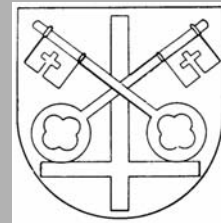


# Crossed Keys



JUNE-JULY 2009

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Kevin's Corner . . . □

Dear St. Peter's Church Family,

This past weekend a group of us traveled over to Gillette where we celebrated confirmation with our region. It was a great day marked by four young adults from our parish who made the adult decision to follow Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Another couple from St. Peter's was received into the Episcopal Church. Congratulations to Lisa Freeman, Colter Stopka, Chris Romanjenko, and my son, Haydn Jones, on their confirmation, as well as to Geoffrey and Aimee Sherman who were received! Our special thanks to Bishop Vernon Strickland for being there to perform the service and to all the regional friends who were present. Of all the services that I am blessed to be able to participate in as a priest, baptisms stand out for me because they remind me of my own conversion to Christ. Confirmation is the baptismal vow made by those who were baptized as children. What a great joy it was for me to celebrate confirmation with this group, my first time as Rector!

### Bishop Search

The Search committee for the election of a new bishop for the Diocese of Wyoming is well underway. They have asked that each parish provide their respective input as to what our values are and what characteristics we hope to see in our new bishop. Towards that end, we will be having a parish meeting during the Adult Ed Sunday School hour on **June 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.** Please join our Senior Warden, Debbie Ebia, as she leads the discussion and gathers input. The discussion will center around the questions:

\*What is currently working well in our diocese?

\*What skills and abilities would you like our

new bishop to possess?

\*What personal attributes would you like to see

Please join us between services. The Search Committee needs your input!

### Cinco de Junio

We are gearing up for the next Cinco de Junio Mexican Food Fiesta and Silent Auction! Come early to browse the silent auction items and enjoy a terrific Mexican food dinner. Dinner will start at 6:00 p.m. and the silent auction will close at 7:30. All of the money raised goes towards the next set of houses we'll build in Juarez. Our next mission's trip to Juarez will be in October. If you are interested in joining the team, please let me know and I'll put your name on the list.

### Parish BBQ

Finally, we are one year removed from the Appreciative Inquiry parish evaluation. As you will recall, last year we interviewed members of the parish to determine what the strengths, gifts, and vision of our parish were. We culminated that period with a parish barbeque that ended up being a great evening of fellowship, fun, and food. In fact, we had such a good time together that we decided we'd have another mid-summer's barbeque, just because we like each other! We have set aside the date of **Tuesday, July 21<sup>st</sup>**, as the evening when we'll gather to celebrate our life in Christ. There's no agenda other than to have fun, spend time together as a church family, and enjoy the evening. Bring something to share and we'll fire up the grills. We'll start to eat around 6:00 p.m. Hope to see many of you there again!

*Oh, how good and pleasant it is, when brethren live together in unity! It is like fine oil upon the head that runs down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, and runs down upon the collar of his robe. It is like the dew of Hermon that falls upon the hills of Zion. For there the Lord has ordained the*

**HISTORIC MOMENT—NEW BISHOP FOR WYOMING  
BISHOP CALDWELL RETIRES**

Bishop Caldwell will retire in 2010, and a new Bishop for Wyoming will be elected. The Bishop has asked that his retirement celebration take place at the time of the Diocesan convention, October 2 through October 4, 2009, in Casper. In addition, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori will be with us for part of that convention. The new Bishop Search and Transition Committee will be planning a Saturday evening banquet and celebration to honor Bishop Caldwell and his 11 years of service in Wyoming.

**NEW BISHOP SEARCH AND TRANSITION COMMITTEE**

As a member of the New Bishop Transition Committee, I have to tell you that I am having an inspirational experience meeting with representatives from throughout our great Diocese of Wyoming. We have been working with a consultant from San Diego to make thoughtful and prayerful plans for how we discern whom God has already chosen to be our new Bishop. You will be hearing lots about the process and the celebrations to come. At this point the Search Committee is working on the profile of what we need and want in Wyoming. They will conduct focus groups in all Parishes to get local views. Sometime near the end of 2009 the profile will be advertised for applicants. They will sift through the acceptable applicants and choose a slate of 3 to 6 clergy. Then these clergy and their spouses will do a "Walk About" throughout Wyoming to meet and greet the people of our diocese. Some of you probably remember when this took place 12 years ago prior to Bishop Caldwell being elected. We will have a chance to meet these people and question them. An electing convention will then be held. St. Luke's, Buffalo, will have 2 voting members. After the election, our Wyoming selection will have to be approved by all the other diocese in the country (a time-consuming process). If approved we will then have a gigantic celebration at the Casper Events Center.

This process doesn't happen too many times in our lives—take advantage of the information that will be coming. The first news releases will be inserts in the Sunday bulletins that give information about what the role of a Bishop is in the Episcopal Church.

~~Linda Clark

**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;



FROM THE VESTRY . . .

GRATITUDE

The arrival of spring reminds me of gratitude. The vibrant colors, warmth, and the intoxicating smell make the memories of a prolonged winter seem distant and blurred.

*He makes springs pour water into the  
ravines;  
it flows between the mountains.  
They give water to all the beasts of the  
field;  
The wild donkeys quench their thirst.  
The birds of the air nest by the waters;  
they sing among the branches.  
He waters the mountains from his upper  
chambers;  
the earth is satisfied by the fruit of his  
work.*

*Psalm 104:10-14*

The spring is unstoppable, like God's love. Especially here, it seems to come to us in a terrific rush, all at once. It's like a jolting wake-up call, and to notice nature's elaborate changes on a daily basis makes me awestruck. I feel extremely grateful to live in such a beautiful place.

Gratitude is the feeling that creates for me a connection with God. I first realized the significance of being grateful through hindsight. As I emerged from an extended and often troubled adolescence, I came to the realization that someone or something other than myself had safeguarded me. Over time, I accepted that God provided that safety.

I have been blessed with numerous gifts. Good health, caring family, a teenage son who could easily be a grandson, fulfilling and challenging work, friends—the list goes on and on. It is not through my own superior planning, foresight, or luck that I have so many blessings. Gratitude is the realization that my blessings come from God, not me.

In a very practical way, gratitude allows me to become spiritually reconnected. A simple recounting of the good things that have happened in a day when I'm feeling discouraged, frustrated, or powerless reminds me that God is working and present in my life. Even though it often takes a strong dose of frustration before I remember to be grateful, it always works.

So as I look forward to spending time in the mountains and enjoying a gorgeous spring, I'll let nature inspire me to express thanks to God by being grateful for my many blessings.

~~M. V. Morton

VESTRY 2009

Debbie Ebia  Cara Nicholls

Jim Benepe·Gary Benson·Maria Black·Mike Board·John Chase  
JackFritz ·Theresa Miller·M. V. Morton·Randy Stout·Diana York □

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

# YOUTH . . . . .

This summer I have the privilege to work with and train a former student and current friend, Josh Law. As Josh is nearing his graduation from college, he is considering making youth ministry a full-time occupation. Since his graduation from high school, Josh has lead by example to our older students how to live a solid Christian life while enjoying college. He has been on a few of our youth trips and continues to be plugged in to our ministry at St. Peter's. If you see him this summer, please take a few minutes to introduce yourself. I have asked Josh to prepare a brief introduction of himself to give you a head start; it follows.

God bless,  
AnDy

# . . . . . NEWS

My name is Josh Law, and I am going to be a senior at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. I have been involved in youth activities at St. Peter's for six years now. These years include three years of attending the Senior High youth program, and the last three years I have been an assistant youth leader. After my freshmen year in college I interned at St. Peter's for the summer. My main goal of that summer was to decide if youth ministry is where I would like to go after college. It was a great experience working with Andy Menth, Kevin Jones, and Dave Duprey those few months.

After that summer of internship, I was still trying to decide if youth ministry was where I saw God putting me. Within the last couple years, God really spoke to me and told me that, yes, youth ministry is where he wanted me to go.

This summer Andy and I talked it over and decided that it would be good for me to go ahead and intern again this summer. This summer's internship is different from the previous summer because this summer the plan is for me to go ahead and take more of a leadership role in EYC. I will be planning the devotionals and planning the games from week to week. I will be building deeper relationships with the youth here, and, along with all of that, I will be honing my technique for when I have a ministry of my own.

In conclusion, I feel like this summer is going to benefit me in so many different ways, from leadership to planning, and being more involved in kids' lives. I am very excited to be working with the people of St. Peter's and to be working with Andy again.

Peace,  
Josh

SANCTUARY OF HOPE  
IN KENYA



Stacy had all but given up on the lofty idea of hope when she first stumbled into [the Sanctuary of Hope in Kenya]. She had every reason to conclude that the world had given up on her. Desperately ill with meningitis, she was two years old when she was abandoned in a Nairobi hospital. Laced with septic rashes, she lay on one side for so long that it left her ear permanently deformed. For a year, no one remembered her. At long last her grandmother, a slum dweller prone to drunkenness, thought to inquire after Stacy and re-claimed her from the hospital. She brought Stacy to the medical clinic of Mathare Worship Centre, a church founded by Hope's Promise Kenya Country Coordinators Pastor and Mrs. Karau to serve the poorest of the poor. Whether from febrile convulsions or her internment of isolation, Stacy could not walk at age three. An eerie empty smile and unprompted laughter hinted that the child's mind had suffered more than her body. "God, how can we take care of this child?" Mama Karau cried in anguish. The reply was quietly insistent, "God will be with us." (Reprinted from Hope's Promise.)

The medical tests and specialists of the Western World are not available to an African disabled child, but little Stacy has been helped greatly by Sanctuary of Hope. She was brought to the orphanage on January 3, 2007, which at that time consisted of a family of caregivers and eleven former orphans. The process of giving Stacy a chance at a normal life began then. She was given a diet of soft, nutrient-dense foods prepared from scratch and fed spoonful by spoonful, she was given daily massages to counteract a year of immobilization, and most importantly she was given love.

Pastor Karau will be in Sheridan sometime in late September. We are working to schedule an evening then when he can address the congregation of St. Peter's and speak about the Sanctuary of Hope in Kenya. The orphanage currently consists of two houses; St. Peter's mustard seed money is earmarked to partially fund the building of a third.



*"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,  
for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."  
Mark 10:14*

**BITS AND PIECES . . .**

"Camp Edge" Vacation Bible School  
Monday, June 15th, through Friday, June 19th  
9:00 to Noon

St. Peter's Episcopal Church and United Methodist Church

Registration forms are available in the narthex or in the church office. There will be no registration fee, but a good-will offering will be gratefully accepted.

+

Our archivist is still searching for a photograph of Fr. Dave in his vestments for the gallery wall in the Parish Hall. If you have one, please contact Ethelyn St. John (672-8455 or [ethelyn@fiberpipe.net](mailto:ethelyn@fiberpipe.net)) or Shannon (674-7655 or [stpeters@fiberpipe.net](mailto:stpeters@fiberpipe.net)).

+

St. Peter's offers childcare during the 10 o'clock service. The nursery, which is located in the basement, is staffed by loving caregivers.

+

Certified Restorative Yoga Trainer and St. Peter's member Wendy Condrat is offering yoga classes of moderately paced stretches and breathing techniques on Thursdays from noon to 12:50 p.m. on the third floor of the old Taylor School building located at 6th and North Main Streets. There is no fee for the classes but a suggested donation of \$5 to benefit *Casas por Cristo* would be appreciated. Classes will run through June 25.

+

Lay Eucharist Ministers and Lay Readers, if you have not already done so, please sign up for July and August.

+

A chance to serve! Volunteers are needed for the next home-build for Habitat for Humanity here in Sheridan. Contact Angie Gilbert at 683-2507 or [rgilbert@fiberpipe.net](mailto:rgilbert@fiberpipe.net), or the church office at 674-7655 or [stpeters@fiberpipe.net](mailto:stpeters@fiberpipe.net), for more information and to be put on the list. The next projects are coming up in June, and you can help no matter what your skill level is. With enough people we'll have our own "St. Peter's day for Habitat!" It'll be a fun day of working fellowship!



**BITS FROM BERT . . .**

I have been visiting with Sr. Loretta, the parish coordinator at St. Dennis Parish in Crow Agency, and we have discussed the possibility of members of St. Peter's joining her parish for worship at their 10 o'clock morning service on either June 28, July 12, or July 19. Please contact me if you would like to join us on one of those Sundays. We are also planning to have the Native Crow Worship Singers perform the offertory music during one of our 10 o'clock services one Sunday in July or early August.

Sister Loretta has asked that we pray for the members of her community. They have suffered much heartache as a result of a large number of recent deaths.

We will again hold a concentrated time of prayer for the needs of our church family, the community, and the world on the third Sunday in June (June 21<sup>st</sup>) in Memorial Chapel from 9:15 A.M. to 9:50 A.M., and again on the third Sundays in July and August (July 19th and August 16th). Please join us.

Lastly, St. Margaret's Annual Membership Picnic and Summer Fellowship is scheduled for Wednesday, June 17, at 6 P.M., at Connie Wilson's. Hostesses for the event are Connie and Waneta Thirlwell. Please bring a chair for sitting, a place setting, and food to share. Fried chicken and beverages will be provided. Please contact Connie Wilson (672-7388) to let her know if you will be attending. Members are encouraged to bring their spouse or a guest. St. Margaret's will not be meeting again until September 16.

Peace to your summer months.

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



Confirmation  
Class  
of  
2009



Crossed Keys

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
AUTO  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
SHERIDAN, WYOMING

**Return Service Requested**

One Sunday,  
a young child was "acting up" during the morning  
worship hour.

The parents did their best to maintain some  
sense of order in the pew but  
were losing the battle.

Finally, the father picked the little fellow up  
and walked sternly up the aisle on his way out.

Just before reaching the safety of the foyer,  
the little one called loudly to the congregation,

**Have a blessed  
summer!**