

# The Desert Wind

**SPIRIT OF THE DESERT EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**873 D Coyote Gulch Circle Ivins, Utah**

**March 2013 Volume 3 Number 1**

We are Spirit of the Desert, an inclusive, Christ-centered faith community in the Episcopal tradition, dedicated to knowing Christ and to make Christ known.

We practice Christ's unconditional welcome at Spirit of the Desert.

## Lenten Season Is All About Turning Around; Not About Giving Things Up

If you used to struggle with Lent and it seemed like a season of self-denial, so long and so difficult, this year try to see things differently. Ash Wednesday gave us a poignant reminder of our mortality, and a gracious invitation to savor our short time on this earthy pilgrimage and to live life well. Lent offers us several weeks to set aside the chaos and din of our lives.

It's a season to focus on the most important things. The point of Lent is not to deprive ourselves of things we love for the sake of misery, but rather to realize that we do not need

chocolates or TV or a loss of ten pounds to find our true joy. Too often, in our pursuit of earthly treasure, we lose sight of heavenly joy. Lent is an outstanding time to

introduce new disciplines as we seek to shed bad habits. Daily prayer and study can sustain us through the temptations and struggles of this life. Perhaps you will share the joy of your own practice of daily

meditation and prayer with a friend, a neighbor, or a family member. Let this Lent be not a burden, but a gift to be treasured and shared.



## **Spirit Hearts Are Heavy Over Loss of Dorothy's Beloved Daughter, Linda**

Our faithful member, Dorothy Barlow, had a recent, unexpected visit from her son who lives in Northern Utah. She suspected something wasn't right as her daughter-in-law was not with him. He was there to tell her that her daughter, his sister Linda, was critically ill.



**Dorothy's daughter, Linda.**

She had flown from her home in Turkey to England where they had lived most of their lives and her husband followed a few days later. Linda was told that she had inoperable lung cancer and had a short time to live.

The phone calls from family in England kept Dorothy informed. On January 6 she received the word that Linda had passed away just an hour before. She was in hospice care for but a day. Our prayers, visits, calls and hugs have hopefully given her some comfort. We know only too well what a horrific shock this has been for Dorothy. We watched prayerfully as three others from our congregation experienced the death of a loved one this past year. Rest in HIS peace, Dorothy.

## **Spirit's "5th Sunday" Outreach Benefits Many Local Charities**

### **Ivins Animal Shelter**

We were proud to raise \$240.00 in our Fifth Sunday Offering December 30 which was given to the Ivins Animal Shelter. Each year they are one of three local organizations whom we remember.

### **Salvation Army**

As was done last year, several members of Spirit rang the bell for the Salvation Army at local businesses as Christmas approached. It is always a pleasure to see the smiles on faces of those stopping for a moment to drop their loose change and dollar bills in the red buckets. Kathy Wood,

our faithful community outreach coordinator, reported that it was a very successful endeavor again this year.

## **Spirit Collects Books for Ivins Veterans Center**

Several members of our congregation have begun collecting library books for the Ivins Veterans Care Center due to be dedicated in May. This will be a one-hundred eight bed facility with twenty two beds set aside for veterans with Alzheimer's and dementia. We are pleased to be able to do this and each book will have a label inside mentioning it is a gift from Spirit of the Desert. The library and chapel at the Care Center will share the same room and Rev. Lee's desire is to be conducting services from time to time for the residents and their guests.

## **People of Spirit Welcome Unofficial Visit by Bishop**

We were again honored to have Bishop Scott Hayashi with us for our Eucharist service on Sunday, February 3, and for a brief reception afterwards. This was a busy day for him as he presided at Grace Church for baptisms and confirmations and attended a luncheon for him earlier that day. It was also Super Bowl Sunday and we knew he was rooting for San Francisco. His presence

reminded us that our numbers may be smaller than Grace's but we stand tall in his estimation....and several of us were 49er fans! Until his official visit in October we urged him to come for another informal visit and relax, enjoy our spectacular scenery and not worry about the length of his sermon. He is so much like each of us and we are always blessed with his presence.

## **Our "Souper Bowl" Sunday Helps to Feed the Hungry**

...and speaking of the Super Bowl, Spirit again collected cans of soup and other canned food for the less fortunate in the third annual Souper Bowl of Caring on February 3.

Although we did not win the coveted Tuttle Tureen, last year we collected more than 100 pounds of food for Dixie Care and Share. This year we accepted the challenge along with several other Episcopal churches throughout the Diocese. This year we collected more than five cases of soup for Care and Share.

The Souper Bowl is yet another way that Spirit reaches out to those in need.



## Spirit Members Embrace Bible in a Year Challenge

Several members of Spirit of the Desert have accepted the challenge to read the Bible from cover to cover by the end of the present year. Each Sunday at two o'clock Lee highlights the chapters read during the week. Questions are answered, difficult passages explained and opportunities to understand chapters and verses just a little bit differently are encouraged. As we did with Java & Jesus, we are inviting members of the community to join with us. Mention of this study will appear in the St. George newspaper as well as Kayenta's newsletter.



## Lois & Roger Moritz to Represent Spirit at 2013 Convention

Roger and Lois Moritz have accepted the assignment of being Spirit's representatives at the Diocesan convention again. We can think of no one more willing and

qualified than these two members of our church. Their active roles throughout the year in church matters will enable them to contribute to discussions and voting on issues during the two day gathering October 11 and 12. Once again Kim Montgomery will be an alternate delegate and will make the necessary travel arrangements for the Spirit group while up north.

## Moritzes Travel "Down Under"

Lois & Roger traveled to Australia in January to attend the Australian Open Tennis Tournament. The day after they arrived in Melbourne they took a bus tour of the city. Lois tells us it is a lovely city and so easy to navigate. They were within walking distance of the tennis venue, but usually took the tram since the matches often lasted till 11 pm or later. They saw some great tennis. Lois got to see her idol, Roger Federer. Unfortunately, Roger's favorite, Raphael Nadal, was out with an injury, but they both enjoyed seeing all the other top rated tennis players. They also watched some wheel-chair tennis. It is amazingly challenging for the players and very interesting to watch.

After the tournament they flew to



Queenstown, New Zealand.

Queenstown is a small city, definitely geared for tourism. There are many, many restaurants and shops within a mile-and-a-half-radius. The city is right by a huge lake surrounded by mountains. They took a gondola ride to the top of one of the mountains for a spectacular view. They also toured Milford Sound, taking a two hour narrated bus ride and then a boat tour of the Sound. The scenery was breathtaking. All in all, it was a great adventure. As tennis players themselves, winning many competitions, it truly was a thrill.

## Spirit Prayer Group Offers Petitions

Over the course of a month, members of Spirit are involved in a many ministries and activities but there is an event each month that always brings several of them together: Intercessory Prayer. December 14, January 17 and February 14 found them joining together for praise, thanksgiving and petitions. The group was especially blessed when two men from church joined the ladies for the first time in February. Not only do these warriors pray for members of the congregation who suffer from illnesses but many others who struggle daily with sickness and grief. There is a

commitment on the part of these members to pray daily.

At the monthly meetings there is a time for fellowship and sharing. The next meeting will be held on March 15 at 2:30 pm. Why not join with them in this powerful ministry. Katie Mays opens her home for each of these meetings. Thank you so much for doing this for us, Katie.

# JAVA & JESUS



*Start Your Morning Right!*

## "Java and Jesus" Provides Opportunities for Study

Beginning in January Rev. Lee started hosting "Java and Jesus" discussions at the Xetava Café in the Kayenta Art Village. It was our chance to discuss the Bible or other spiritual issues with Spirit's very own Priest in Charge. During Lent "Java and Jesus" is being held in the "Room for Thought" to accommodate a larger group of participants.

## Annual Meeting Offers Opportunity to Reflect and to Look Forward

On January 13, members of the congregation met to review the activities of 2012. This was the completion of Rev. Lee Montgomery's fourth year as our priest. As he told us, it was a year of both great joy and great sadness, but as a family of faith we embraced both with thankfulness and grace. At Spirit of the Desert we strive to be a "Life-Home" in Christ for all. Our Mission is to proclaim the Gospel and to practice the radical hospitality of Christ by reaching out to those around us who are in need. Deep and meaningful friendships have grown and are nurtured through our worship services, our outreach in the community and our daily intercessory prayer group.

As Lee pointed out so beautifully in his Annual Priest's Report, Spirit fully embraces the belief that the "Mission of the Church is the Mission of Christ" and subscribes to the Five Marks of Mission adopted by the Episcopal Church:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God
- To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust

structures of society

- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

With God's help we will!

As we walk forward in faith in 2013 we look back on the past with grace and gratitude, but also look to the future with confidence and anticipation and great hope. We are confident that God will continue to bless us as we continue to proclaim Christ's Gospel in this community and draw near to Him through our lives together as the family of Spirit of the Desert.

## Bishop's Committee Guides Operation of Our Church

On December 14 this meeting was held at the home of Don and Sue Miller. Among other matters of business, the financial report for the year was accepted as presented by Lois Moritz. The proposed 2013 budget was presented by Lois and discussed. There is money in the building fund. If we need this money for something else those who donated to it will be notified.

Our Diocesan Assessment will be approximately \$1,378.

There is a new lease for our worship space. This will be \$200 per month paid to Kayenta Storage L.C.

and \$25 per month for cleaning paid to Kayenta Community Services. There will be no additional rental charge for book studies or meetings.

The February meeting was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> at Katie Mays' home. Business included approval of December 28 Minutes, approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held January 13 and acceptance and approval of the Financial Report. The remainder of the meeting covered Old Business and a number of items for New Business. Lois Moritz was again thanked and recognized for the excellent job she does keeping Spirit's records.

Lee will submit in March the Diocesan Request for Information. This will include the parish directory, minutes of meetings and newsletters. Lee will also be providing the Parochial Report to the Diocese which includes among other items, average Sunday attendance, the financial reports and minutes of the annual meeting.

It was decided that we would again have an ad in the Tuacahn program. Lois will order this with Mills Publishing and the cost is expected to be \$200.

Ila Craig made a generous memorial contribution in her husband Jim's memory. At her request this gift will go into the general fund.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 12 at Katie Mays' home.



## Spirit's Holy Week Activities Outlined

### Palm Sunday

On March 24 each member of the church will have an opportunity to participate in this beautiful service as they read portions of the Passion of Christ. As we receive the blessed palms, we will carry them home as a quiet reminder of what this holy week means to us.

### Good Friday

On Good Friday, March 29, Spirit will join with many other churches in the community for the annual Ecumenical Way of the Cross. If you haven't walked the Way before, promise yourself you will join in it that day. This is one of the most moving worship services of the year. Stations are set up along Diagonal



Street where we will stop and listen as a local priest, pastor, minister reads the moving words of the particular station. There are fourteen of them. We will sing between each station as we lift our hearts in adoration and penance. We will gather at 11 o'clock at the Bluff Street Park for the walk so wear a comfortable pair of shoes. This is a perfect opportunity to worship with your friends from other congregations.

### Easter Sunday

Our Easter Eucharist service will be more than beautiful flowers at the altar or the food we will share afterwards. Coloring Easter Eggs is a cute tradition that probably all of us have enjoyed, but there is so much more to Easter than this. According to Rev. Lee, Easter gives us the opportunity to trade our weary, broken, earth-bound heart for a new heart, a resurrected heart, an unstoppable heart that beats for others. "Because it beats for others, an Easter heart is easily broken," Lee says. "But that doesn't mean it will stay broken forever. The Great Physician who made the lame to walk and the blind to see also happens to be the world's foremost heart specialist."



## Easter "Hare" Has A Long Tradition

On Easter Sunday, many children wake up to find that the Easter Bunny has left them baskets of candy. He has also hidden the eggs that they decorated earlier that week. Children hunt for the eggs all around the house. Neighborhoods and organizations hold Easter egg hunts, and the child who finds the most eggs wins a prize.

The Easter Bunny is a rabbit-spirit. Long ago, he was called the "Easter Hare". Hares and rabbits



have frequent multiple births so they became a symbol of fertility. The custom of an Easter egg hunt began because children believed that hares laid eggs in the grass. The Romans believed that "All life comes from an egg." Christians consider eggs to be "the seed of life" and so they are symbolic of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Why we dye, or color, and decorate eggs is not certain. In ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome and Persia eggs were dyed for spring festivals. In medieval Europe, beautifully decorated eggs were given as gifts.

## Irish History Honored on St. Patrick's Day

Since around the ninth or tenth century, people in Ireland have been observing the Roman Catholic feast day of St. Patrick on March 17. Interestingly, however, the first parade held to honor St. Patrick's Day took place not in Ireland but in the United States. On March 17, 1762, Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City. Along with their music, the parade helped the soldiers reconnect with their Irish roots, as well as with fellow Irishmen serving in the English army. Over the next 35 years, Irish patriotism among American immigrants flourished, prompting the



St. Patrick's Feast Day is observed on March 17

rise of so-called "Irish Aid" societies like the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick and the Hibernian Society. Each group would hold annual parades featuring bagpipes (which actually first became popular in the Scottish and British armies) and drums.

In 1848, several New York Irish Aid societies decided to unite their parades to form one official New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. Today, that parade is the world's oldest civilian parade and the largest in the United States, with over 150,000 participants. Each year, nearly 3 million people line the 1.5-mile parade route to watch the procession, which takes more than five hours. Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia and Savannah

also celebrate the day with parades involving between 10,000 and 20,000 participants each.

In 1948, President Harry S. Truman attended New York City 's St. Patrick's Day parade, a proud moment for the many Irish Americans whose ancestors had to fight stereotypes and racial prejudice to find acceptance in the New World. It is said that on St. Patrick's Day everyone is Irish!

There is a beautiful Irish Blessing that goes: May God grant you always a sunbeam to warm you, a moonbeam to charm you, a sheltering angel so nothing can harm you, laughter to cheer you, faithful friends near you and whenever you pray, Heaven to hear you. This Blessing is said at the closure of each Intercessory Prayer gathering at Spirit. Share it with others on March 17; you will bless and be blessed.

## Rev. Lee and Kim Travel to Oxford

Lee and Kim will be going to England and will be away from church on March 10 and March 17. We wish we could go with them as they visit with Skye. Sue Miller will conduct Evening Worship on March 10 and Lois will do it on March 17.

Lee will be presenting a paper on Early Childhood Education at Oxford's Oriel College but the trip is

a mixture of scholarly activity and family ties. "It's always nice to be invited to present a paper at Oxford," Lee observed, "But being able to visit our daughter there is icing on the cake." Lee and Kim's daughter, Skye, is a D.Phil. Student at Oxford's Corpus Christi College.

It was at Oxford that Thomas Cranmer, a leader of the English Reformation and Archbishop of Canterbury, authored the 1552 Book of Common Prayer that was so influential in the development of our present prayer book.

Cramer was one of the three the Oxford Martyrs who were tried for heresy by Queen Mary in 1555 and subsequently burned at the stake for their religious beliefs and teachings. The other martyrs were the Anglican bishops Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley. The martyrs were burned at the stake just outside the city walls to the south, where the city's Broad Street is located. It is claimed that the scorch marks from the flames can still be seen on the doors of nearby Balliol College.



A woodcut depicting the Oxford Martyrs.

## PEOPLE IN THE PEWS

### Profiles of People at Spirit

#### Betty and George McAleer

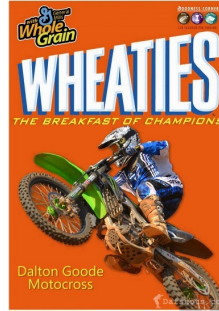
George and Betty met when Betty was a junior in high school; he was five years older. They went on a blind date and before long he was taking her to her junior and senior proms. Lucky guy. Two years later they married.

George built their first home and they lived in it for 16 years with their three children; two girls and a boy. You can imagine the house was getting a little small for five McAleers so George built a second home for them 20 miles west of where they'd been living. They lived in this home for 26 years. They felt it was time to retire. The kids were grown and now there was time for travel.

They visited many states while living in Illinois but it was an easy decision to settle in Utah. It seemed so inviting. They've now lived in Kayenta for 18 years.

They have made many good friends here and we are blessed to be included among them. Betty says she enjoys being with her Episcopal Church family at Spirit and we love sharing fellowship with her on Sundays.

Just to prove a few people wrong, they celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary last year. Who said it wouldn't last!



## ELLEN'S EASTER COOKIE RECIPE

A "secret" ingredient makes them delicious. Ellen Tadken brought these cookies to church recently and they disappeared quickly.

"Delicious" was the word heard around the room and "Get the recipe" so we did!

Preheat oven to 350F

Cream together:

1 cup butter, softened

1 cup white sugar

1 cup brown sugar

Add and still well:

1 tsp vanilla

2 eggs slightly beaten

Stir well

Add:

2 cups flour

1 tsp baking soda

1 tsp baking powder

1 tsp salt

Mix together and add:

1 cup chocolate chips

**3 cups WHEATIES**

Drop by heaping teaspoon onto a baking sheet. Bake for about 12 minutes. Cool on wire rack. Cookies freeze well if you don't eat them right away. Makes about 90 cookies. Cut recipe in half if you don't think you can eat all 90 cookies!