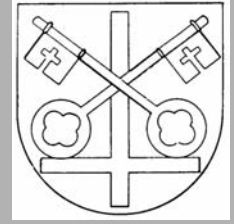


CROSSED KEYS



MARCH 2009

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL

Kevin's Corner . . .

Dear St. Peter's Church Family,

Lent is here. We begin the annual journey of preparing our hearts to experience the glory of Easter only after going through the longest season of penitence in the liturgical year. It is meant to be, for us, a time in which we do some self-reflection, some soul searching, and a time to respond to that introspection through prayer. It's an uncomfortable time for us because it challenges us to recognize and acknowledge those things that live within our hearts but which don't reflect the values we hold as Christians. Sometimes it's the little things that get in our way of fully surrendering to the Lordship of Christ.

In this season of penitence we have the opportunity to wrestle with the truth Jesus himself presents to us in the Gospel of Mark. Here, in a dialogue with many religious professionals who consider themselves pure because they have mastered the art of appearing to be so, Jesus states, "Nothing outside a man can make him 'unclean' by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him 'unclean.'" When the people fail to grasp his message he explains further, "For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean,'" (Mk 7:15, 21-23).

Jesus doesn't pull any punches when he describes the human condition. He understands that the heart is the true center of our inability to keep the commands of the Lord and it is the crookedness of our hearts that present for us the greatest difficulty in truly walking in his ways. We don't "fall into sin" as much as it seeps out of us.

Lent is the season that allows for us to put away the facades and open our eyes to the truth of the sins that reside in our hearts. There will always be obstacles in our journey towards Christ as long as we pretend that our sin is external. Only when we agree with Jesus that the real problem lies within our own

hearts will we find the humility necessary to bow before our Holy God and ask him to help us grow into the full stature of Christ.

This year as part of our Lenten discipline we'll once again be offering services on Wednesdays at both 7:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon in the chapel. In addition, our Lenten soup supper series will begin on March 4 at 6:00 p.m. and run through April 1st. We'll be looking at some of the key elements of the Christian faith and why we believe these core doctrines. (If you'd like to sign up to help with one of the evening meals, please feel free to do so on the list posted by the kitchen door in the parish hall.) I'm hopeful that these times of discussion and study will prove to be fruitful in our growth into maturity in Christ.

We have been studying the Psalms on Sundays and that will continue through Lent. We'll focus on the Psalms out of the lectionary, as they give us the opportunity to respond to the Lord's prompting for us to consider the state of our souls and to offer ourselves to him. As we grow in our understanding of the Psalms, it's my hope that we'll grow in our desire to pray through this Jewish book of Prayer, as well.

Another prayer opportunity this month will occur right around the equinox. We have been offering ½ day prayer retreats twice per year in September and March near the vernal and autumnal equinoxes. This month the prayer retreat will be on March 21st and will begin at 9:00 in the parish hall. We'll conclude with a celebration of the Eucharist and a light lunch in the parish hall around noon. All are invited and for more information please contact the church office or Bert Thompson.

I look forward to our Lenten journey together. May God grant us the grace to honestly assess our hearts and grow in our love for him through surrender this season.

By Grace,

Kevin Jones

**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. *Amen.*

Rest eternal, grant to her, O Lord;
and let light perpetual shine upon her.

We remember
Margaret Wimer

May her soul, and all the souls of all the
faithfully departed, through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.



**ST. PETER'S
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**


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

••The Red Door••

Due to huge demands this winter, The Red Door is sold out of miscellaneous items, and we need your help. We need (of good quality only, please):

- pots and pans
- knick-knacks
- linens
- antiques and collectibles
- dishes
- vases, bowls, mugs, etc.

Donations can be delivered to the office or The Red Door at any time. Please come down and browse Thursdays between 10:00 and 3:00.

 We are taking orders for lilies for the Altar on Easter Sunday. If you would like to give one in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please contact Vesta Gale (672-8488) or Shannon (674-7655).

The Nursery is still in need of a child-care worker Sunday mornings from 10:30 to 11:00. It pays \$25 for each Sunday. If you are interested, please contact either Margie Gustafson (672-9860) or Shannon in the office (674-7655).

Jesus is too colossal for the pen of phrasemongers, however artful. No man can dispose of Christianity with a *bon mot*.

~Albert Einstein

In an effort to further reduce our paper consumption, I can send the Crossed Keys electronically to anyone who would prefer to receive it in that format. If that is your preference, please e-mail me (Shannon) at stpeters@fiberpipe.net.

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday through Friday
9 to 12 — 1 to 4

Youth News

Last week Lisa Nicholls, Jessie Chapman, Josh Law, and I were able to take 14 teenagers to Billings, Montana, for a youth retreat. On our trip each of our leaders had a chance to share with students about their faith and identity in Christ. It was awesome! Below is a teaser of each of the Leaders' talks. If you have more time and would like to see pictures (Jessie's video) and a full report of the weekend, go to our website and click on the blog tab at the top. Our web address is: www.eycrocks.com. Please be patient because it takes a minute or two for it to load.

Lisa:

For EYC trip number 243, I talked about identifying oneself through Christ, instead of through the world's standards. A song that fit was a song by Casting Crowns that says "I was lost but now I am found." That song came up just before I talked and really summed up what identifying with Christ's ideals versus culture's ideals. Relying on people or things other than God for making us feel accepted and purposeful will only imprison us to these other people or things. For instance, depending on a trophy or an achievement award to make us feel like we're good at something – that then will make us feel good about ourselves – is a very empty, very unstable source for our lives. I also based my talk on Philippians 4:6 that says (with my interpretation) . . .

Jessie:

Bible Verse: Timothy 1, 4:12

When I first started coming to church, it was either because my parents brought me or I was invited by a friend. I believed what I was told about God, but I was too young to know how to go about developing a real relationship with Him. I was shy and unsure of what it was to be an active Christian. I compared this to the boy (in the video on our website) when he first started singing the song and was very quiet and reserved . . .

Josh:

Well, first off I thought this trip was one of the deepest trips I have been on with St. Peters, and this is probably about my 20th trip or so. All the trips are always extremely enjoyable, but this one just seemed to go places that EYC hasn't gone. We dove right into the identity that you have. When you become a Christian your identity should be in Christ not the

World. All of the speakers on the trip really brought something great to the table. Andy wrapped up the devotionals and he left with an invitation for the students to follow Christ. I pray that this trip made the impact I thought it did on the kids who went. Most of the kids were younger, and that is one of the best times to introduce Christ to them. They are young and impressionable. Again, I pray that these kids were really impacted by this last weekend. I know this is a trip I will not forget. I do thank Andy for the opportunity to be an earthly role model for this awesome group of teens . . .

God bless,

AnDy



Jessie sharing with the Youth



The ride home

Crossed Keys

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