass the background check.

There is some discussion on the Synod locations and the rotation of the events with a major travel hub location being the synod location every third year for the ease of travel. All offers of location are welcome, with the understanding that the location chosen will require being hosted by that local parish.

If you have any questions on the topics discussed above, feel free to ask me and I will try to clarify anything to the best of my ability and recollection.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Fazenbaker

Looking Ahead To Lent

This year the Community Lenten Lunches will once again be scheduled at the Cloudcroft Methodist Church. They were halted because of covid and we praise God that once again the community pastors and congregations can get together as a Lenten observance.

We will meet on Wednesdays during Lent at 12 pm and the soup and sandwich luncheon and speaker will conclude at 1 pm. Each church is responsible for 6 soups on those days that their pastors speak. Soups need to be at the Methodist Church by 11:30.

Please plan to join us in worship & fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Cloudcroft during Lent.

March 5: Dan Sherrell, *Cloudcroft United Methodist Church*

Bread of Life, *John 6:25-40 (I Am the Bread of Life)*

March 12: David Price, *Cowboy Church - Cloudcroft*

Bread for Growth, *Luke 13:18-21 (Parable of the Yeast)*

March 19: Fr. Fred Griffin, Church of the Epiphany

Bread for Each Day, *Matthew 6:9-13 (The Lord's Prayer)*

March 26: Larry Evans, *First Baptist Church*

Bread for Sharing, *Luke 14:7-14 (Parable of the Great Banquet)*

April 2: Gary Truex, *Cloudcroft Church of Christ*

Bread for Community, *Luke 19:1-10 (Dinner with Zacchaeus)*

April 9: Fr. Frank Wilson, Church of the Epiphany

Bread for the Road, *John 12:12-16 and Luke 19:28-40 (Triumphal Entry)*

Epiphany's Lenten Schedule

Ash Wednesday Service

March 5 - 5:30 pm

Palm Sunday - April 13

Maundy Thursday,

April 17 - 5:30 pm

Good Friday,

April 18 - 5:30 pm

Stations of the Cross

Fridays during Lent at 5 pm

Easter Sunday, April 20



This and That



Congratulations to Karli Aguilar-Sorensen, who retired from Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center in February.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

There will be a sheet on the table for birthdays and anniversaries - We are trying to bring our list up to date and find we have more of our summer congregation than our winter people!



Record Breaking snowfall in New Orleans - Darcy Ellis' brother's front yard! Darcy finally made it home to Cloudcroft several days later than originally planned!

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

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** Karli Sorensen's retirement from Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center
- For** a successful Annual meeting, Feb. 9 and For our new vestry members, Machele Lackey and JR Hester
- For** a successful Diocesan Standing Committee meeting in Juarez, Feb, 7-8. See Annette's report pgs. 4&5 of newsletter
- For** Kelli Conine's move to Cloudcroft to facilitate caring for Donya.
- For** Darcy Ellis surviving the New Orleans blizzard as she was visiting her brother

Prayer Concerns

- For** Donya Conine to regain some strength and mobility
- For** the Clergy Conference at Glorieta, NM March 13-15
- For** Pastor Shelby Moon as he undergoes treatment at UMN hospital in Albuquerque
- 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 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: Light of Life Ministries, Emmaus Anglican Church, Albuquerque; Comunidad del Rey de Justicia, Iglesia Piedra Angular, Juarez MX; Comunidad de Gracia, Xalpa, MX

February Service Schedule LEMS & Lectors

The Rev. Willis F Griffin, Pastor

The Rev. Frank K. Wilson, Associate Pastor

Epiphany 4 - Sunday, February 2 - 10 AM

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Fred

LEM Nancy Griffin

Lector Karli Sorensen

Epiphany 5 - Sunday, February 9 - 10 AM

Holy Eucharist - Fr. Frank

LEM Patrick Zima

Lector Karli Sorensen

Epiphany 6 - Sunday, February 16 - 10 AM

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Fred

LEM Karli Sorensen

Lector Annette Fazenbaker

Epiphany 7 - Sunday, February 23 - 10 AM

Holy Eucharist - Fr. Frank

LEM Patrick Zima

Lector Carolyn Ford

Epiphany Last - Sunday, March 2 - 10 AM

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Fred

LEM Karli Sorensen

Lector Paul Fazenbaker

We welcome our new Dean of the El Paso Deanery, Diocese of the Southwest, Rev. Rick Milliorn, who has taken over from the Rev. Ken Hanna who has moved out of the Diocese.

Fr. Rick is from St. Clement's, El Paso. He is hoping to put together some luncheons so that we may be more connected in this deanery. Churches in the deanery are St. Clement's, El Paso, Epiphany, and Good Shepherd, Hill, NM.

February Event Schedule

Sunday, February 9

Annual meeting after the service

Sunday, February 16

Financial committee meeting after the service

Sunday, February 23

Church Board meeting

After the service

Sunday, March 2

Potluck after the service



February

Feb 2 - Potluck

Feb 9 - Annette Fazenbaker

Feb 16 - Karli Sorensen

Feb 23 - Nancy Griffin

Sign-up sheets are on the table.



February Birthdays

Gayle Tullis - 7

Daphne Griffin - 7

Maggie Fazenbaker - 11

Karli Sorensen - 17

January Anniversaries

Dwight & Marge Harp - 24

ACNA Lectionary C for February

Epiphany 4 • February 2, 2025

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

Epiphany 5 • February 9, 2025

Judges 6:11-24
Psalm 85
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

Epiphany 6 • February 16, 2025

Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

Epiphany 7 • February 23, 2025

Genesis 45:3-11, 21-28
Psalm 37:8-17
1 Corinthians 15:35-49
Luke 6:27-38

Epiphany Last • February 23, 2025

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
1 Corinthians 12:27-13:13
Luke 9:28-36

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.

The Head of the Church is Jesus Christ

The Anglican Church in North America,

The Rt. Rev. Steve Wood, Archbishop

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;