

# Crossed Keys



March, 2008

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Dear Families and Friends of St. Peter's,

## The Great Easter Vigil

In these lengthening days of late winter, it is a privilege to invite you to one of the best kept secrets of the historic Christian Church.

Christmas and Easter are the major festivals of the church, but there is one predominant contrast. Christmas Eve is far more popular than Christmas Day, and Easter Day is far more popular than Easter Eve! My purpose here is to point the reader to the less popular, the under-attended, the overlooked gems of liturgy.

Those who gather year by year for the 10:00 a.m. service on Christmas Day will tell you that it is a favorite experience for them. Quiet, casual, relaxing, we sing hymns with great appreciation for the gift of Jesus' life without any feeling of performance, or any need to arrive early to get a seat. The Great Easter Vigil service is much the same, with the only nervousness coming from the parents of children about to be baptized.

The Great Easter Vigil is the dramatic liturgical transition from darkness to light.

Before the service begins, all is dark in the church, as it has been since Maundy Thursday evening. Not a single candle is lit. This represents the darkness of the hearts of the disciples, having seen Jesus arrested, having seen him crucified, having lost all hope.

Then, on the front steps of the church, all the congregation gathers, where we build a new fire, struck with a flint, which then begins the new flame of the Christ candle. The first flicker of light enters the church with that one candle, and the candle bearer says, "The Light of Christ," to which all respond,

"Thanks be to God!"

Three times we proclaim the light, the candle is placed in its stand, and we begin to read snapshots of the great redemption stories of the Bible: Creation, The Flood, The Red Sea, The Cross.

In the early church, one of the purposes of the 40 days of Lent was to prepare people for Holy Baptism. In days when the church was actively persecuted, becoming a Christian might mean ostracism from a non-Christian family, and it might mean being subject to arrest. One needed to be sure, and one needed time to think and pray about the decision. From the church's standpoint, there was the need to protect the identity of the candidates, and also protect the church members from infiltration.

It's no wonder, then, that the baptisms were performed in the middle of the night! Today, the primary service of baptism is at the Easter Vigil service, bringing all the history and imagery current for our participation.

By the end of the service, the lights are thrown on, all the candles are lit, revealing the altar fully dressed in resurrection white and adorned with lilies. We bring in the celebration of Easter just as we do with Christmas, and gladness pervades the house.

If this sounds interesting to you, come join us for the Great Easter Vigil. If you know of anyone interested in Holy Baptism, feel free to invite them to consider this once-secret ceremony, and let us proclaim from the rooftops that Jesus Christ is Risen!

Peace!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David" with a small cross at the end.

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## KEVIN'S CORNER...

Dear St. Peter's Church Family,

It seems incredible to me that we are already approaching Palm Sunday and Holy Week. It seems that we only just started Lent! Time flies when you're penitent...

As we approach Holy Week there are a few items on the calendar I would like to point out to you. First of all we are planning a morning of prayer retreat here at the church. It will be on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:45 until 12:30. We will have three periods of time for direction in our prayers, and then allow for times of silent reflection. When I worked for a Campus Ministry, one of the things that greatly enhanced my prayer life was opportunities for "Retreats of Silence". I found that when I made the effort to sit before God, spend some focused time on his word, and put aside the distractions of the world, that God met me in powerful ways. It usually took the better part of the first hour for me to get comfortable with being alone, but after that, I found that once God quieted my heart, He had things he wanted me to understand about our relationship.

I invite you to join us. The timing is well-suited to kick-start our Holy Week (one week prior to Palm Sunday) and allow us to truly prepare our hearts for the new life we celebrate at Easter.

To piggy-back on that time of focus on the Lord, I'd like to remind you of how many of you approached Advent this past December. We talked about the importance of being immersed in the scriptures. Therefore, many chose to read 1 chapter of the Gospel of Luke per day throughout the days of Advent. That pace allowed us to make it all the way through the Gospel of Luke by the time Christmas arrived. This Lent, I'd encourage you to pick a slightly different book, and double the number of chapters read daily. If we start on Palm Sunday and read 2 chapters of the book of Mark every day through Easter we'll finish Mark's Gospel on Easter Sunday. Two chapters a day really isn't that much and Mark

writes with a tremendous sense of urgency. (Notice how often you find the words, "immediately" and "At once", especially in the early chapters.) I think you'll find some amazing similarities as well as some interesting differences between Luke and Mark.

As we arrive at Holy Week, I'd also encourage you to make that week a time of particular focus. We have either daily Morning Prayer services or daily Eucharistic services every day of Holy Week in the chapel at 7 a.m. In addition, I cannot speak highly enough of the Seder Supper which is held on Thursday of Holy Week. It is helpful for those planning the food for the supper if you call Sandy at the church office (674-7655) to inform us that you plan to be here. That dinner starts at 6 p.m. and offers a rich and deep understanding of the significance of the Passover meal for the Jewish people and some fascinating insights as to how their celebration foreshadowed Christ's life and sacrificial death.

In addition we will be having quiet hours in the church on Good Friday during the same hours when Jesus was on the cross. (9 a.m.-3 p.m.) Please feel free to drop in, stay for as long as you can, and consider the sacrifice he made so that we could find our way back to God the Father.

Paul writes, "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead." (Phil 3:10-11). I believe the more we focus on the path Jesus walked during Holy Week, the more we will appreciate his glorious resurrection and all that his death accomplished for us during our Easter Sunday Celebration. I pray that you find his presence waiting for you as you wait upon him this Easter.

By Grace,

Kevin Jones

### Our 2008 Vestry Members

Tina Mediate  
Sr. Warden

Marcus York  
Jr. Warden

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

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

## In-Church Retreat



**Daughter's of the King** will be hosting a **parish-wide retreat** on **Saturday, March 8th** at 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 in the parish hall. Short, reflective offerings and scriptures will be centered around the Lent 2008 theme of "Zion". Please bring your favorite Bible and journal or we have materials for you to use. If you have questions, please call Fr. Dave, Fr. Kevin or Bert Thompson @ 674-8578. A light lunch will be served. **DOK's and prayer warriors will meet in the church library at 8:00 a.m.**

**FASTING** is an ancient spiritual discipline but I would like to suggest that as a Lenten discipline, we engage in a spiritual fasting, as out lined in the following anonymous mediation. As you go through Lent, concentrate on a different one each day.

**Fast from judging others;** feast on Christ dwelling in them.  
**Fast from fear of illness;** feast on the healing power of God.  
**Fast from words that pollute;** feast on speech that purifies.  
**Fast from discontent;** feast on gratitude.  
**Fast from anger;** feast on patience.  
**Fast from pessimism;** feast on optimism.  
**Fast from negatives;** feast on alternatives.  
**Fast from bitterness;** feast on forgiveness.  
**Fast from self-concern;** feast on compassion.  
**Fast from suspicion;** feast on truth.  
**Fast from gossip;** feast on purposeful silence.  
**Fast from problems that overwhelm;** feast on prayer that sustains.  
**Fast from worry;** feast on faith.

The Rev. Colleen O'Connor, St. Mark's, LeRoy, New York  
The Anglican Digest

## Family Fun Night at Holy Name Parish Hall

**When:** March 6th @ 6:00  
**What:** Fundraiser for the Miss Wyoming Scholarship Foundation  
**Fun:** Corned beef and cabbage, games for the kids and Irish music!!!  
**Tickets:** Can be purchased at the door \$2.00/person or \$5.00/family  
**Questions:** Call Kelly Miller-Smart @751-4483  
**Bring a smile to share as fun will be shared by all!**



**CHILDREN'S CHOIR !!!** Theo Powers, Fritz Kehrwald and other helpers will be assisting children interested in singing for joy on Sunday mornings during "7-Up" time. Their first performance will be the offertory on Sunday, May 11th—MOTHER'S DAY. All children are invited to join this new group. Please call Theo Powers @672-9542 if you have questions.

Another new group, the **Prayer Shawl Ministry**, is now up and running. If you have an interest in knitting, crocheting, would like to learn how or if you have yarn to donate, this group is interested in hearing from you. Please call Gail at the church or Bert Thompson @ 674-8578 if you have any questions.

Seder Supper will be held in the church hall on March 20th at 7:00 pm. If you are interested in helping serve or make food, Shari Peddicord would like to hear from you. Please call her @ 752-4529 or sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board. We are expecting a large, joyful turnout like last year. Call the church office @ 674-7655 and let us know how many to expect in your group. Thanks so much.

# Here's what's happening!

This week has been crazy. I had some of the funniest, most odd conversations with teenagers. Sometimes you can never predict what they are going to do or say. Below are a few examples.

## Example 1:

This weekend we are taking a youth trip to Billings for a Christian concert. Wednesday after youth group we had a meeting about what to pack. I do provide a packing list for the trip. Items like sleeping bags and swimsuits are listed but, almost every trip a few students forget that they need these. As I am reminding the students what to pack, I told the girls, "One of our rules is all swimsuits must be a one piece." They murmured to one another as if this was the first time they heard this rule. Then the questions start, "What if you don't have a one piece?" and "Why do we have to wear a one piece?" Once again I explained all the reasons why a one piece is necessary. This included modesty and not drawing extra attention to yourself. My explanation was followed by a comment, "But a one piece makes me itch."

## Example 2:

On the same Wednesday night, we were breaking our group of 36 students into small groups. I state, "We are looking for full cooperation from every student when we split to our groups." As a rhetorical comment I throw out, "If you don't want to join a small group you can help me by cleaning the toilets." We break into our groups and I send them off "quietly" throughout the church. As groups and leaders are leaving three new students approach me and ask, "So...what toilets are we going to clean?" By cleaning the toilets we were able to have a great discussion on the importance of joining a small group.

Of course not all of my conversations were as funny as these two. Some were just plain odd and others intense. Please continue to keep our youth in your prayers and thank you for your support.

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, Marguerite Way, Jane Farrington, Zona Adamson and Leonard McEwan.

**Special Dates Ahead**

World Day of Prayer	3/7
Girl Scout Sunday	3/9
Daylight-Saving Time	3/9
Palm Sunday	3/16
Holy Week	3/16-22
1st Day of Spring	3/20
Easter Day	3/23

**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**

**The Crossed Keys**

is the monthly publication of St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

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

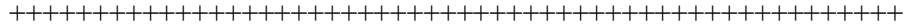
1 South Tschirgi Street  
Sheridan, Wyoming 82801  
Phone: 307/ 674-7655  
Fax: 307/ 674-0867  
Sandy Collins, Editor  
**stpeters@fiberpipe.net**  
The Rev. David L. Duprey,  
Advisor  
**www.stpeterssheridan.com**



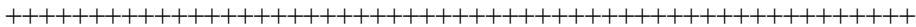
**An Easter Carol**

**Tomb, thou shalt not hold him longer;  
Death is strong, but Life is stronger;  
Stronger than the dark, the light;  
Stronger than the wrong, the right;  
Faith and Hope triumphant say,  
Christ will rise on Easter Day.**

- Phillips Brooks



**Christian Symbols** — Nails symbolize Jesus' passion and suffering because they were used at his Crucifixion. They are often depicted in groups of three because two nails were used to secure Jesus' hands, and a third was used to secure his feet. Three nails are also used to identify Jesus as a member of the Holy Trinity.



There's a legend that the dogwood was once the size of the oak and other forest trees. It was so strong and firm that it was chosen as the timber for Christ's cross. This greatly distressed the tree. Jesus, nailed upon it, sensed the tree's regret and told it:

*"Because of your sorrow for my suffering, never again shall the dogwood grow large enough to be used as a cross. It shall be slender, bent and twisted. Its blossoms shall form a cross—two long and two short petals. And at the outer edge of each petal will be nail prints, brown with rust and stained with red. In the center of the flower shall be a crown of thorns. And all who see it will remember..."*

**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**

The Gospels tell us that after Jesus died, his body was placed in a rich man's tomb. This man wasn't a disciple but apparently believed in Jesus and followed his message. He came from a small town not in existence today.

What was the man's name, and what was his home-town?

- A. Joseph of Arimathea
- B. Aristarchus from Thessalonica
- C. Ariel of Moab

The answer is in Matthew 27:57-60






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



2008

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

		<p><b>The last date to order Easter lilies in remembrance of your loved ones is the 14th. They are \$20.00 again this year. Call Vesta Gale @672-8433 or the church office @674-7655 to place your order. Thank you.</b></p>				1																																																
2 7:30 am HE 9:00 am SS/AE 10:00 am HE 7:00 pm Sr. EYC	3	4 10:00 am HE Healing Service (Memorial Chapel)  6:00 pm Pancake Supper <b>SHOVE TUESDAY</b>	5 7:00 am HE 12:00 Noon HE  6:00 Soup Supper 6:30 pm Worship 7:00 pm HE Jr. EYC	6 10:00—3:00 pm RED DOOR  7:00 pm Choir Practice	7 																																																	
9 7:30 am HE 9:00 am SS/AE 10:00 am HE 7:00 pm Sr. EYC	10	11 10:00 am HE Healing Service (Memorial Chapel)	12 7:00 am HE 12:00 Noon HE  6:00 pm Soup Supper  7:00 pm Lenten Study 7:00 pm Jr. EYC	13 10:00—3:00 pm RED DOOR  7:00 pm Choir Practice	14 <b>Last Day to order Easter Lilies</b> 																																																	
16 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 7:30 am HE 9:00 SS/AE 10:00 am HE	17 7:00 am MP Mon. in Holy Week (Memorial Chapel)	18 7:00 am MP Tues. in Holy Week (Memorial Chapel)  10:00 am HE Healing Service (Memorial Chapel)	19 7:00 am HE Wed. in Holy Week (Memorial Chapel)  12:00 Noon HE	20 7:00 am HE <b>MAUNDY THURS.</b> (Memorial Chapel)  10:00—3:00 pm RED DOOR  7:00 pm <b>SEDER SUPPER</b>	21 7:00 am <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> Liturgy  12:00 Noon Good Friday Liturgy 9:00-3:00 Quiet Day  7:00 pm Good Friday Liturgy	22 7:00 am MP (Memorial Chapel)  7:00 pm <b>EASTER VIGIL w/Baptisms</b>																																																
23 <b>EASTER</b> 8:00 am HE 10:00 am HE <b>Easter Egg Hunt</b>  30 7:30 am HE 9:00 am SS/AE 10:00 am HE	24   31 7:00 am HE St. Joseph	25 10:00 am HE Healing Service (Memorial Chapel)  5:00 pm <b>VESTRY</b>	26 7:00 am HE 12:00 Noon HE  7:00 pm Jr. EYC  7:00 pm Lenten	27 10:00—3:00 pm RED DOOR  7:00 pm Choir Practice	28   29 <table border="1" data-bbox="1096 1732 1461 1921"> <tr> <th colspan="7">April 2008</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	April 2008							S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
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# GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

This craft is a reminder of God's love for the world and of Jesus' sacrifice for everyone.

## What you need:

- Two pieces of 8 1/2" x 11" white or light-blue construction paper
- Circle shape that fits paper (plastic lid or paper plate)
- Black marker or crayon
- Masking tape
- Shallow box, box lid or old cookie tray
- Blue and green paint
- Two paper plates
- Two marbles
- Two plastic spoons
- Scissors



## What you do:

1. On one piece of paper, trace the circle shape.
2. Using two pieces of masking tape, make a cross in the center of your circle.
3. Place your paper inside the box, box lid or cookie tray.
4. Pour blue paint onto one paper plate and green onto the other. Place one marble in each color of paint.
5. Using a spoon, take out one marble at a time and place on your paper.
6. Roll each marble back and forth, around and around, alternating between colors.
7. After your circle looks like the planet Earth with lots of blue and green, cut out the circle.
8. Glue the circle onto another piece of paper.
9. Around the circle, write the words to John 3:16, NIV: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
10. Take off the masking tape and see the cross that's left. Keep your artwork as a reminder of how much God loves you!

## Just for KIDS

# For everyone

Every day we should be thankful for God's love and for the gift of his Son, Jesus. Complete the maze below to help people from all directions hear about this good news. Then, starting at the N (north) and going clockwise, read the words to John 3:16, NIV.

## DO YOU WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN?

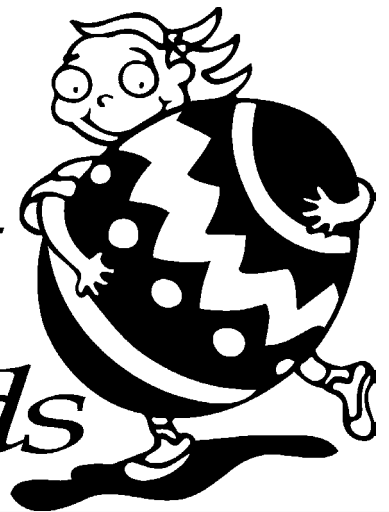
Sunday school teacher: "How many of you children want to go to heaven?"

Everyone raised a hand except one little boy.

Teacher to the boy: "Johnny, don't you want to go to heaven?"

Johnny: "I can't. My mom told me to come home right after Sunday school."

# Egg Hunt for Kids



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## What Cross Are You Carrying Today?

As it was in Biblical times, remains in Modern times ~ suffering is painful! As we all know, there are questions to this earthly life that will never be answered; but when it comes to suffering, I can't help but ask why?

I have two very close relatives on our weekly Prayers-for-Healing list; they've been there for years! My sister, *Stephanie Kendrick*, has been in and out of nursing homes since her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, and remains there today. Relinquishing your independency and the control of your own life at such a young age is an extremely difficult process. When health issues become your focus in life you can't help but ask what is God's plan for me? *The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me (Psalm 138:8)*. My nephew, *Jonathon Atkinson*, 24, is, without a doubt, the most giving, courageous, altruistic, gifted, human being I've ever met! Jonathon is living with the devastating affects of Neurofibromatosis. This ugly disease has robbed him of his hearing, and is now rapidly taking away his eye-sight. *(Lord have mercy!)* I don't have enough space in this issue of Cross-Keys to tell you all he has completed in his young life, in spite of his health issues. Jonathon lives his life to the FULLEST potential that his body will allow. I've never met a person that pushes himself beyond the limits that Jonathon does.

As my family endures these trials, I literally clutch my Bible looking for the hope only the good Lord can bring. On the day I began to write this, my daily devotional book fell open to this page...

"There is a divine mystery in suffering, one that has a strange and supernatural power and has never been completely understood by human reason. No one has ever developed a deep level of spirituality or holiness without experiencing a great deal of suffering. It is in this experience of complete suffering that the Holy Spirit works many miraculous things deep within our soul." *Streams in the Desert*

May you find peace in the Cross that you're carrying today!

Tina Mediate  
Vestry