The Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming
Diocesan Council Meeting Minutes
June 26-28, 2018


The Rev. Jim Shumard provided an opening prayer.

Bishop Smylie welcomed the group to the meeting and called for any changes or addition to the agenda and there were none.

John moved to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2018, meeting. Jim 2nd. No further discussion, motion carried.

The Bishop introduced and welcomed Peg Larson as the new Region V representative.

The Bishop reported on the recent transitions and many ordinations within the Diocese this summer. He will ordain 2 Priests and 7 Deacons this summer. Pinedale and Sheridan are both in the search process for Rectors and due to health concerns Ed Farmer has resigned from Worland.

At the last Foundation Board meeting the Board made the decision to continue to use Ferguson Wellman as the financial advisors for another 5 years. The Foundation Board and the investment committee are working on strategies to increase education around investments for its members. They will also begin to explore socially responsible investing strategies.

The Bishop noted that Joel will be working with the Deans to help build community and continue the development of relationships between communities throughout the Diocese.

A reminder that Pre-Convention is on August 11th from 12:00 – 2:50 and Convention will be held in Gillette from the October 5th starting at 12:30 through October 7th.

**Fresh Expressions:**
Bobbe gave her report on Fresh Expressions, requesting September 8th to be added to everyone’s calendar for the Fresh Expressions Vision Day. Currently pioneers that are gifted as apostles are being recruited to help facilitate fresh expressions diocesan wide. The Bishop noted that this is a way of life not a program and it will take time and patience to learn this new way of life.

**Regional Reports:**
Region 6 – John gave the attached report.
Region 1 – Shirley gave the attached report.
Region 2 – Doug gave the attached report.
Region 3 – Jim gave the report on behalf of Tom Johnson.
Region 4 – Peggy gave the attached report.
Region 5 – Peg gave the attached report.

HR Camp:
It was noted that there are still 3 regions that have not yet visited Hank Raymond camp. Joel reported that there have been problems re-permitting the well and that it is taking longer than expected. The Bishop informed Council that the Diocese was recently approached by a land owner to purchase 40 acres for $200,000 that sits between land we already own. The Council discussed the property purchase.
John Angst moved to purchase the 40 acres at a price no greater than $200,000 plus any closing costs. Peggy 2nd. This additional property will enhance the assets that are already held. No further discussion, motion carried, unanimously.

Saturday:

Audit Report:
Brandi from McGee, Hearne and Paiz gave a financial report. Both the Council and Foundation board members were present. Brandi noted that this is the second year of the consolidated financials. She went over the audit report and answered any questions board members had.

John Angst moved for the Diocesan Council to accept the audit report. Joe 2nd. No further discussion, motion carried.

Financial Report:
Jessica gave the financial report. She went over the budget vs actual and the balance sheet for the Diocese. She then went on to explain there are 5 churches currently not in compliance with parochial reports. Jim motioned that if the delinquent parishes desire to have a vote and voice at convention they will become compliant by September 1st. Shirly 2nd. Motion carried.

John Angst moved to accept financial report. Joe 2nd. No further discussion, motion carried.

Jessica explained the pros and cons of the 2 letters that have been sent to the Parishes in regards to their property insurance deductibles. The first letter was to raise the congregation’s deductibles to 2% of the property value. Last year the Diocese raised all of the deductibles to $10,000 so this option was not a good one for the diocese, as many of them already exceed that 2%. The second letter would give congregations a 3% premium decrease if they elect to use contractors vetted through Alacrity Service. After some discussion it was decided that the Diocese would
recommend not to elect the 2% deductible and elect the 3% premium decrease to congregations. Shirley motioned for Jessica to give recommendations to the Parishes on these letters. Roger 2nd. No further discussion, motion carried.

The Insurance committee created by Convention continues to do it works. There was discussion about the current health insurance saving plan. After much discussion it was decided that the committee will finish its work before the Council takes any action.

Foundation:
Press reported that at the Annual Foundation Board meeting at TAC, a motion was approved to grant of $150,000.00 over the next 7 years to the Diocese of Kiteto., starting in 2019 ($21,428.57 per year) the Diocese of Kiteto will submit grant requests to the Foundation to access these funds.

Closing prayer provided by the Rev. Jim Shumard

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Genie Easton.
Region I
St. Andrews – Meeteetsee

A bit of a change in service schedules this month. It’s summer and we’re dealing with a lot of summer vacations and schedules. Joe will be here on July 22 for Eucharist. Warren Murphy will be here on July 29. So Eucharist will be the last 2 Sundays of the month. July 1, 8, 15 will be Morning Prayer. All times are at 9:00 am.

They had a baptism.

Bishop Smylie’s Annual Visitation to St. Andrew’s will be September 8 & 9.

Holy Trinity Thermopolis

With the passing of their Senior Warden Beth Legg, the Vestry Chose Dr. Vernon Miller as their new Senior Warden.

St. Andrews-Basin

Is continuing to share the profits from their Neat Repeat Sale to many community outreach programs, this last month in was to the Recreation Department.

St. John’s Powell

Powell Valley Loaves & Fishes Program continues to feed many families in the Powell Area, each month they are seeing and increase and they are projecting a bigger increase as the summer moves forward.

St. Alban’s – Worland

We are continuing to use Supply Priest in the absence of Fr. Ed. He is continuing many Health Issues. We are so blessed to have so many wonderful supply priest in our Dioceses.

And our own Linda Anderson will be Ordained as a Deacon this coming Saturday. She is a true blessing to us.

Bishop Smylie will be making his visit to St. Christopher’s in the Big Horn’s August 19, 2018

Fr, Ed will be retiring on October 1, 2018

Christ Church Cody

In May, we invited our friends from Cody UMC to our Third Thursday Faith and Mission in Africa dinner and presentation. We met in the Little Church since Little Explorer’s Preschool was in the nave and
parish hall celebrating their graduation that night. On June 21st at 6:00 pm, we are invited to an evening of fellowship and feasting at the Methodist Church. Later this summer we are hoping to join together for Vacation Bible School.

Wayfarer’s Chapel Services, Sundays, June 24th through August 26th at 10:00 AM Join Deacon Chris Galagan and a worship leader from Christ Church to worship in the beauty of creation. Some like to combine a morning worship at Wayfarer’s with lunch at Lake Hotel, combine Wayfarer’s Chapel service with a bike ride along the river or a hike into the mountains, or simply enjoy a beautiful Sunday drive.

Ministerial Service in City Park, Sunday, July 29th at 11:00 AM our annual summer worship in the park with friends from all over Cody. This morning is concluded with a barbecue picnic lunch on the lawn.
Region II

Lin Davenport is doing well in Gillette. Wendy Owens has recently moved to Gillette. Newcastle has asked her to explore their congregation to see if she a be a good fit for them. Wright is getting ready for their clothing exchange ministry. Sheridan is still in the search process but has welcomed Fr. Andy as the new Associate Priest. Kaycee is still in sorrow dealing with all the suicides in their area. Buffalo is continuing to work with Suicide Prevention and just helped with the Hike for Hope to raise funds to provide QPR and ASIST trainings.
Region III

Torrington will be having a community meal down main street and we are all looking forward to seeing how this turns out. There was a tri-parish pick nick at the Fairgrounds. St. Mark’s, St. Stephen’s, and Douglas are continuing to work ministries together. Glendo is going through some challenges and changes at this time. Douglas is working on the state fair. Wheatland’s young people enjoying the icon of a more traditional structure. Lusk as a parishioner, George Hardy, in the Iona school, and they continue to do mustard seed dinners.
Region IV
REGION IV REPORT

Compiled by Peggy Hotchkiss, Regional Representative
I WILL LIFT UP MINE EYES UNTO THE HILLS, FROM WHENCE COMETH MY HELP.

Psalm 121:1
ST. CHRISTOPHER’S, CHEYENNE
ST. CHRISTOPHER’S HAS HOSTED SEVERAL EVENTS, INCLUDING A MOVIE AND DISCUSSION AND HOLY YOGA.
Lenten Study

Members of the congregation gathered during Lent for soup suppers and a study of Living Well Through Lent 2018.
Members of the congregation gathered to learn how to make palm crosses the Saturday before Palm Sunday.
HOLY WEEK SERVICES INCLUDED EVENING PRAYER AND THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS
MAUNDY THURSDAY, GOOD FRIDAY, AND HOLY SATURDAY WERE BUSY!
BISHOP’S VISITATION ON PALM SUNDAY

The service included the Liturgy of the Palms, Confirmation, and Reaffirmation!
And, of course, there was a potluck brunch!
EASTER!

A baptism, Easter eggs, and a festival Eucharist!
Dr. Burns, who helped design the baptismal window, is shown on the left.
ST. MARK’S, CHEYENNE
The St. Mark’s congregation is involved in numerous ministries. These are just a few:

- Youth Group
- Children’s Chapel
- Peanut butter collection
- Blanket ministry
- Serving meals at the homeless shelter
- Family Promise ministry for homeless families
- Brown bag lunches for needy people
- Little Free Pantry
Ministries: Food and toilet paper for the COMEA shelter and quilts for needy children.
THAT’S WY!

THE LITTLE FREE PANTY BOX IS LOCATED AT A CORNER OF THE CHURCH.
The LCCC Cantorei choir performed at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in April.

- The Cantorei singing group was invited to perform at Carnegie Hall.
- As part of their pre-concert tour, they performed at St. Mark’s in April 2018.
- A brass ensemble from LCCC also performed.
150th Anniversary Celebration

St. Mark’s is the oldest church in Wyoming. From the plaque outside the church:

- Finding “the wickedness unimaginable and appalling,” the Reverend Joseph Cook, organized St. Mark’s Parish, January 27, 1868, in the Cheyenne Dakota Territory, then a railroad winter camp. The first church at 18th and Carey Ave. was dedicated in August 1868, and was the first church building erected in Wyoming.

- This present edifice was constructed in 1886, and was patterned after Stoke Poges Church, Buckinghamshire, England.

- In August 1915, the wife and three daughters of General John J. Pershing were buried with solemn military rites from this church. They lost their lives at a tragic fire at the Presidio, San Francisco. Hundreds of cavalry troops from Fort D.A. Russell participated in the burial procession.
150th Anniversary Entertainment

The celebration began with a gala in the parish hall on Saturday night, April 28, that included live jazz, scrumptious catered food, and a historical drama written by a parishioner, Nancy Abraham, and performed by other parishioners.
150th Anniversary Celebration—Sunday Eucharist
AN HONORABLE LECTOR, A BAPTISM, TWO CONFIRMATIONS, AND A REAFFIRMATION!
BISHOP SMYLIE PREACHED ABOUT FRESH EXPRESSIONS
MORE CELEBRATION PHOTOS!
ST. MATTHEW’S CATHEDRAL, LARAMIE
EASTER EVE
The Great Vigil of Easter
FOOD—AND EASTER EGGS!
Cathedral Square prayer walk in May

- Participants took a bundle of ribbons from the blue box at the memorial cross and walked the square, praying at each station and tying on a ribbon.

- This is how the Cathedral participated in Thy Kingdom Come, 11 days of prayer between Ascension and Pentecost that were observed world-wide.
THE ADA RAMP!
ST. LUKE’S, MEDICINE BOW
A season of funerals

• The day of our January Council meeting was the funeral for St. Luke’s Senior Warden, Wally Burnett.

• After our meeting, John and Jill Smylie drove to Saratoga for the Bishops’ Visitation and made a pit stop in Medicine Bow—and learned that all of the pickup trucks parked along the street belonged to folks who were attending Wally’s funeral.

• So, John and Jill walked up to the community center, where the reception was held, and visited with Wally’s family.
Ida Mamie Rounds

• Ida Mae was the quintessential Energizer Bunny—teaching Sunday School, doing altar guild, serving as church treasurer and communicator, and more. She was the engine that powered the St. Luke’s train!

• Her death in March, after a brief illness, was a huge blow to the St. Luke’s congregation.

• A memorial service was held on April 9th at the Cathedral. The Cathedral was packed.

• Arlen was especially touched that so many of his Iona School classmates made the trip to attend the service.
Alberta Irene Robertson

- Alberta was a faithful member of St. Luke’s for many years.
- One of the stained glass windows includes a photo of her father, Albert Irene, on his horse. The window was reproduced in the St. Luke’s banner, created by the Rev. Dr. Candice Corrigan.
Alberta’s memorial service

- Alberta’s memorial service was held on June 18, 2018, followed by inurnment at the Trail’s End Cemetery in Medicine Bow.
- The church was packed for the service.
- The Rev. Dr. Candice Corrigan presided. The Rev. Arlen Rounds was with his family in Colorado---zip lining!
BISHOP’S VISITATION—HOLY WEEK
The Medicine Bow “Sculpture Garden”

- These junk sculptures are visible to those driving on Wyoming Highway 487 in Medicine Bow.

- Sally Patton, a parishioner of St. Barnabas’, Saratoga, insisted that Jill Smylie take photos as she and John drove back to Casper after their visit to Saratoga in January!
ST. BARNABAS', SARATOGA
Bishop’s Visitation

- January 13-14, 2018
- Jesus in the Sunday School room
- Prayer candles in the church
- The font and communion elements
- The Journey Labyrinth
A JOYFUL SERVICE!

• Music from Tanzania
• Lay worship leader commissioning
• A celebration of the Eucharist
AND FOOD...OF COURSE!
A new ministry!

- Church members gathered for about 9 weeks, January-April to engage in the discernment process, Practicing the Journey, New Ways of Being the Church.

- We prayed, meditated on Scripture passages, and discerned needs in our community that we thought our congregation could address.

- While there were many needs, most were beyond our resources or abilities to address. However, one need came to our attention: the loneliness of single adults, especially widows and widowers.

- We have begun hosting a monthly dinner for single adults. People outside the congregation have offered to help—and will be preparing the July meal!

The photo is of the ancient port of Jaffa, where Peter received the message to minister to the Gentiles. This became the symbol for our Journey Process.
Grief Counseling and Support

• The Singles Eating Together ministry developed out of the Practicing the Journey Process and from a grief support group facilitated by our priest, the Rev. Susan Dyer.

• This 10-week program helps bereaved individuals as they process their grief and learn how to continue living without their loved one.

• Susan has been facilitating these groups for several years. A member of the community has started recruiting people for the groups. We are one of the few resources available in our valley for grieving adults.
Bikes for Kids

- Ralph Hicks and Michael Day, the “Bike Guys” continue to refurbish donated bicycles. The refurbished bikes are given to children (and to needy adults).

- They also repair adult bikes, charging for parts.

- Ralph has recently begun teaching a bike repair class at The Hub, the local Big Brothers & Big Sisters program. He is going to use some money from our Foundation Grant to buy tools to leave at The Hub so that kids can repair bicycles during the winter, when Ralph returns to Texas.
Cooking with Kids

• Kids from The Hub come once a week to cook in our beautiful new—state certified—kitchen!

• Last week, they made cookies. We plan to expand the experience to include a variety of healthy snacks and even meals!
FARMERS’ MARKET

We continue to host the weekly Farmers’ Market in the summer. This summer, members of the congregation are providing live music!
Daughters of the King Gathering—in the works!

- The St. Clare of Assisi Chapter will be hosting a gathering of Daughters from throughout Carbon County on September 14th.
And...a soon-to-be deacon!

- On June 30th, Peggy Hotchkiss will be ordained to the transitional diaconate at St. Matthew’s Cathedral!
ST. JAMES’, ENCAMPMENT
New organ!

• St. James’ has been without an organ for several years. During Lent, Lois Morrison decided that she was ready to part with her beloved Clavanova.
• Lois donated the organ to the church.
• It was played for the first time on Easter Sunday by Lynda Johnson, the wife of Jim Johnson, the Senior Warden.
• Lois and Linda are shown in the photo.
New priest

- Karen Buckingham began serving St. James’ Church last fall.
- On June 17th, Joel Dingman joined the congregation to guide them in developing an agreement with Karen that outlines mutual expectations for her as their part-time priest.
- Karen hopes to serve the congregation about three Sundays per month. She and Buster are very happy in their new church home, where they have been lovingly welcomed.
Regional/Deanery Gathering—in the works

- St. James’ Church has graciously offered to host a gathering of the Snowy Range Deanery on August 18th.
- Peggy Hotchkiss and the Ven. Dick Naumann are working to plan the gathering.
- St. James’ will be able to show off their new parish hall and “flushie!”
ST. THOMAS’, RAWLINS
Deanery Dream Days in March

Since the western portion of the Snowy Range Deanery was unable to participate in the December 2016 Dream Day in Cheyenne, Joel Dingman and Bishop Smylie came to Rawlins in March to facilitate a second Dream Day.

People from St. James’, St. Thomas’, and St. Barnabas’ Churches attended.
Discernment

- The congregation of St. Thomas’ has been involved in a process of healing and discernment for the last nine months or so.

- They are trying to figure who they are and where they want to go as the Body of Christ.

- They will be hosting a Safeguarding God’s Children training in August.
Supply Priest

• The Rev. Dr. Candice Corrigan serves St. Thomas’ Church monthly.

• On the other Sundays, lay people lead Morning Prayer and preach.

• Candice also assists Arlen Rounds at St. Luke’s, Medicine Bow two Sundays per month and helps at the Cathedral.
ST. PAUL’S, DIXON

The yellow heritage roses are in bloom!
ARK Cemetery Decoration

• The Amazing River Kids, with adult help, placed pinwheels on the graves of the children buried at the Reader Cemetery in time for Memorial Day.
ARK END-OF-YEAR COOKOUT
The door on St. Luke's in Baggs has been in poor repair for several years and held together (braced) at one of the upper hinges for the last two years with a little twig from a nearby tree. Finally the twig gave out and we have had a new door custom made and hung. It is now painted red!

St. Luke's houses the Visitor's Center, the Valley Artisans, and the LSRV Food Closet.

Members of St. Paul's keep the lawn and the building in repair. The cross on the church is made with only pegs holding it together. This church--and probably the cross, too--was erected in 1903.
LAY WORSHIP LEADERS

- The Snow Birds have returned! Many of them are Worship Leaders.

- Some of them meet monthly for a pre-worship study. This month they learned about the prayers at the back of the BCP, using the *Commentary on the American Prayer Book* by Marion J. Hatchett.

- Jill Webb also is a licensed lay preacher.
Thy Kingdom Come

• We participated in the program “Thy Kingdom Come” by introducing it to the community at an open house with rolls and hot drinks at the Cowboy from 7-9 a.m. and distributing information. Several non-regular adult church attendees accepted the invitation and participated, as did congregation members, in the breakfast and during the 10 days of prayer.

• Some school children stopped by on their way to school!
Bible Study

• The every other week afternoon Bible Study continues with the Bible reading and discussion of each book and chapter in order and we are now nearing Revelation and by fall it will be time to start all over again in Genesis. We meet year around and have from 10-12 each session.
Compline Services

• We started our summer/fall monthly Thanksgiving and Compline services on June 20. We meet at an outdoor picnic ground, give thanks for our blessings with sharing, pray the Compline service and enjoy hot dogs and s’mores over a campfire.
Burials

• Rev. Linda Fleming has led several graveside memorial services at the Reader and Baggs Cemeteries in May and June. It seems more and more when a death of a person that has ties to Snake River occurs, a service is held at the away home and then a memorial graveside is held when the weather is good and family members can travel on to Snake River for the burial of the ashes.

• Google the song, "These are my Mountains," as it is so fitting for our community and loved ones coming home.
These are my mountains
https://youtu.be/cwyIIVR20CI

For these are my mountains and I'm going home
Region V

Eden has a ministry for travelers that allows the church to be open 24 hours a day. Cokeville has a lot of energy and recently received a Bishop’s Mission grant to renew the old and loved chimes from the 50s. They also just wrote and were granted funds to update their building. Evanston had a recent ordination. Green River is continuing to grow their relationship with other churches in the community. Rock Springs has a very strong youth organization and work closely with the Lutheran Church.
Region VI
Regional Report
Region VI

Trinity - Lander

Walt and Janet Seeley have kickstarted the Wednesday evening prayer and Adult Study group with an accompanying meal and to remove any impediment to attending have arranged babysitting if needed.

St. John’s – Jackson

Today in fact, St. John’s is doing their popular Wednesday hikes

They meet at the base of Snow King and head out to different places each week. On the same theme St. John’s and the local Presbyterian Church tandem in doing youth Hikes on Mondays

Jackson Cupboard located on the church campus continues to live up to each mission 3 days a week. The benefit of both offering an avenue for volunteerism as well as providing food to those in need.

St. Thomas – Dubois

St. Thomas continues to do its outreach programs in addition to the Summer bicyclist lodging ministry that provides riders from around the world with a safe and comfortable haven for a night. Possibly the most notable event is the effort of their Vestry to connect with the congregation as of late. By holding quarterly meetings after Sunday service. Issues and misunderstandings are getting ironed out the result being an improved dynamic with all parties within the church.
Also, I as member in Dubois, I wish to report St Thomas is grateful for the Foundation’s physical plant grant monies to get the buildings up to snuff and they feel now they can build up the congregation within and without as well.

Bishop Smiley will visit two of our regions parishes this July, St. Thomas and St. John’s after General Convention. I would like to mention the Bishops visitation schedule which can be found at the website of the Diocese and I have it here. I believe he visits all our Parishes during the 2018-2019. Considering the distance between Parishes; that is quite a lot of windshield time!