



# Church of the Epiphany

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## FROM THE MOUNTAIN TOP

Monthly Newsletter • Cloudcroft, New Mexico • November 2024



### *Thanksgiving Christmas Cactus*

First Harbinger of the Holiday Seasons

Way back in the late 1950s, I was off to college. Maybe in typical fashion in that late summer I changed my mind on the college I would attend and the major I would seek. I would be a geologist rather than an architect. I was also caught up in my reading of books I thought informative. One of them was a book called *The Man Called Peter* and was a biography of Peter Marshall, an evangelist of recognition at the time. It had a call on my heart to consider the ministry as a profession. I did not act on that call then and am now surprised to find that it came to pass. I was also reading voraciously science fiction. In those days SIFI was closely watched in content. No sex. No politics. No crude language. Just out of this world fantasy of the

future. One of the popular writers I followed wrote in one of his books about religion and its demise over the years. The only remnant was a reference to a virgin woman who had been the mother of someone forgotten. She still had a small following.

The 1950s college experience was one of political call to end segregation. I had grown up with the reality of segregation and yet I was raised to consider myself against the policy and voiced my opinion at rallies on the campus. It had some positive effect.

Now many years later those old long held memories are still part of my thinking today. Is my Christian upbringing significant?

The National election is over with the exception of few Houses and Senate races. The investigation of the voting habits the country are now the focus as political observers try to analyze the results both for and against the results.

The unreported response of the Christian Right, especially the evangelicals, is there but not one of the principal reporters on the news networks looks at the impact. What is the impact of this group? Religious influence in US politics has surged and the Christian voter has had a greater impact on the 2024 election. Two-thirds of the American population are identified as Christian with 55% of them as practicing church attendees at least once a month. The more likely percentile is that these voters will be Republican with the exception of the Black evangelicals. but that is changing.

## **Pastor Fred *continued***

And the statistics show that these Christians are more likely to vote. The day after the election the unreported consensus is that they, the Christian conservatives, are pleased with the results, but still somewhat concerned with the moral and religious commitment of the elected leadership. This voting block is significant in that it forms a sizable portion of the electorate and votes at a much higher rate than the regular adult population. In addition they tend to vote Republican. This gives them an oversized election outcome beyond that of other adult groups. One factor for this voting pattern is that they are from a religious community committed to social, moral, economic, and government issues. This suggests that religion and religious communities shape a portion of the voting public. With increased immigration and new influences this group has come together on a host of political issues linking them as a voting block and a potent factor in elections.

We must use this power wisely in praying for our government and seeking God's will. Let us be humble and pray for a revival of Christian values and for God's wisdom. Let us be thankful for this country and our form of government.

Happy Thanksgiving and the start of the Advent  
In Christ, Pastor Fred

## **Bible Studies**

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

At Grace Methodist Church 16th St. and Cuba,  
Alamogordo. Wednesdays 4-5 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"

Our last meeting for 2024 will be Thursday,  
November 21.

*We will break for the Holidays and resume on  
Thursday, January 9, 2025*



## **Standing Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, October 23, 2024

Most of the discussion was about the ADSW Synod to be held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, November 12-14, 2024.

Archbishop Steve Wood will be in attendance along with Bishop Stephen Tighe and our retired Bishop Mark Zimmerman.

4 new churches (see *prayer list on page 6 of newsletter*) and a number of priests and deacons will be ordained.

There are currently 2 Spanish speaking churches north of the border and there is interest in a 3<sup>rd</sup> one as a church plant by an individual that has approached the bishop. The bishop sees a need for church plants in the larger cities of our diocese. He feels the larger cities are underserved and we do not have a presence in those areas, particularly north of the border. He is very happy with all the small church plants in Mexico, new ones springing up all the time. All church plants are a good thing!!!

The bishop has nominated Theron Walker as the new Standing Committee secretary. He is from the former international diocese and will be joining us shortly.

The bishop will be unveiling a new diocesan seal - one that will include the cross of Jesus Christ, at the Synod next month.

Prayers were requested for the Vera Cruz area of Mexico where there is currently an outbreak of dengue fever - which is a mosquito borne illness.

Prayers were requested for Meredith Omland's 2 yr old niece - Naomi Jade Dircherl. She was born with Esophageal atresia. ( baby's esophagus hasn't finished developing.)

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Fazenbaker,

*El Paso Deanery Representative*



## ADVENT IS COMING – HE IS COMING!

The Church year will draw to a close at the end of November. By then, we will have given thanks on the National Holiday we call Thanksgiving and, before the turkey is even fully digested, feasted on the best bargains on Black Friday. So if we do not take the time now, in early November, to focus on the massive truths of God (something we might ought to do at least once a year), we will once again get lost in the end-of-year rush of things.

Begin, if you will, with the reality of the **immanence** of God. By that term I mean that the God Who created the entire universe is a real and immediate presence in our lives. If you search online for the meaning of the word “immanence,” you will find that it is used in a number of religious belief systems to describe God’s presence in our everyday reality. The pantheistic belief, for example, is that God is present in everything tangible. The opposite is the belief that there is no God, or if there is, He simply set off the Big Bang to get the universe going and did not stick around to stay involved or even watch what happened.

My purpose is not to suggest a word study, but to wonder with you about God as we Christians know Him. That He knows us, and we may know Him, is simply magnificent. I suspect that many who doubt Him are unable to accept the idea, let alone grasp its implications for our daily lives. Such a God must be so far beyond, and such as us are so far beneath! Yet we learn in the story of God and His people in what we call Holy Scripture that the God Who created all things created us in His image, created us good. We learn that in our lust for self-determination, we rebelled against Him. We continued to prefer our own sovereignty, yet He continued to love us. He came to Earth to show us the way back, with the Cross of Christ as the bridge over the divide separating us, a divide made ever deeper and wider by our persistent sin. Through the Holy Spirit, He continues to walk with us as closely as we permit. Praying daily helps keep us close to Him. Worshipping weekly enables us to experience His reality in the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist. However, such intimacy with our Creator is not something to be treated casually. Please review in your Anglican Prayer Book the Exhortation found on pages 147-8 (or at [anglicanchurch.net](http://anglicanchurch.net)). Perhaps we will include it in our Sunday liturgy in Advent. Take it into your hearts as the old year winds down so the new year might dawn, on the calendar, in you, and in me.

Alleluia, He is coming! Alleluia, He is here!

The Rev. Frank K. Wilson, Associate Pastor

*Sunday, November 3*

*Brunch*

We were so happy to fellowship and share our brunch on Sunday, November 3 with several visitors. Machele Lackey brought a friend, J.R. Hester from Timberon, and Sean Lofland from Alamogordo joined us.

Our next potluck will be Sunday, December 1 and we will celebrate the beginning of Advent with our Star Party.



Biscuits and  
gravy were the  
order of the  
day!

Below: J. R.  
Hester and  
Machele  
Lackey

Below  
Sean Lofland  
and Karli  
Sorensen



*November 7 - Paradoxes*

A snap shot of winter in the mountains, and moisture clinging to a tree in the basin. At least Alamogordo got some moisture from our snow storm!

Moisture in any form is a blessings in the Southwest. Praise God!





## *Epiphany Star Party Project*



## *Church of the Epiphany's Advent and Christmas Schedule*

### **First Sunday in Advent December 1**

We will hold our Annual Star Party and Potluck after the service.

Annette has some wonderful ideas for our Christmas tree ornaments this year and we will have food and fellowship as we make them.

### **4th Sunday in Advent December 22**

Lessons and Carols

We will decorate the Church after the service

### **Christmas Eve Service December 24 - 4:30 pm Reception following the service**

### **Sunday, January 5, 2025**

We will hold our Epiphany celebration after the service



On the First Sunday of Advent, December 1, we will hold our annual star party, enjoy a potluck and make ornaments for our 2024 Christmas tree. This has become a tradition with Epiphany and we thank Annette Fazenbaker, our DIY queen, for this year's ideas. Please save your cardboard tubes from toilet paper rolls and paper towel rolls. They will be recycled into lovely three dimensional stars to be given away as remembrances of Christmas 2024 after the service.

We keep our projects simple so that everyone can enjoy the fellowship and have an enjoyable time. Be sure to put this event on you calendar.

**2025 Anglican Calendars and Advent devotional booklets will be on the table next week for pick up.**



## *In Memoriam*

Jack Jagoe  
October 20, 2024

Jack was a member of Epiphany when we were worshipping in the museum chapel and at that time, he was a resident of Ruidoso.

Jack is survived by his wife, Char and 3 sons. Jack and Char moved to Beaumont, CA in 2011 and he served as a vergers at Christ Chapel Anglican in Beaumont. A memorial service is planned for November 16 in Beaumont, California.



### Prayer for Military Veterans:

O Judge of the nations, we thank you with grateful hearts for the men and women of our country who in the day of decision ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy. Grant that we may not rest until all the people of this land share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Pg. 682 ABCP*

#### **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** Annette Fazenbaker successful hand surgery  
**For** the life and ministry of Jack Jagoe  
**For** those being ordained and the new churches who are joining the ADSW at the Synod, Nov, 12-14  
Emmaus Anglican, Castle Rock, CO  
Fr. 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  
**For** the Lord's provision for Epiphany in 2024 and for all who have supported our ministries.

### **Prayer Concerns**

**For** the Char Jagoe and the family as they grieve  
**For** Donya Conine and healing in her legs  
**For** the city of Roswell, and for St. Stephen's Anglican Church as they recover from the flood in October.  
**For** the ADSW synod in November 12-14 in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.  
**For** Machele Lackey and Susie Sims  
**For** Fr. Frank and Carolyn Wilson, George and Gayla Chapman, Patty Kendrick, and all our caregivers  
**For** the Diocese and Bishop Steven, for Fr. Frank as co chair of the ROC committee and for Annette Fazenbaker 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

## November Service Schedule LEMS & Lectors

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

### **All Saints - Sunday, November 3 - 10 AM**

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Fred  
LEM Patrick Zima  
Lector Annette Fazanbaker

### **Pentecost 25 - Sunday, November 10 - 10 AM**

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Frank  
LEM Patrick Zima  
Lector Donya Conine

### **Pentecost 26 - Sunday, November 17 - 10 AM**

Holy Eucharist - Fr. Fred  
LEM Patrick Zima  
Lector Paul Fazanbaker

### **Pentecost Last/ Thanksgiving Sunday, November 24 - 10 AM**

Holy Eucharist - Fr. Frank  
LEM Karli Sorensen  
Lector Nancy Griffin

### **Advent I - Sunday, December 1 - 10 AM**

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Fred  
LEM Karli Sorensen  
Lector Annette Fazanbaker



Sean Lofland and  
Trevor Conine  
enjoying brunch

From the Mountain Top

## November Event Schedule

### **Sunday, Nov. 3**

Potluck after the service

**Please note: We will celebrate  
Thanksgiving during the service,  
Sunday, November 24.**

### **November 12-14**

ADSW Synod  
Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

### **Sunday, December 1**

Potluck and Star Party after the service



Coffee Fellowship

### **October**

**Nov. 3 - Potluck**

**Nov. 10 - Nancy Griffin**

**Nov. 17 -**

**Nov. 24 -**

Sign-up sheets are on the table.



### **November Birthdays**

Murl Tullis - 10  
Esther Fyock  
Carolyn Wilson - 16  
Avery Goodgame - 26  
Nancy Griffin - 28

### **November Anniversaries**

Eddie and Karli Aquilar - 23  
Jack & Char Jagoe - 27  
David and Jessie Brinkley - 28

## ACNA Lectionary B for November

### All Saints • November 3, 2024

Revelation 7:9-17  
Psalm 149  
Ephesians 1:11-23  
Luke 6:20-26

### Pentecost 25 • November 10, 2024

1 Kings 17:8-16  
Psalm 146  
Hebrews 9:24-28  
Mark 12:38-44

### Pentecost 26 • November 17, 2024

Daniel 12:1-4a  
Psalm 16  
Hebrews 10:31-39  
Mark 13:14-23

### Pentecost Last • November 24, 2024

Daniel 7:9-14  
Psalm 93  
Revelation 1:1-8  
John 18:33-37

### Advent I • December 1, 2024

Zechariah 14:3-9  
Psalm 50:1-6  
1 Thessalonians 3:6-13  
Luke 21:25-33

## 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 Church of the Epiphany, Cloudcroft, 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;