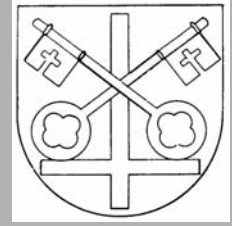


CROSSED KEYS



FEBRUARY 2009

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Dear St. Peter's Church Family,

2008 was quite a year for us. As we enter into 2009 I am filled with gratitude for God's faithful hand upon our lives, joy for where we are in our journey together, and enthusiastic hope for what God will do in the coming months.

The transition we have gone through in moving from being under the leadership of Fr. Duprey was certainly filled with much for which we found ourselves grateful. It just happened that as we needed to do some sort of reflective evaluation a workshop on the Appreciative Inquiry Process was being offered in Sheridan through the Center for a Vital Community. We were able to put together a team of vestry members and staff who attended the workshop. Consequently, we conducted a number of interviews with members of the church in order to uncover the characteristics that make St. Peter's the place where we want to be. Another component of the interview process helped us begin to think about our vision for the future and which of those traits we want to take with us into the future.

We agreed to partner together in the ongoing ministry here at St. Peter's and in October, I was installed as your Rector. As we thought through who we are and what we might be called upon by God to do, our mission statement emerged.

We are a community of believers in Jesus Christ who are striving in all things to glorify, love, and serve the Lord.

Our vision statement has a threefold approach:

St. Peter's Episcopal Church exists:

To engage one another as members of the body of Christ around the scriptures, prayer, worship, fellowship and the exercising of our spiritual gifts;

To engage our community with the gospel through proclaiming and demonstrating the good news of God in Jesus Christ as we

The difference between the two statements is that the Mission statement describes who we are and the Vision statement gives us a sense of what we are to do. There is a tremendous amount of freedom in the Vision statement allowing for a wide variety of members to explore and exercise their spiritual gifts as we go about the never-ending work of engaging one another, engaging our community, and engaging the world.

In an effort to expand our engagement of one another, in July we began experimenting with a new service on Sunday evenings. It is a blended service utilizing an evening prayer service (derived from the Canadian Prayer Book) and contemporary worship music. We celebrate the Lord's Supper together every other week. The service is going well and is a great way to finish the weekend and prepare for the coming week. We continue to offer a number of small group bible study opportunities on Sunday and throughout the week. Hopefully, that number will grow in this present year. We are also offering prayer retreats twice a year (around the solstice days), which have given us the opportunity to grow in our communication with the Lord.

The Alpha course was used to help train our confirmands in 2008. This training course worked well and we'll plan to replicate it for those being confirmed this year. At Christmas we were able to pull together some names of families who are struggling in our current economy and members of the church put together gift packages for 27 families. This is the second year we have done this outreach and it is becoming an annual favorite Christmas activity for those who participate.

Missions opportunities in the world continue to abound for us. This year St. Peter's members built three homes in Juarez through the ministry of Casas por Cristo! This missions trip continues to grow and impact our community, as well as the home recipients in Juarez. We will go back in 2009 and hope to build a church this year, in addition to 1 or more homes. The medical missions work in which Fr. Duprey was heavily involved in Pina Palmera is continuing through St. Peter's, as well. As I write this, vestry member Gary Benson is preparing to travel with a team of dental, medical and audiology professionals to continue the work began over 8 years ago. I believe it is also very likely we will have the

opportunity to help in putting together an orphanage for kids who have come out of slums in Nairobi this year. The needs of God's people around the world are substantial, but our God is great and has equipped us to help meet some of those needs. By his grace we will do whatever we can.

My continuing education this year revolved around the mission's trips to Juarez. I am hoping this year to take a class or two to fulfill my continuing ed requirements.

Personally, this past year has been incredible for me. Taking on the responsibilities of the Rector without an associate has been challenging, stretching, humbling, and yet, very fulfilling. I love the work God has for me here and enjoy growing into this new position.

I continue to be amazed at God's providence and his faithful hand in our lives. The more I reflect on the ordeal my family has gone through with our house fire, the more I realize that God was clearly there, guiding Chris out of the house that early morning. I get chills thinking about what might have been, and often find myself weeping in thanksgiving for God's protection over my family.

I cannot thank you all enough for the care, support, concern, and love you have showered upon us throughout this ordeal. Know that God has used you all in mighty ways in our lives. Know that your actions and choices have made a huge difference for us. Know that as we have been the recipients of your grace and love, God has been at work in our hearts to mold and shape us. We thank you for the unbelievable outpouring of your selves, hearts, time, and energy on our behalf throughout these past months. There is no place we would rather be than serving our Lord alongside all of you here at St. Peter's.

May the Lord continue to guide and lead us in this coming year, and always.

By Grace,



Kevin Jones, Rector

MARK YOUR CALENDARS . . . We will begin Lent with a pancake supper at 6 P.M. on Shrove Tuesday (February 24th), followed by imposition of ashes and Holy Eucharist in the Chapel at 7 A.M., noon, and 7 P.M. on Ash Wednesday. As usual, there will be Holy Eucharist at 7 A.M. and noon on each Wednesday during Lent with soup suppers at 6

St. Peter's will be represented at the 2009 convention by Delegates Rob Miller, Lisa Nicholls, Rick Parkison, and Morris Zempel. Alternate Delegates are Susan Abbot, Barbara Campbell, Peg Campbell, and Laura Galloway.

PRAYER FOR THE ELECTION OF A NEW BISHOP

Eternal God, our sovereign Creator, Redeemer and Guide, in your mercy give your Church in the Diocese of Wyoming a shepherd after your own heart who will walk in your ways and, with loving care, watch over your people.

Grant us a leader with your vision and a teacher of your truth, so your Church may be built up and your name glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

VESTRY MEMBERS 2009

**Debbie Ebia • Senior Warden
Cara Nicholls • Junior Warden**

**Jim Benepe
Gary Benson
Maria Black
Mike Board
John Chase
Jack Fritz
Theresa Miller
M. V. Morton
Randy Stout
Diana York**

We thank Tina Mediate, Marcus York, Mike Evers and Penny Hoffman for their three years of faithful service on the vestry, and we welcome new members Jim Benepe, Mike Board, M. V. Morton and Diana York.

Please pray daily for our Vestry members and for their ministry to St. Peter's.

Crossed Keys

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP . . . One result of interviews last year was a request to resurrect the men's breakfast group of several years ago. We will be starting such a group in our parish again. This morning get-together will take any structure that the group feels most comfortable with. My idea is to start with a continental breakfast in the Parish Hall at 6:45 A.M. and then, after prayer and some reflection on a Bible verse or two, we would participate in some discussions on a "theme of the month." This will not be a Bible study. We will meet the second Thursday of each month starting on Lincoln's birthday, February 12th. Men who have jobs to get to at 8 A.M. can take off at any time they

LAY EUCHARIST MINISTERS AND LAY READERS . . . Deacon Liz will begin Lay Eucharist Minister and Lay Reader refresher training for everyone interested after the second service on February 8th, 15th, and, if necessary, February 22nd. This is open to all LEMs and LR's and to anyone interested in beginning this servant ministry in St. Peter's. Bring your coffee cup and goodie plate from coffee hour to the Library and plan to spend about 15 minutes. Certificates will be awarded to all LEMs and LR's at Palm

LUNCH TOGETHER . . . St. Peter's will host the Lunch Together ministry February 9th through 13th. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve others. If you wish to volunteer, please contact Shari Peddicord at 672-2510 or sign up (name and telephone number) on the Lunch Together sign-up sheet in the Parish

ANDY BITS . . .

Four years ago I had "one of those years." Our youth group was out of control. That year they broke one of the pews, the altar, and a stained glass window. Okay. Not really. But they did break one of those.

This will now be my sixth year working with our youth at St. Peter's. Although many of those kids have moved on, some of those wild students are graduating in four months. It will be the biggest group of dedicated students I have seen grow up in our youth program. As we were going down memory lane in youth group, one of the students reminded me of his most memorable memory of our first trip. It was a backpacking trip with Andy, Marie and their goats. As we reached our destination, the students became more comfortable with the goats. One of the students was unintentionally irritating the animal while another was sitting right behind the goat. Lesson learned: Never sit behind an irritated goat.

This same student has made tremendous changes in his life over the past few years. Once known as a wild kid, Andrew is now one of our moral leaders in youth group. He stands out by including the younger students in both our small and large groups. His house has become a safe zone where both parents and students feel comfortable. Youth group has made such an impact in Andrew's life that he is considering going to college to become a youth director.

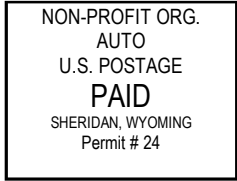
This year our Junior High program has changed immensely. While I still consider our youth program to be mostly an outreach program, we have a large number of St. Peter's kids attending. One of these students, whom we will call Lisa, has been attending for the past two years. This particular year, I have had the opportunity to really see her shine. Lisa is a regular attendee who almost never misses a week. This year she has invited more than a handful of her friends, who now consider St. Peter's to be their church home. She is a great example of how we can easily invite others and make an impact in their lives.

Of course, running a youth program would not be possible without our volunteer staff. I extend a big thank you to our Junior High workers: Maria Black, Jessie Chapman, Thomas Asmus, and Mark Galloway; and our Senior High workers: Dorothy Goodwin, Lisa Nichols, and Jessie Chapman. Thanks to these volunteers, we are able each week to break into small groups. In these groups, we are able to build stronger relationships and dive deeper into God's word.

I also want to thank the members of St. Peter's for the continual support of our youth program. This year we were able to purchase . . . Our church is known for . . . **TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ECW, go to www.ecwrocks.com and click on "What We** our community.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ONE SOUTH TSCHIRGI STREET
SHERIDAN, WY 82801

Return Service Requested



BITS FROM BERT . . .

Did you know that here at St. Peter's we have an on-going "building relationship bridges" with our Native American brothers and sisters on the Crow and Northern Cheyenne reservations in Montana?

Did you know that we will be having another prayer shawl blessing in a worship service time in mid-February? Did you know that there are many ways to support this ministry?

Did you know that we have a St. Peter's Children's Choir that will be singing during Lent. Practices for this youthful activity takes place during the Sunday morning second service with "Miss Theo"? Do you know any children that fall in that age group — roughly 3 to 11? No one is denied!

Did you know that St. Peter's has an established set of Prayer Warriors? Are you interested in becoming one?

Did you know that there are lots of opportunities to be involved beyond Sunday worship times?

Lots of "Did You Knows" so, if you want to know more about any of these, please feel free to contact me: Bert Thompson.

Blessings to all.

Roberta "Bert" Thompson
674-8578
robrick@fiberpipe.net

P.S. Did you know that Ash Wednesday is February 25th?