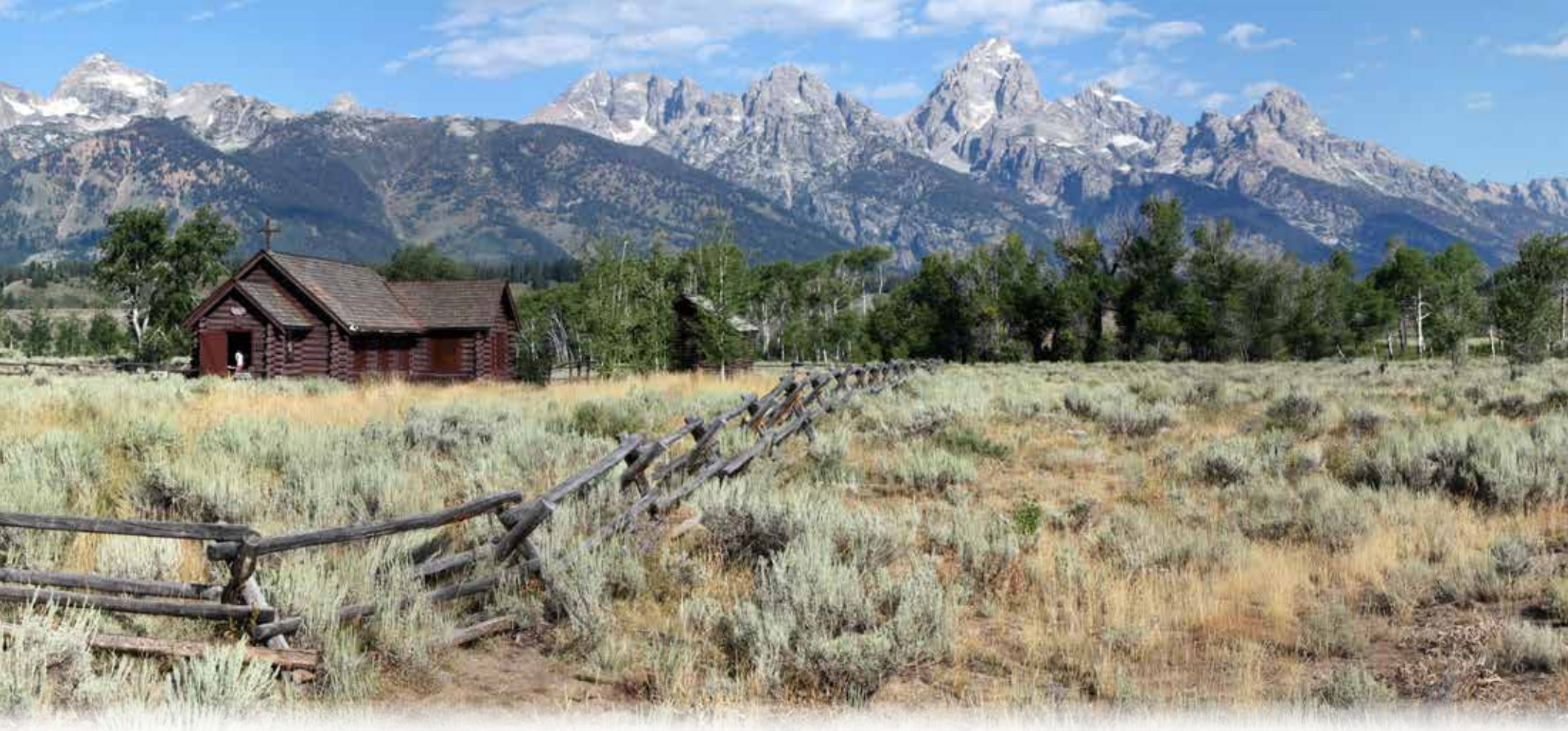




ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
JACKSON HOLE



One Hundred Years, One Sacred View
1925 - 2025



OUR MISSION

We are a loving faith community who has been here for more than 100 years. We are a passionate, imperfect family leading the way to make a love-spreading difference in our community and beyond. Partnering with God, we are hard workers, intent upon finding and meeting the needs of God's children.

INTRODUCTION

Built in 1925 on the west side of the Snake River in Moose, Wyoming, The Chapel of the Transfiguration is an freeholding within Grand Teton National Park. The building and grounds belong to The Episcopal Church in Wyoming and are stewarded by The Episcopal Church of Jackson Hole. The dedication of this rustic place of worship predates the establishment of Grand Teton National Park.

As we celebrate 100 years of love, prayer, and gratitude at The Chapel of the Transfiguration in the heart of Grand Teton National Park, my heart is overflowing with thanksgiving. Serving as rector of The Episcopal Church in Jackson Hole for the past nine years, I have had the extraordinary privilege of walking with this community through sacred seasons—each one steeped in grace and grounded in the legacy of this remarkable chapel.

The Chapel of the Transfiguration is more than a landmark. For a century, it has been a sanctuary of peace and a beacon of light—framing the awe-inspiring Tetons while opening hearts to the transcendent beauty of God’s creation. Through its rustic walls and open doors have passed generations of faithful souls, who have come seeking solace, joy, healing, and hope. One hundred years of prayer and gratitude have soaked into the very timber of this holy place.

Throughout times of change and challenge, the Chapel has remained a steady spiritual refuge. It has anchored our mission and ministry—calling us always back to love. And that love is not a quiet, passive thing. It’s vibrant and outward-reaching, mirrored in the ways our wider church community continues to care for Jackson Hole and beyond. We strive to cover this valley in love the way snow covers it in winter—deeply, beautifully, and without condition.

Our centennial celebration invites us to reflect but also to act. As we honor the past, we also look forward—recommitting ourselves to the work of making God’s love real and visible. Whether through our dreams of expanding Browse ‘n Buy, strengthening our recovery ministries, or deepening our outreach, we carry with us the enduring spirit of those who founded this chapel a hundred years ago.

To each of you—whether you visited once, return each summer, or have made this chapel your spiritual home—I say: thank you. Thank you for being part of 100 years of love, 100 years of prayer, and 100 years of gratitude. This milestone belongs to all of us, and it is a testament to the sacred power of community, beauty, and faith.

Love,



Jimmy Bartz

Rector

The Episcopal Church in Jackson Hole



One Hundred Years

One hundred years ago there was no bridge across the Snake River in Moose, Wyoming. The only dry passage in the valley's northern end was Menor's Ferry, constructed in 1892 by W. B. (Bill) Menor, who tended his ranch that spanned the river. The alternative was a dusty 12-mile ride south to the Wilson Bridge. Imagine the preparations needed every time a trip to Jackson was considered! It was such cumbersome travel that spawned The Chapel of the Transfiguration.

"Around the first of September when the river got too low for the ferry, it meant a trip on the west side over a terrible road. I had driven Mrs. Woodward and daughter, Quita, to Jackson one Sunday in 1920 or 1921. We were all tired that evening after the grueling trip to church. As we were sitting around the campfire, Mrs. Woodward said, "Wouldn't it be nice if we had a little church at the ferry?" —Frank R. Williams, Double Diamond Ranch

Dr. & Mrs. George W. Woodward of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, had a summer camp near the outlet of Leigh Lake. During their numerous visits to the Bar B C Dude Ranch, beginning in 1916, friendships were

forged with many locals including Miss Maude Noble who owned and later donated the land where the Chapel now stands.

In the meantime, the Rev. Royal H. Balcom, rector of St. John's, also had a vision to establish a place of worship near Menor's Ferry. The increasing number of summer visitors, fondly called "dudes," was a driving force. He had become friends with Mr. Charles Voorhis, who owned a ranch on the borders of Torrey Lake near Dubois. It so happened that Mr. Voorhis' dear friend was The Rev. Nathaniel S. Thomas, Bishop of the Missionary District of Wyoming.

In April 1925, Mr. Voorhis received a letter from the Rev. Balcom stating, "I plan to begin very shortly the construction of a log church at Menor's Ferry. Miss Noble and Mr. Sandell who own the Ferry Ranch have given me land upon which to build. I haven't any idea where the money is coming from. My system for the last eleven years has been to do things first and let the money come later. It saves time and has worked so far. The ferry is in the center of the "dude ranch" country and a place of worship is very much needed. I feel sure that I can rely

on the generosity of summer visitors to help me out in this matter."



The 1920's wish for a Chapel near Menor's Ferry did not fully materialize until the early spring of 1925 when Archdeacon Royal H. Balcom came to take charge of the mission in Jackson's Hole and wrote the letter above. Balcom was "a man to match our mountains. This is a phrase that has been used to both recognize and to challenge the local citizens by recognizing noteworthy and outstanding accomplishments." —*A History of the Episcopal Church in Jackson's Hole*

Knowing Mr. Voorhis' childhood friend, Bishop Nathaniel Thomas, had already expressed interest in this endeavor, a gathering was held at Torrey Lake Ranch. At this meeting, Mr. Charles Voorhis told the group that he and Mrs. Voorhis would finance the project. No more dusty and bumpy rides to worship!

(Continued)

One Sacred View

Following that meeting, construction moved forward rapidly. Once approved by Bishop Thomas, funded by Mr. Voorhis, designed and supervised by Archdeacon Balcom, the early spring log cutting quickly developed into the first service on July 26, 1925 and the consecration by Bishop Thomas on August 16, 1925.

The Chapel was constructed of lodgepole pine, with pews of locally harvested quaking aspen and a plate glass window framing the Teton Range directly behind the altar piece, given by the C.B. Voorhis Family.

The bell, cast in 1842, is from St. Barnabas Church in Irvington, New York. The baptismal font was given in memory of Miss Quita Woodward, who died in Switzerland. The two stained glass windows in the vestibule were presented by Miss Jessie VanBrunt

In 1925, the Chapel was built for dude ranchers and tourists to worship and gather as a community. Today, the Chapel continues this tradition. The door is always open, providing a place of respite and spiritual renewal for travelers and locals alike. Come and breathe in the beauty of God's Creation framed by the plate glass window—the majestic Teton Range.



and the original organ given in memory of Archdeacon Balcom.

The Chapel is named most appropriately in commemoration of the Gospel Story of the Transfiguration (Luke 9:28-36) where we are told of Jesus going into the mountains with Peter, James and John and appearing to them in the company of Moses and Elijah, resplendent in dazzling white clothing. Then a cloud enveloped the group and a voice was heard saying, "THIS IS MY BELOVED SON; LISTEN TO HIM." When the cloud disappeared, Jesus was seen standing alone with His disciples.

Once fully constructed this rustic space served to provide spiritual refreshment to dude ranchers and tourists, who flocked to the Chapel every Sunday to worship and to gather as a community.

1925

Chapel of Transfiguration established. Potter Stewart, future Supreme Court Justice (1959-1985), baptized



1927

Ellen Jones and Jack Dornan married on October 11, 1927

Construction of steel truss bridge at Moose renders Menor's Ferry obsolete



HISTORY JACKSON HOLE

1944

Glen and Beth Exum watch Margaret and Jack Huyler lead the Bear Paw Ranch guests home

1926

Nellie Tayloe Ross, 14th governor of Wyoming, crosses the Snake River in a Yellowstone bus on Menor's Ferry



HISTORY JACKSON HOLE
JH WALTON PHOTOGRAPHY

1936



The Chapel is featured in Life Magazine



HISTORY JACKSON HOLE

OUR RICH HISTORY & LEGACY

1962

Spencer's Mountain starring Henry Fonda films a scene at the Chapel



JACKSON HOLE NEWS & GUIDE

1981

The Rev. Frank Johnson called to serve as Rector of St. John's Church for almost two decades with his final service taking place at the Chapel on September 3, 2000



HISTORY JACKSON HOLE

1995

L-R, First Lady Hillary Clinton, Sally Johnson, the Rev. Frank Johnson, President Bill Clinton, and Jack Huyler attend services at the Chapel

1978

President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalynn Carter attend services at the Chapel



HISTORY JACKSON HOLE

Addie Donnan greets the Rev. Lester Thrasher

1985



The Chapel of Transfiguration is placed on the National Register of Historic Places

1980

2000

Marion Buchenroth serves with the Rev. Suzanne Love Harris



2000-2025

2000

The Rev. Ken Asel revitalizes the visiting minister program that started in the 1970s.

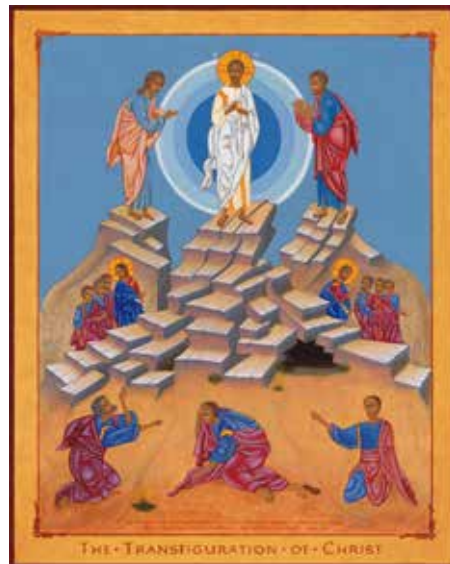
Pictured lower right, Scott Claassen jumps for joy, photos by Doug Ayers

2004-2025

Significant upgrades are made to the Chapel including a new boardwalk, a new organ, the wedding cabin, the Garden of Memories, and the acquisition of a townhome for the visiting summer chaplains. In 2013, the Endowment Fund is established to ensure the preservation of the Chapel. By 2021, we nearly doubled the endowment, our investment grew and is protected.

2016

Gay Pogue creates the Icon of The Transfiguration of Christ for the Chapel. The Rev. Jimmy Bartz brings his message of love to the Jackson Hole community.



Prayer for the Wild, 2021



**TOM
MANGELSEN**

Parishioners cluster behind the altar to feast their eyes on Grizzly 399 and her cubs as she leads her four yearlings to the south end of the park towards the developed areas of Jackson Hole. With four hungry mouths to feed in 2021, 399 ventured into new territory outside the park in search of nourishment.

Memories

OF AN “OLD TIMER”

In the late 60s, Dan and I were pleased to spend time at the R Lazy S Ranch with thirty teens from the Diocese of Tennessee—doing exactly what they did with the experiences of “loving oneself”, the agape kind of love—we sang lots of folk music and many kids had their guitars. Bob and Claire McConaughy were wonderful hosts, and on the final day we performed a folk mass at The Chapel of Transfiguration. It was a most moving experience. As a result, we decided that we would bring our young kids out to the R Lazy Ranch once they were old enough and we did that, beginning in 1973. This is the major reason why Dan and I live in Jackson. It’s our “heart place”.

—Maggie Land



Were there ever 100 horses and riders pounding across the sagebrush toward The Chapel of The Transfiguration in Moose? Yes. From the north came the dudes, dudines, and dude wranglers of the Bar BC and the Four Lazy F. From the north galloped the girls of the Half Moon Ranch. From the feet of the Tetons thundered the dudes, dudines and dude wranglers of the White Grass Ranch. From the south, men, women and children of the Bear Paw Ranch. They, too, came every Sunday. In addition to mounted riders there were the Yellowstone stagecoaches of the Bar BC and the Bear Paw, each drawn by four or six horses and each chock full of passengers. From time to time, Jenny Lake spewed forth guests and cowboys from the Double Diamond, the Square G, and the Danny Ranch to join the regulars. The dust, noise, and yips of greeting were suggestive of a posse in the full chase rather than the churchgoers en route to the Sunday worship. No, it was not rare to see 100 riders at The Chapel of The Transfiguration.

—Jack Huyler

Memories



BILL CLINTON & DICK SHEAHAN



TONY, JENNIFER, & MARNIE PAULUS

THE GOOD OLD DAYS AT THE CHAPEL OF TRANSFIGURATION

In the 1960s and 70s, our family spent every August at Granite Canyon Ranch just two miles north of Teton Village. We rented horses for a number of summers from Burt Seaton, and on Sundays would ride up to The Chapel of the Transfiguration for church services. The ride along the paths next to the Moose-Wilson Road took an hour and once we descended the hill near the Moose Ponds, we would head northeast off the ridge to the park road and chapel. The Huyler family would ride with us from the Rocking H Ranch and the Peters family joined in from the Piton Ranch. It was a grand adventure, and Maggie Peters Schwed still recalls the stunning view of the Tetons through the picture frame window.

Ruth Huyler Glass recalls loping along the path if the riders were running late and tying the horses up at the hitching post in front of the Chapel. She waxed eloquently about the sound of the boots on the floor of the Chapel and the creaking of the benches made of quaking aspen. Her grandmother, Margaret, played the pump organ, and the Huyler kids put out the hymnals and prayer books. Ruth's grandparents Margaret and Coulter Huyler ran the Bear Paw Dude Ranch from 1926-1949. On Sundays, the dudes and dudines from nearby ranches would head for the chapel in a stagecoach. According to Jack Huyler, "as the churchgoers got within viewing distance of the other ranch parties, it was tradition to urge their horses and stagecoaches into a gallop and war-whoop their way to the chapel. It was an undignified descent upon a church, but it resulted in attendance by many people who might otherwise skip church on their vacation."

Our parents, Dick and Dottie Sheahan, loved to watch Lou Breitenbach who helped out at the Sunday services at the Chapel. At the end of the service, and this is when Phil Zimmers was the Rector, Lou would close her hymnal with a loud thump, stand up, turn off the heat, then head out the side door at a rapid clip. Mission accomplished. Our daughter Jennifer was baptized at the chapel in 1984. When visiting minister The Rev. George Hall explained to her about the process and the water bath, she piped up with a loud, "I don't want to be ba-pe-tized!" She knew her preferences even at 3 ½.

—Marnie Sheahan Paulus

Sunday Riders Gather



Glen and Beth Exum watch Margaret and Jack Huyler lead the Bear Paw Ranch guests home
HISTORY JACKSON HOLE

Our Leadership

FROM BALCOM TO BARTZ

The Rev. Royal Balcom (1914-1917 and 1925)

The Rev. Perry Herbert Smith

The Rev. William Thomas

The Rev. C. Lee Mills

The Rev. Elmer M. Lofstrom

The Rev. Alex Paula

The Rev. Walter W. McNeil

The Rev. Zachary T. Vincent

The Rev. W.J Appel

The Rev. William Thomas

The Rev. Arch Hopper

The Rev. E. Cecil Dicken

The Rev. Phil Zimmers

The Rev. Peter Snow

The Rev. Frank Johnson

The Rev. Hollinshead (Lynn) Knight

The Rev. Ken Asel

The Rev. Ron Pogue

The Rev. Jimmy Bartz



WINTER, 1942



Prayers

“O God, we come together in communities on the prairie, by rivers and streams, on mountain tops, and in their shadows in the valley, to receive your Word...”

We thank you, Creator God, that we live in a place where the glorious revelation of you is all around us. The prairie bursts with song from wind and birds and waving grasses. The abundance of animals roaming freely reminds us of our own freedom, and the many ways you provide sustenance in your kingdom. From the depths of the ocean floor you lifted your massive mountains and pointed them toward the heavens.

We, like your Son, our Lord, are called to these high places to get away and rest in communion with you. We marvel as we wander through stately pines and twirling aspens along the creeks, where trout dance on their tails above the rocks, and deer and elk sip from the water's edge: and we remember that you have given us the Living Water to quench our thirst. Our spirit is refreshed and our strength renewed.

—From *The Wyoming Eucharistic Prayer*



CLIMBERS PRAYER

Bless, we beseech Thee, O Lord, these ropes, ice-axes, pitons and other instruments; so that those who will use them on the rough cliffs of the mountain in ice, snow and storms may be preserved from any fall or danger, may successfully reach the summit and safely return to their own, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Protect, O Lord, through the intercession of blessed Bernard, whom Thou hast given as a patron to those who dwell and travel in the Alps, these servants of Thine; and grant that as they ascend these heights they may be made strong to reach the mountain which is Christ, through the same Christ, Our Lord.

Amen.

Protect in Perpetuity



Today, at the 2025 Centennial Celebration, The Chapel of the Transfiguration in Grand Teton National Park, continues to draw visitors from around the country and the globe.

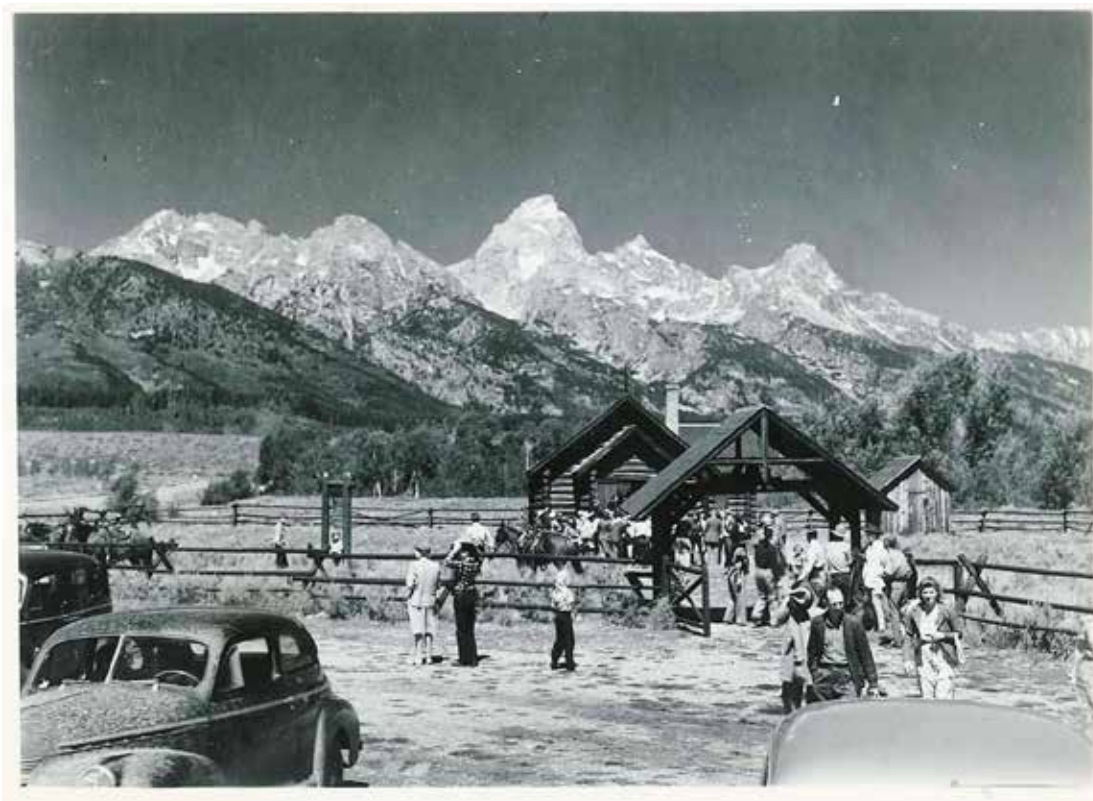
These visitors take a moment to reflect on their faith lives amid the majesty of the Teton Range. Doors are open 24 hours and offer Sunday services in summer and a 365-day opportunity to capture an elusive moment of quiet gratitude bringing equilibrium to our hurried, ever-changing world.

Enhancements to this beloved log chapel continue today, one hundred years later. From a simple boardwalk to the new organ and an important Wedding Cabin, those witnesses profoundly affected by this sacred space have donated their love, their esteem and their earnings to build the humble, yet glorious, structure you see today.


An endowment ensures the preservation and the ministry of this exceptional treasure. We invite you to become a protector of the Chapel's fabric for generations to come. Please join The Episcopal Church of Jackson Hole as we march toward The Chapel of the Transfiguration's Bicentennial.

Do you wish to contribute? Consider a check today, or make a donation at our website at www.stjohnsjackson.org.





THE BLESSING

A photograph of a small, rustic wooden log cabin with a dark roof and a cross on top. The cabin is situated in a field of tall, dry grass. In the background, there are mountains and a vibrant rainbow arching across the sky. The scene is captured in a cinematic style with soft lighting.

May our hearts feel the song of the meadowlark, our minds the clearness of the mountain air, and our souls the freedom of the soaring eagle. May our faith be renewed as the creek in spring, may we celebrate the saving redemption of the Cross in all its mysteries, may we always feel the love of the community of Christ. Amen.

IN GRATITUDE

Carole Nunn and Marnie Paulus wrote several sections of the booklet and gathered imagery. Haley Ross designed, organized, and enhanced the history with her impressive creative and technological skills. Morgan Jaouen and Kirsten Corbett from Jackson Hole History Museum shared their historic photos, and Morgan created high resolution photos for this publication. Editing and proofing by Brian Nystrom, Jimmy Bartz, and Bruce Hawtin. Marilyn Mullikin and the Altar Guild contributed *St. John's Savory Fare & Historical Snippets*, which included Jack Huyler's Tales from an Old Timer, and Marilyn's historic photos. Dana Turner and Tom Mangelsen contributed the image of Grizzly 399 and her yearlings visiting the Chapel. Maggie Land, Maggie Peters Schwed, Ruth Huyler Glass, and Jimmy Bartz all shared their memories of the Chapel. We are indebted to the invaluable research and writing of The Rev. Franklin O. Johnson's *A History of The Episcopal Church in Jackson's Hole*. We look forward to capturing more stories about the Chapel at the Centennial Celebration in July.





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