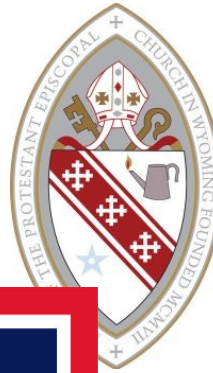


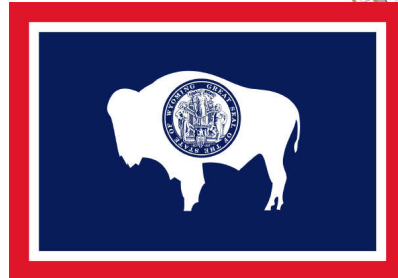
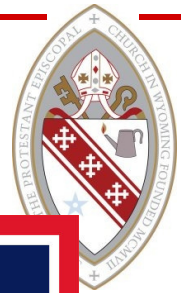
# LETTER TO WYOMING



From the  
Bishop Nominees  
to the  
People of the  
Episcopal Diocese

**The Rev. Canon  
Margaret Babcock**

**LETTER TO  
WYOMING**



*"...I have called you friends..."  
John 15:15*

Dear Friends,

Many of you know I often begin emails with this greeting. It's not because I know each of you intimately, but because we share a unique bond in Christ. As Jesus made clear at the Last Supper, those who follow him are transformed in their relationship with God and with each other. He invites us into friendship, a deep personal partnership. It is our calling to live into that new relationship as fully as possible, both as individuals and as congregations.

As you discern who will be bishop among you, you should know this understanding of our relationship with God is central to my life. I see the task before the Church in these times of great social change as twofold: The first is to embrace that relationship in God. By individual and communal formation (i.e. getting back to the roots of who we are in Christ) and by intentionally nourishing connections and collaboration between members in our congregations and between our congregations, I would continue to encourage us to tap more deeply into the source of our life - this friendship shared in Christ.

Secondly, our partnership with God calls us to spread the news of God's friendship not only with words but with action. Where the language of the Gospel and liturgy is no longer understood by many, this will mean trying innovative ways of creating friendships and faith communities. Like the branches of a tree, we must reach out, sprout new initiatives and stretch ourselves in this work with God.

Deep roots anchored in Christ's friendship. Wide branches reaching out, partnering with God in care of creation. I believe that together we can grow such a tree in the Diocese of Wyoming.

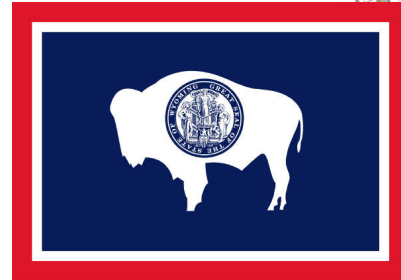
Blessings,

*Margaret*

The Rev. Margaret Babcock

The Rev.  
Rebecca Brown

LETTER TO  
WYOMING



Dear People of God in Wyoming,

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." *Matthew 6:21*

I recently attended a retreat focused on matters of the heart. In Hebrew thought, the heart is the seat of the will; in this brief sentence, Jesus may be suggesting that in what we treasure, there we find our willingness to act. I would like to share with you some of what I treasure most.

- ✦ I treasure God's gift of human life, and the greater gift of creation which formed us and sustains us.
- ✦ I treasure my family, both those who have nurtured me and those I have been privileged to nurture.
- ✦ I treasure our faith communities, in all their astounding diversity, and the richness of our Christian tradition.
- ✦ I treasure the many opportunities we have to learn and to grow—as individuals and as members of the Body of Christ.

Since 2001, my husband and I have been visiting Wyoming with increasing frequency. In my time here, this is what I have come to treasure:

- ✦ The view from the top of a ridge or a mountain, where I can see for miles all around,
- ✦ The joy of following a stream as it tumbles down the side of a mountain and meanders across the plains,
- ✦ The sense of being scoured clean by the wind and wide open spaces, and
- ✦ The practical, forthright, committed people that I have met here.

Thank you for the opportunity to be in conversation with you over the next few weeks as we discern together who is called to be your next bishop.

"Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine." *Ephesians 3:20*

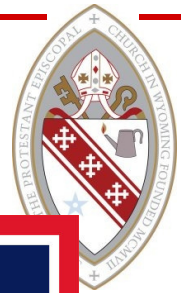
Yours in peace,

*Rebecca Brown* ✦

The Rev. Rebecca Brown

The Rev.  
Sandra Casey-Martus

LETTER TO  
WYOMING



To The People of Wyoming,

My daughter Ashley just sent a text message picture of her new infant Catherine Bond, born yesterday afternoon. Another precious being has been gifted by God to our care.

Grand-parenting, a unique relationship, combines wise counsel, encouragement, defined boundaries, good listening, collaborative problem solving, humor, and infinite patience. As grandmother of three, I possess these skills. I suspect these qualities might be welcomed in a candidate considered by a diocese about to elect a bishop. When I think of my grandparents' modeling, I remember their stamina, flexibility, and adaptability. They fiercely held to values that were life giving, and they gracefully negotiated the turbulent waters of cultural change.

My fraternal grandmother was the bookkeeper in my father's store in Manhattan. "Mom" wrote monthly bills with impeccable script while calculating vast columns of numbers in her head with unmatched accuracy. By the time she retired at age 84, she had instilled in me a knack for numbers. Her generosity, kindness, reliability and honesty modeled for me a respect for people and a powerful work ethic.

My maternal grandmother went to daily Mass. "Muggie" loved God and fancied art, music, poetry, antiques, ballet, opera, and knitting. Christmas meant new wool mittens. She encouraged me to sing, paint, dance, ride horses, play tennis, learn flute, guitar, violin, and piano. Her faith was humble and infectious.

Why do I tell you all this? I want you to know that in many ways, as they were, so now am I...industrious, articulate, creative yet practical. I am profoundly secure in my faith and pray without ceasing. So equipped, if I am called, I intend to support the ministries and mission of the diocese with skill and affection. I stand ready to respond with everything God has prepared in me to serve the people of Wyoming.

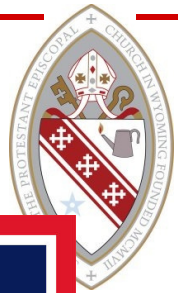
Peace in Christ,

**Sandy+**

The Rev. Sandra Casey-Martus

**The Very Rev.  
Canon F. Michael Perko**

**LETTER TO  
WYOMING**



Dear Friends,

I'm grateful for this opportunity to be able to speak to you. Let me tell you how privileged I am to be a finalist. Being a candidate is very different from being elected, yet the search itself has brought numerous blessings I'd like to share.

The greatest is the blessing of many wonderful and inspiring people. Conversations with your search committee were energizing. The love with which folks in my current diocese have supported me in this process is humbling and life-affirming. More unexpected is the variety of people who have "checked in" recently. I've been in contact with my cousins and 92 year old aunt and we're planning a family reunion in Pinedale at the end of the "walkabouts." I also was touched by the support of a number of friends, like Bishops Jelinek and Little, from across the religious spectrum. Their care again reminds me of how relationships build the Body of Christ and trump ideological differences.

The second is a heightened awareness of how greatly my family roots in Wyoming define me. The values of equality, hard work, personal integrity, and gratitude for all God's blessings that I learned there define the Christian I am.

The third is my growing excitement about the possibility of helping to build God's Kingdom in Wyoming. We in rural dioceses need to see ourselves as a megachurch with multiple campuses, united in a common vision of our mission to reach out to a society that desperately needs what we have to offer, rather than as small and isolated. Could any challenge be more exciting?

I look forward to getting to know you better during the "walkabouts," and introducing you to my wonderful wife, Lisa. Be sure that you are in my prayers daily, as together we seek to discern God's will.

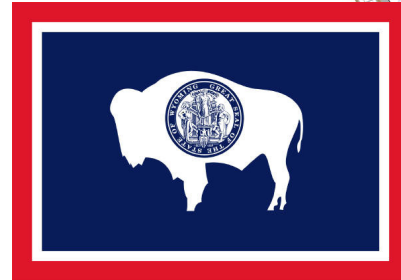
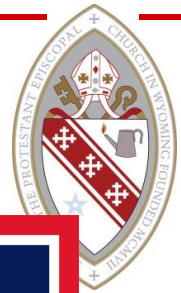
In Christ,

***Michael Perko***

The Rev. F. Michael Perko

**The Rev. Canon  
Clark Michael Sherman**

**LETTER TO  
WYOMING**



Friends,

Years ago, Jamie, the kids and I would journey to Wyoming for skiing at Snowy Range or Jackson. Those trips were always invigorating and filled with happiness. Since then we have come to appreciate the beauty and character of The Equality State.

For me, it is a great honor to be nominated for the next Bishop of the Diocese of Wyoming. Having lived in Colorado and Montana for nearly 30 years, we have grown to love the wide expanses of the Rocky Mountain West with its varying climates and cultures as well as the frontier spirit that has characterized the Church here for over one hundred years. It is exciting to contemplate the creative possibilities available in Wyoming.

Throughout 25 years of full-time ministry, I have emphasized the importance of using mutual ministry to fulfill God's mission. I desire to see every Christian affirmed in their call to serve and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. The laity are the first, and primary, order of ministry. They are to be cared for and equipped for ministry by priests, deacons and lay pastors who, in turn, are cared for and empowered for ministry by the bishop. Every person is of vital importance, regardless of order. Regardless of size or location every congregation is vital and important. United in Christ we are diverse yet equal-working together in all things.

We are on an exciting journey of faith, through which we will discern who God has called to be your next bishop. It is a process that we can embrace with confidence, knowing that God will honor our faithfulness. It is with great joy, that Jamie and I join you on this journey, knowing that it will be full of challenges, grace, wonder, love and hope.

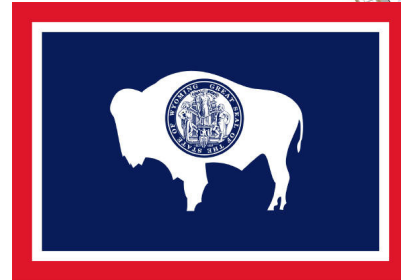
Faithfully,

*Clark Sherman*

The Rev. Clark Sherman

The Rev.  
John S. Smylie

LETTER TO  
WYOMING



Friends,

Jill and I are excited to gather with many of you during the walkabout. We embrace the chance to listen to your concerns, to share your hopes and dreams and to celebrate the presence of God among us. We look forward to engaging the youth in conversation. We hope to hear the challenges your congregations face and we are honored to listen to your stories. This is a critical time for the Diocese of Wyoming; we are called to make a decision that will have an impact on us all for years to come. We are not a one-size-fits-all Diocese and I look forward to more fully discovering, celebrating and supporting the variety and diversity that is the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming.

I am thrilled that the Mustard Seed Mission idea I presented to the Foundation as a member of its board was approved and implemented. The Mustard Seed has inspired us to greater mission. When Mutual Ministry was being introduced throughout the church it was centered on our baptismal covenant which I believe remains a good centering place for us. It carried a theological assumption that God would provide in each congregation all that was necessary for us to carry out God's purpose for that congregation. I believe this is true at the congregational level and at the diocesan level.

Wyoming is a unique place full of natural resources, beautiful landscapes and strong independent people. To serve as your pastor would be an immense privilege. Our future is only limited by our vision so we pray we will listen to and follow God's vision for us. If elected as your next Bishop it will be a joy to discover, celebrate, work and live with you as we embrace the mission and purpose that God has for us at this time in our history together.

Warmly,

*John*

The Rev. John Smylie