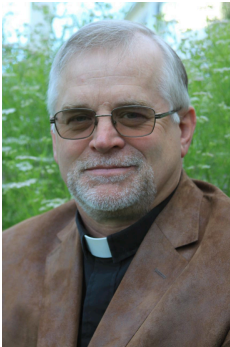




*The Episcopal Church
in Wyoming*



Name: The Rev. James Stewart
Church: St. Alban's in Worland
Applying for: Standing Committee (3 year term)

A brief summary of current and past volunteer positions within the church?

I am the priest at St. Alban's in Worland, Wyoming. I was the representative for our diocese work in Africa, traveling there for four years. I was able to raise almost \$50,000 a year to help the people of Africa by preaching all over the state of Wyoming about our trips.

I was the mentor for EFM. I was in charge of training EM's, EV's, Acolytes, and Lectors for 3 different churches. I was the chaplain for Daughters of the King and also for the military group that was sent out every year to boot camp by the governor and senator. I worked with Safe Guarding God's children as a mentor when we first started this program. I have built crosses and altars, and I have helped the junior warden at the churches. Working on bells, power problems and general maintenance. I was in charge of our outreach program in Cheyenne for a term and would serve meals at Comea House once a month. I was also involved with the Red Cross to help stranded motorists find shelter for the night and fix a meal as needed. I have been involved in all aspects of the churches.

What do you want to accomplish in this leadership role?

I would like to be involved in the decisions that the standing committee make throughout the year and I am looking forward to going through the process of selecting a new bishop for the state of Wyoming.

I have also been involved with Iona and would like to be involved with the decisions to bring new priests and deacons into the church.

If you have served on other boards, what is your greatest accomplishment and greatest disappointment?

I have served on vestry in three different churches. It has been wonderful to be able to empower people to follow their ministries and to grow in them. I worked with one

vestry and the bishop to allow me to hold a children's service and allow two very gifted children the opportunity to preach with my supervision. The service went very well, and the young women preached a great sermon.

One of my greatest disappointments was working a secular job while trying to be a priest at a church. I was putting in about 90 hours a week for over two and a half years with only two days off during this time. I began to age very rapidly and became ill. I had to give up the priest's job for health reasons. I was still able to be a supply priest, but the day-to-day had to stop. Now, I am retired from my secular job, and I am able to be a full-time priest doing what I most enjoy.

How do you invite God's Presence? When is God most present to you in your work?

I invite God into my daily life by starting the day with God reading the Bible and praying for those in need. I finish the day with prayer and giving thanks for all the gifts I have received.

I find that God is most present for me in the Eucharistic service as it is all a prayer from the processional hymn to the recessional hymn. I feel closest to God when I am preaching about His Word. At times, while I am preaching, I feel a nudge to go in a different direction, and my sermon may be changed in the middle. It is amazing when someone comes to me after the service and says they really need to hear that message. The closest I have felt to God was doing last rites as the machines sustaining life were shut off. As I held the young woman's hand, I felt a comfort, as if someone was holding both of our hands, and I could feel someone telling me it was ok to let go she is now in my hands.

FAITH ON THE NEW FRONTIER

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