

Crossed Keys



February, 2008

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Dear Families and Friends of St. Peter's,

How good the Lord is! I praise him with my whole heart for the blessing of being your rector, and for celebrating my 19th year of ordination to the priesthood in a wonderful celebration of Epiphany on January 6. With over 20 youth involved in the Feast of Lights, written by Ray Clark, I was amazed that most of the youth who presented the message that evening had not been born when I became your rector 15 years ago! Those little babies now walk and talk and believe!

We are truly a family of faith which shares the gospel together, encourages one another in faith, and raises up new generations to carry on our ministry.

Rather than using this report to say where we have been, I would like to focus on where we are now. St. Peter's lives out the church seasons colorfully and deeply, with music and liturgy to shape our worship from one celebration to the next. Having concluded the sights and sounds of Christmas, Epiphany season will carry us to the doorstep of Lent, when we will share our Ash Wednesday services and then begin our five week journey toward Easter.

Penitence, self-reflection, study of scripture, renewing our prayer lives, fasting; we will walk together, and also find our own space and the pattern of faith to which the Lord is calling us.

Fr. Kevin and I are busting at the seams with energy toward our Lenten preaching and teaching programs.

Never before have we been more integrated, with our Sunday preaching coordinating with our Wednesday night Soup Supper Studies, combined with our Sunday morning Alpha class for new members, those seeking confirmation, and those desiring to renew the foundation of their faith.

From the most mature Christian to the beginner-in-Christ, there will be something in each message for everyone. The time is now, to buy a new Bible or be reacquainted with an old friend; to take that scripture close to our hearts and dive in to a deeper walk with God.

I invite you to join with us on the pilgrimage to Zion, the Holy City, the Holy Place of God, to find God in our church, in our homes, and in our hearts. Jesus has become one of us in his Incarnation at Christmas. He walks with us in our human journey, and he suffers for us. As we walk with him, in response to his invitation, we die with him and are raised with him. And the best news is that every part of this wonderful gift is accessible to each one of us.

How good the Lord is! I am so blessed to have been called to this place to be with you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David".

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KEVIN'S CORNER...

Dear St. Peter's Church Family,

There are a few new offerings we have for you this month. As I mentioned in last month's Crossed Keys article, we have begun a worship service utilizing contemporary worship songs, as well as scripture and some interactive sharing, on the first Wednesday of each month. This month the first Wednesday happens to be Ash Wednesday. At 6:30 we will begin. Around 7 we will blend into the traditional Ash Wednesday evening service. This will allow us to bring the historic liturgy of the beginning of lent alongside a style of worship that many in today find deeply nourishing.

A similar hybrid will occur in March when the 6:30 service will begin at the time when many have come to enjoy soup during the Lenten soup supper series. We will sing from 6:30 until 7 and then transition into the teaching in the parish hall. If you find yourself at soup supper and don't feel like singing, that is fine, too. You may simply stay in the Parish hall and enjoy one another's company until we start the Bible study at 7.

Another new event we are kicking off this month is the Alpha/Confirmation course. If you have never been confirmed, or are simply interested in learning more about the Christian faith, I would invite you to join us for Breakfast at 8:30 Sundays through mid-April. Alpha gives you the opportunity to enjoy Sunday breakfast, hear some good information, and process any questions you may have regarding the Scriptures, Jesus, faith, etc. in a small group setting. I'm especially looking forward to seeing how Alpha fits with those about to be confirmed. My belief is that this will be an excellent forum for our confirmands and that it will thoroughly

equip them to delve further into what it means to know and serve the Lord.

A third opportunity for you to consider is the upcoming missions trip to Juarez, Mexico. This is truly a great experience and one that prompts us to grow in our faith by putting us slightly out of our comfort zone. Casa por Cristo has been building houses in Juarez since 1993 and we have been making the trek to the border for the last 5 years to lend a hand to the work God is doing there. This really is an excellent opportunity to gain a change in perspective on how we live our lives here in the U.S. and to see the world through a different set of lenses. If you are at all interested, please contact me as soon as possible, so that I can reserve a place for you. We are beginning to fill up the seats on the vans, so you might want to let me know sooner, rather than later, if you are even considering joining us this year. We will leave Sheridan on April 19th and return by April 26th. This year we are going to build two houses at the same time!

Finally, I have had the chance to help a handful of St. Peter's members explore their spiritual gifts so far this year. If you are curious about what all of this means and how you might be able to serve God with the gifts he has given you, I'd love to spend some time processing your strengths, interests, and passions as they relate to ministry. Simply give me a call at the church and we can set up a time to meet. It only takes about 45 minutes...

I pray that God will reveal himself in a deeper way to you this Lent.

By Grace,
Kevin Jones
Kevin Jones

Our 2008 Vestry Members

Rick Rossa
Sr. Warden

Marcus York
Jr. Warden

Gary Benson
Maria Black
John Chase
Debbie Ebia
Mike Evers
Jack Fritz
Penny Hoffman
Tina Mediate
Theresa Miller
Cara Nicholls
Randy Stout

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

Church Periodical Club

This is an organization of the Episcopal Church founded in 1888 by Mary Ann Fargo of Wells Fargo. It started with eight charter members to distribute church periodicals, bibles, prayer books, etc., to clergy, laity, missionaries and Indians in isolated places. It has grown to giving several thousand dollars a year in grants for books and periodicals to places in need and to seminarians.



This past year we filled a grant for prayer books to the beautiful log church in Kaycee that was moved there from Edgerton, WY.

St. Peter's has been exceptionally generous this year. On C.P.C. (Christians Proclaiming Christ) Sunday, I asked for money. You overwhelmed me with over \$1000. This went to a church library in Kenya where the newest books were a dusty 1890.

In the years since "Sister Penny" has come into our presence, Wyoming diocese has given to C.P.C. over \$10,000. This is 12 "miles of pennies".

For 2007 St. Peter's Outreach—\$300 Women of St. Peter's —\$200 Congregation—\$1000. This money is all given away in grants. Thank you all so very much!

Lois Hall
Province VI Representative

New Ministry Starting Up at St. Peter's

While "The Prayer Shawl Ministry" is not a "new" idea, here at St. Peter's, we have taken the idea and are now working, always praying, as how best to use the shawls for our parish family/and community members. We can expand upon original designs, patterns, by being creative and using resources at hand. Completed and blessed shawls are given to individuals in their time of joy, sorrow, grief or celebration.



Currently we are gathering more knitters/crocheters for production of shawls. Donations of washable, acrylic yarns—any color and weight are being sought. Monetary donations are always thankfully received. For more information please contact Roberta Thompson @ 674-8578 or Gail Boyer @ 674-7655.

In-Church Retreat

Daughter's of the King will be hosting a **parish-wide retreat** on **Saturday, March 8th** at 9:00 a.m. in the parish hall. Snacks will be served and a light lunch during fellowship time is being planned. All are welcome to attend. For additional information about this event, please call Roberta Thompson @ 674-8578.

YOUTH GROUP SAYS....

This last month I have been asking our students to explain why they continue to come to EYC. Below are the responses from our Sr. High members. Most of these students have been coming to youth group for most of their Jr. and Sr. high school years.

“There are many reasons why I like this youth group but one of the main reasons is because this youth group is real. It’s not just a youth group that my parents say I have to go to I want to go and I like going. It’s fun and like a family where people get along with each other most of the time that is, but I like how we are real close and have fun no matter what. So I plan on going to this youth group a long time or as long as I can, anyway.”

Alex Williams 11th grade

“I like EYC because it’s fun to chill with all of my friends they’re all on fire for Christ. The games are sweet dodge ball, china church, rotten cheddar cheese. I like the worship also it calms me down a lot; it’s a cool feeling. Peace out.”

Andrew Erusha 11th grade

“I like coming back to this youth group not only because I always have a great time but because it is a solid ground and the people can help you when you don’t feel so well or are confused about God or anything. The people are great!! This youth group is just a good fun place to come on Sunday nights and hang out. And be open about life.”

Ariel Boone 10th grade

“The reason that I still remain attended to youth group is because of the connection all of the members have. We can learn about God and what the bible has to say and still have fun. One night is never really exactly the same so it keeps it interesting and entertaining. Youth keeps me out of trouble and helps me start off the week reassuring that God is in my life.”

Johnny Crider 11th grade

“Why do you go to youth group? Actually that’s a question I get a lot and the people who usually ask me have disgusted looks on their faces like it is bad to go. But my reasons for going aren’t some that can be explained in two or three words, there are a thousand different reasons that I choose to go. I absolutely love the atmosphere the second I step into the church. There’s just a ton of crazy teenagers yelling and hurling five different balls at each other in a rousing game of dodge ball. Each one of us are unique individuals who aren’t expected to be perfect angels just because we believe in God. In fact it’s always expected that we are going to laugh, talk out of turn, and bounce off walls. But when we do get under control and settle down we have great discussions about God and what role He plays in our lives. We can talk and tell each other pretty much anything when we go into small groups I know that it’s fine to say whatever I want because those people won’t judge me for what I say or believe. Youth group to me is basically church plus out of control games, funny friends, and terminology that I can understand. Seeing how these are just a few of the reasons I go and not even half of them all. I think the harder question is.... Why wouldn’t I go to youth group?”

Kaytlin Brisch 10th grade

“Four abundant years I have been attending youth group, reasons for attending range from the sweet praise of our Father “Jesus Christ”, to the well thought out history of our religious freedom, which I have learned at youth group. It’s in a way, inevitable to not like our youth group. The trips, worship time, and family, are something I love, which leads me to love my Father, God. I believe this is prone in all that attend St. Peter’s.”

Shane Bryant 11th grade

I don’t think our students could have made better statements about our youth program this year. Learning about God in small groups, acting crazy and being able to share whatever is on our minds is what we have worked so hard to accomplish. Of course this wouldn’t have been possible without our Youth staff. A big thank you to Maria Black, Jayne Barnes, Rick Parkison, Dorothy Goodwin, Carol Bickel, Lisa Nicholls and Sarah Menth for all of their countless hours, dedication and patience to our kids at St. Peter’s EYC!

God Bless,

AnDy

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

This is the house of God!
Welcome in the name of Christ.
We gather to worship our Creator
who is our refuge and strength.



To the family and friends of Joe Keaten.

Special Dates Ahead

Presentation of our Lord 2/2
Ash Wednesday 2/6
Lincoln's B'day 2/12
Presidents' Day 2/18

St. Peter's Educational Fund

Interest free loans are available for members of St. Peter's pursuing college or trade-school attendance. Applications are in the church office.

The Crossed Keys

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Articles and ads are due by the 15th of the month.

1 South Tschirgi Street
Sheridan, Wyoming 82801
Phone: 307/ 674-7655
Fax: 307/ 674-0867
Sandy Collins, Editor
stpeters@fiberpipe.net
The Rev. David L. Duprey,
Advisor
www.stpeterssheridan.com



Why Ashes?

On Ash Wednesday many pastors dip a finger or thumb in black ashes and make the form of a cross on the foreheads of worshipers. Many Christians keep the symbol on their head for the entire day. It is a reminder of one's sorrow for one's sins. It is a sign of humility and the need for forgiveness. Also, the cross on the forehead reminds us of the death of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins.

Bully for Teddy

Theodore Roosevelt used his life in many profitable ways. TR, as he was fondly called, was one of the very first national leaders to see the need to treat Mother Earth with great care. Here is how he put his belief regarding the environment:

"To waste, to destroy, our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them."

According to Psalm 115:16 NRSV, "The heavens are the Lord's heavens, but the earth he has given to human beings." We are ALL stewards of that earth that God gave to us.

Office Hours

**9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. —4:00 p.m.**

VESTRY

**MEETINGS
4th TUESDAY OF
THE MONTH**

Bible Quiz

Complete the Bible verses below by using letters from the phrase:

BE MY VALENTINE.

1. "The _____ has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near." —Mark 1:15
2. "For where two or three come together in my _____, there am I with them." —Matthew 18:20
3. They will _____ their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. —Micah 4:3
4. "Peace I _____ with you." —John 14:27



IF THERE IS SOMETHING YOU
WOULD LIKE TO SEE ON THE
CALENDAR, PLEASE CALL THE
CHURCH OFFICE. 307-674-7655

Holy Eucharist- HE
Healing Service- H
Sunday School- SS
Youth Group- EYC
Daughters of the King- DOK
Morning Prayer- MP
Adult Education- AE

FEBRUARY

2008

Sunday *Monday* *Tuesday* *Wednesday* *Thursday* *Friday* *Saturday*

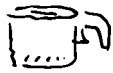
					1	2 7:00 am HE The Presentation of Our Lord
3 7:30 am HE 9:00 am SS/AE 10:00 am HE 7:00 pm Sr. EYC	4	5 10:00 am HE Healing Service (Memorial Chapel) 6:00 pm Pancake Supper Shrove's Tuesday	6 <u>Ash Wednesday</u> 7:00 am HE 12:00 Noon HE 7:00 pm HE 6:30 pm WORSHIP 7:00 pm Jr. EYC	7 10:00—3:00 pm RED DOOR 7:00 pm Choir Practice	 <h2>Lent</h2>	
10 7:30 am HE 9:00 am SS/AE 10:00 am HE 7:00 pm Sr. EYC	11	12 10:00 am HE Healing Service (Memorial Chapel) LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY	13 7:00 am HE 12:00 Noon HE 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lenten Study 7:00 pm Jr. EYC	14 10:00—3:00 pm RED DOOR 7:00 pm Choir Practice		
17 7:30 am HE 9:00 am SS/AE 10:00 am HE 7:00 pm Sr. EYC	18	19 10:00 am HE Healing Service (Memorial Chapel)	20 7:00 am HE 12:00 Noon HE 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lenten Study 7:00 pm Jr. EYC	21 10:00—3:00 pm RED DOOR 7:00 pm Choir Practice		
24 7:30 am HE 8:30 am Altar Guild 9:00 am SS 10:00 am HE 7:00 pm Sr. EYC	25	26 10:00 am HE Healing Service (Memorial Chapel) 5:00 pm VESTRY	27 7:00 am HE 12:00 Noon HE 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lenten Study 7:00 pm Jr. EYC	28 10:00—3:00 pm RED DOOR 7:00 pm Choir Practice		
						

LOVE TREATS

Show others love by baking them a lovely treat!

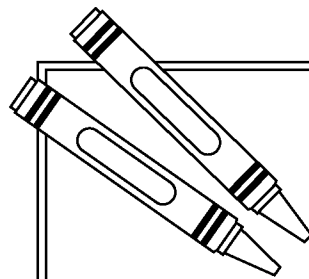
What you need:

- ♥ An adult to help
- ♥ Refrigerated cookie dough (sugar or chocolate chip)
- ♥ Jar of red jam (raspberry or strawberry)
- ♥ 1 or 2 heart-shaped cookie cutters. (If you use 2, make sure they are different sizes.)
- ♥ Powdered sugar
- ♥ Sifter
- ♥ Knife



What you do:

1. Follow the cookie dough directions for rolling out the dough.
2. If you are using one cookie cutter, cut out the heart-shaped cookies and transfer to a baking sheet. Try to have an even number of hearts when finished.
3. If you are using two cookie cutters, cut out the large hearts. Take half of the hearts, and cut out a small heart window in the center with the smaller cookie cutter. Now you have a heart inside another heart.
4. Have an adult help you bake the cookies according to the dough directions.
5. After baking, place the cookies on a cooling rack.
6. When the cookies are cooled, make cookie sandwiches by spreading jam onto the flat side of half the cookies, and then placing another cookie on top of each one. (If you made cookie windows, use those for the tops.)
7. Sprinkle powdered sugar over your heart sandwiches with a sifter.
8. Share the cookies with the people you love.



Just for KIDS

But the Greatest of These Is LOVE!

God shows love to us every day and in many ways. Fill in the blanks below with the missing letters to see how God loves us perfectly!

“For God so lo _ _ ed the world,

that he g _ ve

his on _ y

begott _ n

So _ ,

_ hat whosoever

believeth _ n Him

should _ ot perish,

but have _ verlasting life.

—John 3:16, KJV



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Valentine's Day



**F
R
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M**

We are blessed to be part of the ministry of St Peter's. The balance of various ministries and opportunities to serve are abundant. I believe one of the reasons for this positive Christian environment is the Bible based leadership of David, Kevin, and John. We are constantly challenged by practical messages and stimulating Bible studies. The recent series of messages by Kevin from the book of Romans have presented us all with an opportunity to grow as Christians. I personally was convicted by Kevin's message regarding Romans 12: 1-2.

**T
H
E**

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will."

**V
E
S
T
R
Y**

Each Sunday we are admonished to live into Romans 12. The gravity of this scripture, has given me a different perspective of my Christian walk. Do I offer myself as a sacrifice? What does that mean? How can I do this? What does it mean to not conform to the world? Is my mind being transformed or am I the same as I've always been? Because I am aware of my shortcomings, I must evaluate Romans 12 in a more serious manner. After all, if I simply come to Church, listen to the message, yet do not change, I will not live into this scripture. Will we become living sacrifices for God and transform our minds? If we submit to God, we will begin to change.

Yours in faith,

Marcus York, Vestry Member