

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church Spring Newsletter Spring 2024 Dubois WY



Hi to all of you within the doors of St. Thomas and beyond,

I am the Reverend Bonnie Deyo (please call me Bonnie) and I have been called to be your interim priest. I have greatly enjoyed my first month with St. Thomas and look forward to providing pastoral care and support, Eucharistic services and journeying with you to choose your new priest. I will appreciate hearing from anyone who has a spiritual need or has thoughts and ideas to share to keep St. Thomas the loving thriving community that it is now and as it grows into the future.

A quick bit about myself: I am married to a wonderfully supportive husband, Harold Hopkins; yes, we do not have the same last name. I have 2 sons and their spouses, 5 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter; I am blessed to still talk to my mom, sister and brother nearly every day. My house, heart and pasture are filled with 4-legged family members. You might not want to get me started on them. I have a lot of extended family who are equally dear but require much less grooming. I am from Northern Minnesota and Harold is a cradle Wyoming boy. We live on a small piece of acreage outside of Lander which keeps Harold busy while I work full time as a Hospice Chaplain and Waiver Nurse. I have had a long and varied career as an RN and LTC administrator. Graduating from Iona, I was discerned from St. Andrews in Atlantic City and served there for 3 years. And now I am here at St. Thomas. I think that is enough about "I, I, I" Please reach out to me so that I (sorry) can learn about each of you.

My schedule at St. Thomas will be 2 Sundays and 2 weekdays a month, unless other needs arise. Martha has my phone number if you want or need to call me.

May God bless us, Jesus lead us and the Holy Spirit fill us as we travel together to learn God's will for St. Thomas,

Bonnie

WELCOME Interim Priest; The Rev. Bonnie Deyo

We have great news. The Rev. Bonnie Deyo began her position at St. Thomas' as our Interim Priest the first of April.

What is an Interim Priest in the Episcopal Church?

An interim priest in the Episcopal Church plays a crucial role during times of transition within a parish. Let's delve into the responsibilities and significance of this role:

Purpose and Context:

The interim priest serves as a bridge between the departure of one rector (or priest-in-charge) and the arrival of a new permanent priest.

Their ministry is especially vital during this interim period, which can be marked by uncertainty, grief, or conflict within the congregation.

Responsibilities:

Pastoral Leadership: The interim priest leads the parish as a pastor, priest, and teacher. They provide spiritual guidance, support, and care to the congregation.

Shared Ministry: They actively participate in the councils of the congregation and collaborate with lay leaders, vestry members, and other clergy.

Canonical Oversight: The interim priest represents and extends the ministry that falls under the bishop's pastoral and canonical responsibility for congregations in leadership transition.

Stability and Non-Anxious Presence: They bring a "non-anxious presence" to the parish, fostering stability and helping the community navigate change.

Transition Ministry:

The Office for Transition Ministry (OTM) within The Episcopal Church provides guidance and support during transitions.

Diocesan Transition Ministers (DTMs) oversee ministry transitions, clergy placement, and personnel matters.

The OTM Portfolio database captures and highlights the gifts and skills of clergy and laity, aiding in ministry transitions.

Reflecting on Trends:

The church continually reflects on trends in transition ministry. These trends impact how ordained leaders are brought to congregations.

Conversations around these trends help adapt to various contexts and foster effective transitions.

In summary, the interim priest serves as a steady presence, nurturing the congregation during times of change and preparing the way for the next chapter in the parish's life. 🙏🤝

Looking for Volunteers to be on the St. Thomas' Stewardship Committee:

The Episcopal Church defines stewardship as: What I do, with all that I have, after I say, "I believe." and Using the gifts God has given us, to do the work God is calling us to do. Christian stewardship is grateful and responsible use of God's gifts in the light of God's purpose as revealed in Jesus Christ. Christian stewards, empowered by the Holy Spirit, commit themselves to conscious, purposeful decisions. Stewardship is lived out in:

- Living and telling the good news
- Sharing God in seeking justice, peace, and the integrity of creation in an interdependent universe
 - Wisely employing God-given human resources, abilities, and relationships
 - Sharing the material resources, we hold and giving them in service, justice, and compassion
- Providing for future generations, sharing in the life, worship, and responsible stewardship of the Church and of its mission

Stewardship is a joyful act for the individual, the community and for the sake of God's world.

This definition comes from the standing rules of the Ecumenical Stewardship Center. The Episcopal Church is a founding member of this group and remains active in its continuing work.

Visit with a Vestry Member if you are interested in joining this Committee.



Attention ALL Church Keyholders



The Episcopal Church in Wyoming and St. Thomas' Episcopal Church are dedicated to fostering safe and healthy settings. We are committed to keeping everyone safe, particularly our children, youth, and vulnerable adults. To facilitate all of us reaching this ideal, ALL St. Thomas' Church Keyholders; this includes the Stewart House, Coffee Room, Community Room, Church Sanctuary and Sacristy are required to complete the on-line trainings.

The training is online through the Safe Church, Safe Communities training site on Praesidium. Please contact our Parish Administrator; Martha and she can walk you through the process. We would like to have all keyholders complete this training by June 1st. If you choose to opt out of the trainings; PLEASE return your Keys to Martha.

You can find more information on our Diocese Website www.episcopalwy.org/safe-church/

Growing More Hope by Mary Ellen Honsaker

For the second season the Greenhouse and beds of the St. Thomas' Community Garden are coming alive! With the electricity finally connected we now have heat to extend the season. And with Lights On children returning, a different energy will warm gardening hearts. Soil will be invigorated, seeds are coming via Fed X, and plants will start growing in windows, to be transplanted by small hands. The final harvest will go to the Saturday morning Food Bank first, and, if plenty, then to the congregation and Farmers Market to buy in support of all Food Bank needs. We need volunteers to join in this ministry – plants and children need loving care. A few hours can make a big difference. Call Mary Ellen, 455-2182, to learn more, and get some Hope Ribbons to tie to our garden fence!



Pastoral Report

by Sandy Lahr; Pastoral Coordinator



With a New Year opening we continue to touch one another's lives through the unity of our congregation. In late January, we learned of the passing of a former long-time member, **Larry Glaeser**, following a lengthy decline. He and wife **Janet** relocated to North Carolina during the pandemic to be near family. **Janet** was most instrumental in the founding and funding of the Dubois Youth Club in conjunction with several members of St. Thomas'. She has since relocated to Idaho to a care facility near family. Also, in January, **Martha and Rick Bridge** experienced the passing of their daughter's mother-in-law. In loving support, **Martha and Rick** were rewarded with caring for their joyous and entertaining young granddaughter for an extended period. A noted passing for our membership was that of **Bobbi Barrasso**, spouse of our **US Senator John Barrasso**. Member **Pam Buline** has been both a longtime professional assistant to **Senator Barrasso** as well as a close friend to **Bobbi**.

We continue with regular and eagerly anticipated updates from two of our dear St. Thomas' family members: **Margie Cargill** and **John Angst**. **Margie** was finally discharged following a lengthy hospitalization to continue regaining her health with her son **John** near Prescott, Arizona. We continue to learn of her progress in mobility and stamina—and cheering her hopes of returning to Dubois for the summers.

John Angst initiated his long journey of treatments in Salt Lake City on January 29th. With the success of his first step, he was able to return to Dubois under the very vigilant and caring home and attendance of **Sylvia Crouter**, with an outpouring of additional support from St. Thomas' members as well as community friends. He has returned to Salt Lake City for his next stretch of treatments. Sylvia provides weekly reports to the congregation—all with welcomed anticipation. Cards, prayers, and thoughts have continued for both **Margie** and **John** daily as we walk their journey of love and caring with them.

More recently, we learned of the lengthy hospitalization of **Mary Ellen Honsaker's** brother in Canada, and now to a long-term care facility. **Mary Ellen** is comforted by her frequent phone conversations with him as well as the hope of visiting him during the summer.

Harris Bonnell recently announced the passing of his dear friend and neighbor **Del Allen**. Since the passing of **Harris'** wife, **Merle**, in recent years, **Harris** and **Del** have remained closest friends—enjoying the companionship of regular daily coffee together—and watch out for each other—the sheer essence of a friendship.

Through these multiple pivotal member events has been **Deacon Pamela Glasser** with her regular pastoral visits and communications. In addition, **Pamela** has been in the forefront of timeless caring and commitment to the **Venezuelan Families** who arrived in our community with minimal support and resources. **Pamela** has worked tirelessly to coordinate resources of food, clothing, housing, furnishings, medical care, employment, legal counsel, school coordination and English classes. She has remained a portal to an outpouring of support in Dubois.

May the arms of caring, compassion and outreach be the overarching source of strength and renewed Hope this Spring as we remain united—one to the other.

NOTES FROM THE DEACON: The Reverend Pamela Glasser

It seems to have been a Bad News / Good News Easter Season for us all. Many of us are deeply grieving the loss of service from our past Bishop, Paul-Gordon Chandler, and his gifted musician wife, Lynne. However, Paul-Gordon's chosen resignation allows us all to move forward into our own resurrection modes. We now welcome to St, Thomas, Dubois, our interim priest, Reverend Bonnie Deyo. She has already provided wonderful Eucharist celebrations and heart-lifting sermons. As long as she is committed to serving us in the next year ahead, she will also consecrate all of our elements for Communion every Sunday. Alternately with her, we are then able to have Eucharist every Sunday, as I provide Reserved Sacrament (Deacon's Mass) when she is not here. With our licensed Eucharistic Lay Ministers, Mary Ellen Honsaker, Sheryl Isaly, Martha Bridge, Sue Bodar and Jerry Falco, we will all work together to continue meaningful worship in our Church and at Warm Valley Lodge. Looking forward to seeing you in Church throughout this Easter and upcoming Pentecost Seasons !.....DPG



Sunday Services for May and June

May 5th: Holy Eucharist with Bonnie

May 12th: Deacon's Mass with Pamela,
Sylvia Preaching

May 19th: Deacon's Mass with Pamela

May 26th: Holy Eucharist with Bonnie

June 2nd: Deacon's Mass with Pamela

June 9th: Holy Eucharist with Bonnie

June 16th: Deacon's Mass with Pamela

June 23rd: Holy Eucharist with Bonnie

June 30th: Deacon's Mass with Pamela,
Mary Ellen Preaching

SUMMER SQUARE DANCING

Twila Blakeman and her faithful Volunteers are gearing up for another successful Square-Dancing Season. Every Tuesday Night from June 4th- August 13th at the Rustic Pine Tavern's Frontier Room 8:00-9:30 pm.

New Volunteers are ALWAYS WELCOME!!



THANK YOU SYLVIA

Sylvia Crouter was presented a thank you gift last Sunday for always sharing her wealth of knowledge and for her generous gift of housing for Pastor Bob and Joan McNamara during their tenure with St. Thomas'



Up-Coming Birthdays

MAY



- 1 Cindie Watson
- 4 Dick Hodge
- 6 Billie Culver
- 6 Mary Ellen Honsaker
- 8 Ian Watson
- 25 Margaret Cinque
- 27 Randy Lahr

June

- 10 Twila Blakeman
- 21 Cara Jane Sabatka
- 26 Pamela Glasser

July

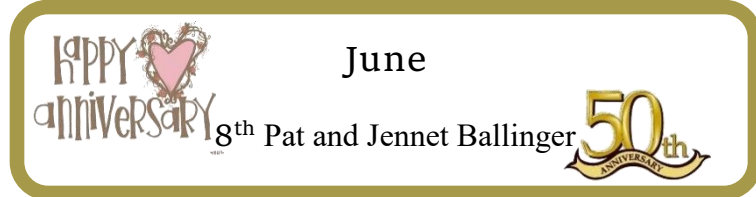
- 5 Martha Bridge
- 15 Kay Jacoby
- 16 Kathy Treanor
- 25 Jennet Ballinger



2024 Bicyclist/Hiker Ministry Season begins June 1st.

Hikers and bikers following the CDT and Trans Am trails are welcomed to our community room for overnight stays during the summer months. The shelter is open June – September. The first Charitable Group of Bicyclist; Ability Experience/Journey of Hope will be June 24th. Thank you Cindie and Ian Watson and volunteers for your dedication and hospitality to make this an amazing ministry.

Up-Coming Anniversaries



Church Office Hours: Tuesday through Thursday 9 am-noon and 1-4 pm

Church Office Phone: 307-455-2313

Parish Administrator: Martha Bridge

St. Thomas' email: stthomas.wy@gmail.com

Food Bank email: stthomas.fb@gmail.com

Website: stthomasdubois.org

Facebook: St. Thomas' Episcopal Church Dubois, WY <https://www.facebook.com>

Vestry Members:

Senior Warden: Sue Bodar Junior Warden: Rick Bridge Treasurer: Kate Falco

Clerk: Mary Ellen Honsaker Members: Nancie Vion-Loisel, Twila Blakeman, John Angst, Sheryl Isaly, Kirk Lindstrom