



Church of the Epiphany

FROM THE MOUNTAIN TOP

Monthly Newsletter • Cloudcroft, New Mexico • August 2020



Eugene Peterson points out, *"Our spiritual communities are as susceptible to disease as our physical bodies. But it is easier to detect whatever is wrong in our stomachs and lungs than in our worship and witness. As much as we need physicians for our bodies, we have even greater need for diagnosticians and healers of the spirit. Jude's letter to an early community of Christians is just such a diagnosis."*

TRUTH IN OUR TIMES

We have in our New Testament the Letter of Jude. Jude was the brother of James and Jesus and probably wrote his Letter in the mid 60s A.D. The theme of his letter was to point out the dangers of false teaching and to return to the true thinking about Jesus. Do not abandon the truth of God's Word.

Unfortunately in our own time we are the midst of repackaging truth. We are in the age of "You have your truth and I have mine." This world view seems to dominate the horizon and rule postmodern society.

Jude wanted to write a letter about their common salvation but instead finds the need to guard against the teaching that is invading the community. "For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of God, into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ." (Jude 1: 4)

As Christians we stand shoulder to shoulder as a community of believers who have been in the past and are now in the present. We are therefore part of a mighty army of God and we must now stand as that army against the forces that are attacking us. Polls conducted in the past have shown that a big majority of Christians think that you can be a good Christian even if you don't go to church. Jude is saying that is not possible when we are bound by our everlasting common salvation.

Our faith is under assault by false teachers who have crept in to pervert the grace of God. Jude tells us to beware as the apostles warned us in verses 18 and 19. "In the last time there will be scoffers, followers of their own ungodly passions. It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. But you, beloved, building yourselves up in the most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life."

Here we come to the meat of Jude's message to us about division. Divide and conquer is a tried way to disrupt the current thinking. Instead of one avenue of attack use several. The language of Sin is so easily manipulated to confuse and destroy the past. "Morals" were at one time the guide to a Christian life style. Now we use the words "Value" to replace the previous moral standards. It is so much softer and can be whatever you want it to be. We used to have "Character" and now we have acceptable "Lifestyles" and the old "Principles" that were the foundation of life have been reduced to simple "Preferences."

These subtle shifts in meaning begin their destruction of the old definition of Truth. This is the work of false teachers and false teaching. The divisions brought about by constantly redefining our position leads to the final destruction of what was the bedrock of faith. Jude admonishes us to keep our feet on solid spiritual ground and this will prevent us from falling out of the love of God.

Let us pray.

Lord help us to see the truth, keep our faith strong, and keep us in God's love. Help us to be merciful to those who doubt, and to love one another as Jesus taught. May we continue to hear and obey your Word.

Amen.

FRUSTRATIONS OF THE TIMES

Life with masks and social distancing is frustrating. What was just everyday freedom has been limited by the requirement of the of the virus. The mask may be a preventive but it is also a disruption. For one with a hearing deficiency there was the use of lip reading to supplement hearing. With the mask that is covered and lost. The mask also results in runny nose, and cough and a hot face. The latest suggestion is that we could also use goggles and face shields.

Rethinking your shopping to follow the marked paths in the aisles and not go down the wrong way is punishable by "timeout training." Sparsely stocked shelves is curious and back to WWII rationing.

Let us pray earnestly for a speedy return to normal living. Restrictions to the way it was in the past, isolation from friends and pleasant gatherings and the division brought about by current political squabbles is contributing to a very testing time. God is in the midst of this so let us watch and be faithful.

GOD IS GOOD

We are thankful that we have been able to have worship services for the past ten Sundays and have the community together.

With recent rain the draught conditions of earlier in the summer have been somewhat reduced. The fire danger has been lowered to moderate and the heat has dropped. Thank you ,Lord, for a cooler summer here in Cloudcroft.

We give thanks for those summer friends of Epiphany who have made the return to the mountains. We await the arrival of the virus delayed arrival of others of our summer congregation in the near future.

In Christ,
Pastor Fred

School Re-Opening

As Schools begin to plan their re-openings please keep them in prayer.

The Cloudcroft schools will be re-opening Wednesday, August 5. The administrators, teachers and students need your prayers for their wisdom and safety.

Prayer for the Schools

Almighty God, by your gift alone we come to wisdom and true understanding: Look with favor we pray, on our universities, colleges, and schools, especially the Cloudcroft Independent School District, as they open. Bless and protect those who teach and those who learn that they may ever look to you, the fountain of all wisdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MINISTRY FROM A SOCIAL DISTANCE

We have all been patiently waiting for everything to get back to normal. Whether that meant COVID-19 would run its course, a vaccine would be discovered and administered, or the Lord returned in all His glory, we have all been expecting to return to our prior life sooner rather than later. Our expectations, however, are not being met. The burdens of masking, social distancing, and isolation drag on. How long do we simply continue to wait?

“How long?” is not a new question. Look at Psalm 79. The psalmist in Psalm 70 implored the Lord, DO NOT DELAY! Remember how the people of Israel in exile had to wait and wait to return to the Promised Land. The prophet Jeremiah in chapter 25 had announced they would be waiting in exile for 70 years. Jeremiah also told them in chapter 29 that life needed to continue in exile, that they were to build houses, plant gardens, marry and raise up children, and pray for the welfare of the city where they found themselves. Similarly, our ministry needs to continue even in isolation. The form may be different, but the Gospel imperative is unchanged. Our community continues Sunday worship as best we can under the circumstances, but we have been missing the outreach to one another and to the wider community. Yes, we share by email the Liturgy of the Word among our membership, near and far. But can we do more?

Small group ministry has been a part of my growth as a Christian for many years, whether for weekly coffee or more formal teaching. I believe I can adapt small group teaching and sharing to the internet world, or rather, I am willing to try. Recently, I have attended several meetings of other groups using Zoom, and it is a usable, interactive format. So long as we have 100 or less participating, we can see one another and talk among the group. If you tell me you are interested, I will download the Zoom software needed to initiate and operate a Zoom meeting and see if I can learn how to use it effectively. Perhaps we can begin by studying the delightful book of Nehemiah.

Other opportunities for ministry as a community may be out there, and you may have ideas. I suspect that many of you are actively engaging in individual ministry of various sorts, calling, visiting by phone or otherwise, praying, studying, and helping those in need in other ways. Nowadays especially there are a lot of lonely people out there! **Please share what you think with Fr. Fred, Nancy, me, and others as you choose. Respond even if you aren't sure how it might work.** We are called to face outward, not inward, during this difficult time, even if we are wearing masks. Perhaps by this time next month, more ministry will be happening at or from the Anglican Church of the Epiphany, or at least be in the planning stages. It seems likely we will be wearing masks for a while longer, even if it is not 70 years, so we need to adapt.

Blessings!

Fr. Frank
Associate Pastor

Parish News

Epiphany Congratulations

Congratulations to Madeleine Fazenbaker on her 18th birthday.

We celebrated on Sunday, July 26 with cake and ice cream. Madeleine is on the list for taking her GED (due to Covid restrictions, they only take 3 people at a time). She has taken the ACT and can take online classes at NMSU-Alamo with grades pending the completion of the GED.



We are happy to announce the birth of Callan Atlas Fyock on July 17. Congratulations to his mother, Lydia, and his proud grandparents, Esther and Joel Fyock.



Epiphany "Thank You"

We are grateful to Paul and Annette Fazenbaker and Susan and John Scott for their Saturday cleaning and repairing. We now have longer pulls on the fans, new light bulbs in all the hard to reach lights, a cleaned up and organized store room and a shiny kitchen. Epiphany was blessed by your efforts!

The Diocese of the Southwest

Our Interim Bishop,

The Rt. Rev. Keith Ackerman

Many thanks to Dannette Heath, who sent us a picture of Bishop Ackerman with Bella, Dannette's service dog. Bishop Ackerman serves as chaplain to the Anglican order that Dannette belongs to. We all remember Bella when she attends service with Dannette.



Thank You For Your Prayers

This has been a hard month for our congregation with some serious illness and injury to friends and parishioners. Fran and Tom Gregg's son, Parke, is recovering from a bad fall and a broken shoulder. He lives in Austin.

Patty Kendrick was up here enjoying the summer coolness and fell on her porch. She has a broken arm and will be going back home to Dallas this week for rehab. Please keep her in your prayers as she recovers.

Carolyn Wilson's daughter, DeeDee Jessup, begins chemo and radiation this coming week for a serious brain tumor. Carolyn will be flying to Kentucky on Thursday, August 6, to be with her and Fr. Frank will drive up later in the month.

We are sorry to announce the death of Alesia, Katy Bailey's daughter, on Tuesday, August 4. She had a very long and courageous battle with cancer. The family is so grateful for your prayers.

Pastor Shelby Moon, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Alamogordo, has stopped chemo for the present time until they can get his white blood cell count up. Please keep him and Colleen and the family in your prayers as he continues his battle with Leukemia.

Bishop Selection Timeline

July 30, 2020 - closeout of nominations from parishes and bishops

August 12, 2020 - Committee on nominations will publish the list of names

October 12, 2020 - Nominations closed after taking into account any names duly nominated from at least 3 parish vestries after the July 30 date.

December 12, 2020 - Electing Synod convenes.

Early January 2021 - College of Bishops convenes to consider candidate selected by Electing Synod.

March 6, 2021 - Archbishop Foley Beach presides over the consecration of our next bishop.

This timeline is subject to change under the Covid 19 restrictions which may still be in place.

Praise Reports

For the birth of Callan Atlas Fyock on July, 17
Congratulations to his mother, Lydia and grandparents, Esther and Joel Fyock

For the recoveries of Parke Gregg, Paulette Lowe

For our cleanup crew on August 1

For our summer musicians, Jessie Brinkley, Nancy Knowles, and Susan Scott

For 3500+ masks made by Annette and Madeleine Fazenbaker and distributed in the Alamogordo area.

For the continued good health of those in assisted living facilities, Margaret Bailey, Sue Williams, Alice

For the ability to hold in person worship services

Prayer Concerns

For the safe opening of the Cloudcroft schools on Wednesday, August 5.

For all universities and schools and their administrators, teachers and students, as they plan for the 20-21 school year.

For this country and our leaders as this country heals from the tensions that have afflicted us.

For all medical workers, first responders and police.

For the safe opening up of our churches, businesses and economy

For the Diocese of the Southwest, the Standing Committee and Selection Committee

For Alesia as she is home with the Lord and with her family as they grieve.

For Machele Lackey's mother, Helen Resindez who is in hospice care

For DeeDee Jessup, Dannette Heeth, Lynne Skinner, Carol Napier, Jerry Rangel

For Healing: Patty Kendrick, Wayne Conine, Tom Carteaux

For new ministry opportunities for Epiphany

For church plant plans within the diocese
Good Shepherd, Hill NM (Rev. Margaret Short)

UNM ministry (Greg & Noel Pfeifer)

August Service Schedule

LEMS & Lectors

The Rev. Willis F. Griffin, Pastor

The Rev. Frank K. Wilson, Associate Pastor

Sunday, August 2 - 10 AM

Pentecost 9

Holy Eucharist -Fr. Frank

LEM Patrick Zima

Lector Donya Conine

Sunday, August 9 - 10 AM

Pentecost 10

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Fred

LEM Karli Sorensen

Lector Paul Fazenbaker

Sunday, August 16 - 10 AM

Pentecost 11

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Fred

LEM Patrick Zima

Lector Nancy Griffin

Sunday, August 23 - 10 AM

Pentecost 12

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Fred

LEM Karli Sorensen

Lector Donya Conine

Sunday, August 31 - 10 AM

Pentecost 13

Holy Eucharist -Fr. Fred

LEM Patrick Zima

Lector Paul Fazenbaker



August Coffee Hour

August 2 - potluck

August 9 - Nancy Griffin

August 16 - Karli Sorensen

August 23 -

August 31 -

Sign-up sheets are on the table in narthex.

August Events

Epiphany Ladies Retreat

August 15

Cancelled

After discussion at our July board meeting, it was decided to cancel the Women's Retreat on August 15. We feel that with the Covid 19 restrictions that are still in place it would be unwise to go forward. We will definitely plan on a retreat for 2021 and Fr. Scott has said he will be willing to lead it.

August 2 - Potluck

August 9 - Board meeting after the service

Labor Day Garage Sale

We will make a decision about having our Labor Day Garage Sale, Saturday, September 5, at our August Board Meeting. If you have items for the sale we will be pleased to take them as we will have a sale as soon as the Covid 19 restrictions allow. Thank you.



August Birthdays

Annette Fazenbaker - 9

Bill Leonard - 10

Carolyn Ford - 14

Evelyn Leonard - 18

Sarah Griffin - 22

August Anniversaries

Blessings to all who have August Anniversaries

Lectionary for August

ACNA Anglican Lectionary A

Pentecost 9 • August 2

Psalm 78:14-26
Nehemiah 9:16-21
Romans 8:35-39
Matthew 14:13-21

Pentecost 10 • August 9

Psalm 29
Jonah 2:1-10
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:22-33

Pentecost 11 • August 16

Psalm 67
Isaiah 56:1-8
Romans 11:13-24
Matthew 15:21-28

Pentecost 12 • August 23

Psalm 138
Isaiah 51:1-6
Romans 11:25-36
Matthew 16:13-20

Pentecost 13 • August 31

Psalm 26
Jeremiah 15:15-21
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:21-27

The Head of the Church is Jesus Christ

The Anglican Church in North America,

The Rt. Rev. Foley Beach, Archbishop

Diocese of the Southwest,

The Standing Committee

The Church of the Epiphany

The Rev. Willis F. Griffin, Pastor

The Rev. Frank K. Wilson, Associate Pastor

Musicians: Esther Fyock, Stan & Sandy Thomas.

Paul Fazenbaker, Junior Warden

Wayne Conine, Treasurer

Church Board

Karli Sorensen Aguilar

Donya Conine Annette Fazenbaker

Carolyn Wilson 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.

Church of the Epiphany Prayer List

The Archbishop of Canterbury, The Rt. Rev. Justin Welby, and the Anglican Communion

The Anglican Church in North America, The Rt. Rev. Foley Beach, Archbishop

The Anglican Diocese of the Southwest; The Standing Committee, Selection Committee

Christ the King, Albuquerque (Rev. Pete Falk, Deacon John Bowers, Deacon Bill Lock); Church of Our Lord, Albuquerque (Rev. Harold Trott, Rev. Michael Kline); Christ Church, Farmington (Rev. Carl Brenner, Rev. Barbara Brenner); St. Clement's Church, El Paso, TX (Rev. Bill Cobb, Rector, Rev. Travis King, Rev. Rick Milliorn, Deacon Don Morrill); Rey de Paz, El Paso (Rev. Ken Hanna.); Good Shepherd, San Angelo (Rev. Hal C. Scott, Rev. June Smith); St. Stephen's, Roswell, (Rev. Bob Tally); Holy Trinity, Silver City (Rev. John Price); St. Augustine's, Deming (Deacon in charge Tom Guerra); All Saints & St. Paul's, Midland (Rev. Tom Finnie); Church of the Epiphany, Cloudcroft, (Rev. Fred Griffin, Rev. Frank K. Wilson); Iglesia La Trinidad, Guadalupe, Jesus es la Resurreccion, Aguas Calientes, Mexico (Rev. Maria Del Rayo Jimenez Victoria, Rev. Elias Rosales Mendez); Gran Pastor, Fresnillo Mexico Good Shepherd, Hill, NM (Rev. Margaret Short, Rev. Farhid Adabache) Iglesia Anglicana, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (Rev. Jack Wehrs); St. Mark's, Amarillo (Rev. Tom Johnson).

For: For: DeeDee Jessup; Patty Kendrick, Danette Heeth; Pastor Shelby Moon and family; Parke Gregg; Carol Napier; Tammy Jones; Sue Williams, Wayne and Donya Conine; Helen Resindez; Scooter Roof; Will Seyffert; William Swain; Lynne Skinner; Joel and Esther Fyock; Lianne Fyock; Margaret Bailey; Tom and Gail Carteaux; Trevor Conine; Eddie Aguilar; the Zima family; Kelli; Kathleen Paige; Patti; Ethan; Harry Duval,

For: Creed Napier; Alonso Marquez; Dominick Rankin, Mason Gregg, Gabriella Murley, Colin Tomlin, and all service men and women, all police and first responders.