

All Saint's Episcopal Church commemorates 100 years



The first Episcopal Church built in 1899, which was destroyed by the 1903 flood.

All Saint's Episcopal Church has been a meeting ground of man and God since the first cornerstone was laid in 1903 and consecrated in 1904. One hundred years later, on Sunday, July 25 at 11 a.m., the congregation will celebrate the history of this 100-year-old building. Attendees are encouraged to share memories and a barbecue following the service.

Bishop Thomas Fielding Scott (1854-1867) first conducted services in Heppner in various establishments when it was an active mission. Years later in 1876, the Reverend Rueben Nevius made an exploratory trip to Heppner, which was a stimulus for Bishop Morris (1868-1906) to visit the community. From Canyon City to Burns, then west a hundred miles and north over the mountains, Bishop Morris arrived in the "primitive community of ranch and sheep country with the town of Heppner consisting of a few stores; supply places they were called at that time."

The Episcopal Church began in Heppner under Bishop Benjamin Wistar Morris in the late spring of 1884 without an established building. Clergy traveled far and wide, often staying the night at homes of parishioners. Bishop Morris had entered the following in his journal: "Two days travel brought us to Heppner, which I found to be a town of more promise and importance than I had supposed. I held service in the evening in the Methodist church (kindly allowed by the minister in charge). We have six to eight

communicants there, and I hope, with the assistance of the Rev. Potwine of Pendleton to have services for them about once each quarter."

The first recorded baptisms occurred in 1889 when Bishop Morris traveled to the home of Wm. and Kathleen Hughes to baptize the five Hughes children: William, Percy, Isabel, Helena, and Hugh Lee using a bowl from the cupboard. In 1890, Rev. W. E. Potwine, the first Episcopal Vicar who served the Mission, baptized a sixth Hughes child, Constance.

The first recorded confirmation was April 8, 1891. Lauretta Leezer and Melissa J. Bassett were presented by Father Potwine and confirmed by Bishop Morris. The first recorded marriage was that of W. Morrow to Katie W. Rea on Dec. 16, 1885. The first recorded death was Will J. Leezer, 1897, who died of "consumption" and was laid to rest by Father Potwine.

In 1899, the little Episcopal community in Heppner built their first church building, three blocks east of the present location beside Willow Creek and directly across from the site of the Morrow County Creamery. The cornerstone was laid on May 26, 1899 with Bishop Morris in attendance. The building was completed in 1900. Rev. John Warren was the first resident clergyman from 1902 to 1906. Thus organized services and activities began in this isolated little town and community, which was growing and thriving.

Then came the devastating Heppner Flood of June 14, 1903 with raging



The current Episcopal Church built in 1904, which is still in use in Heppner.

torrents turning the newly built All Saint's church into scattered logs and kindling. It was on a Sunday, after church services were over, yet over 200 men, women and children in Heppner lost their lives on that sad day. Five communicants and 10 Sunday School children drowned in the holocaust of water. (One hundred years later, names of the deceased were listed on a flood memorial at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery.)

Though the building was gone by nightfall, instantly people from all over responded to the tragedy. The Diocese of Oregon assisted, as did the National Council of the Episcopal Church in America, the Mother Church of England, and private subscriptions and memorials arrived for those souls lost in the flood. In 10 months' time, a new site was chosen and purchased, away from the course that Willow Creek had ravaged that historic night. On April 10, 1904, the new building, (the present church) constructed from the plans of an old English country church in Wales (sans bell tower), was consecrated and erected at the cost of \$3500. Through this suffering, rebuilding, and helping others the church took on new life. At that time the full name of the Church was 'All Saint's Memorial Episcopal Church.'

Church women then, as now, worked actively to keep the church thriving. During this period, the Guild of All Saint's in 1924 collected used magazines to send to striking coal miners in Colorado. In 1927, five church women dressed in southern attire and sold home-made candy and popcorn outside Heppner's movie theater for their treasury. The youth held an ice-cream social, netting \$11.55 to help send them to Cove. March of 1928 found the ladies putting on a play, attended by 500. Christmas green sales helped the funds in 1939.

Though Bishop Morris commented in his journal nearly 100 years ago that it is "a great burden to get and to keep clergy in the eastern part of the state," the following clergy have shared a part of their lives with the communicants of All Saint's, Heppner: W.E. Potwine (1882-1904), John Warren (1904-1906), B. Stanley Moore (1926-1931), Sidney Preasley (1931-32), M. S. Tennyson (1932-34), Ralph V. Hinkle (1934-1938), Neville Blunt (1943-1948), Elvan L. Tull (1948-1953), John Reeves (1953-1956), George Little (1956-1958), Bruce Spencer (1958-1965), Dirk T. Rinehart (1966-1969), Dan Thompson (1970-1972), David Blackhaller (1972-

1975), Ken Miller (1976-1979), Ed Watts (1981-1984), George Izzette, (1985-1987), Tony Bullman (1987-1989), George Izzette, (1990-1991) and Al Miller (1993-1998). In 1999, All Saint's began a shared ministry with the Lutheran Church and clergy have been Dick Metz (1999-2000), Tom Hiller (2001) and Laura Snyder O'Brien serving All Saint's, Valby and Hope Lutheran at this writing

Bishops serving the Diocese over the years were: Thomas Scott, Benjamin Wister Morris, Wm. Remington, Robert Lewis Paddock, Lane W. Barton, Wm. B. Spoffard, Rustin Kimsey, and Wm. Gregg. A visit from the Bishop was a special event and they often took services when the church was without clergy. Each left congregations with memories to last for a lifetime.

Time marches on. Changes take place. Memories are made. Each might ask, "What on earth are we doing for heaven's sake" as they return to this building filled with the prayers of the past and blessed with the hopes for the future. Its timbers are filled with the sounds of hymns of praise, psalms of joy, the Litany for the dying, and the squalling of newly baptized infants, tears and laughter. May this historic 100 year celebration of All Saint's Episcopal Church in Heppner on July 25, 2004 be a challenge to move into the future creating more history for our Heppner ecumenical church community in Eastern Oregon with abiding love and concern for all.

Someone once wrote: "Remember, the church is composed of fallible human beings, not stained glass window saints." From the archives

came this quote about 'The Real Parish': "the wealth of a parish is found in its people; the power of a parish streams from its altar; and the joy of a parish comes from its Lord."

The information which will be added to the contained here was condensed by Claudia Hughes from Episcopal Church files, notes, and interviews. Readers are encouraged to share any corrections, additional information, and memories which will be added to the church files.

A view from the hill

Celebration is common at Willow Creek Terrace. Last week, in addition to Floyd Raver's birthday celebration, the residents and manager George Nairns had another occasion to celebrate. And this week will bring another birthday celebration.

Evelyn Broun was born on July 25, 1920, to Merle and Alfa Kirk. The couple lived in Clarks Canyon and had two daughters, Evelyn and Merlyn (Robinson).

Through the seventh grade, Evelyn attended school in Lexington. Then she joined the other students who traveled to Heppner for schooling.

Evelyn chose the medical field for her long career, beginning her advanced education in the three-year program, at The Dalles School of Nursing. Her first job was in Roseburg, and she worked for the Veterans' Administration in Portland for several years. While in Portland, she continued her education, becoming a licensed anesthesiologist

For some years, Evelyn worked in the Pendleton office of her husband, Dr. James R Broun. She later applied her skills as an anesthesiologist at St. Anthony's Hospital.

Evelyn has three children who live in Washington: Michael, who has three daughters; Nicholas; and Jacklyn, who has four sons.

Some years ago, Jacklyn somewhat followed in her mother's footsteps when she served on the Pendleton Round-Up court. Evelyn was a familiar face at the Round-Up, and she served as a Princess on the Heppner Rodeo Court of Maxine McCurdy in 1939.

Evelyn will be celebrating her birthday on Sunday, and she is one of the sixteen residents at Willow Creek Terrace celebrating the management skills of George Nairns. George combined on-the-job training under the tutelage of previous manager, Nancy Vander Does, with the course work required for certification to officially become the Terrace's new manager last week. George's accomplishment is certainly cause for celebration.

On another note, the WCT Board of Directors has received several inquiries about purchasing memorial bricks to be placed on "memory lane" at the Terrace. Memory Lane consists of a path of bricks adjacent to the sidewalk that takes residents and visitors from the patio to the gazebo.

More bricks may be added to the lane, inscribed with the names of individuals who purchase them or the names of individuals in whose memory the bricks are purchased. Interested parties are encouraged to order from Board Chair, Suzanne Jepsen, by calling 676-9850. A 4" x 8" brick, with three lines of inscription (15 spaces per line), costs \$50. An 8" x 8" brick, with six lines of inscription, costs \$100.

Baker boards USS Scout

Navy Petty Officer USS Scout, home ported in 2nd Class Joseph Baker, son of Robin Krebs and Robert Baker is a 1996 graduate of Ione High School and joined the Navy mine countermeasures ship in June 1996.

MUSIC IN THE PARK

at the Ione Park

Friday, August 6 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

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