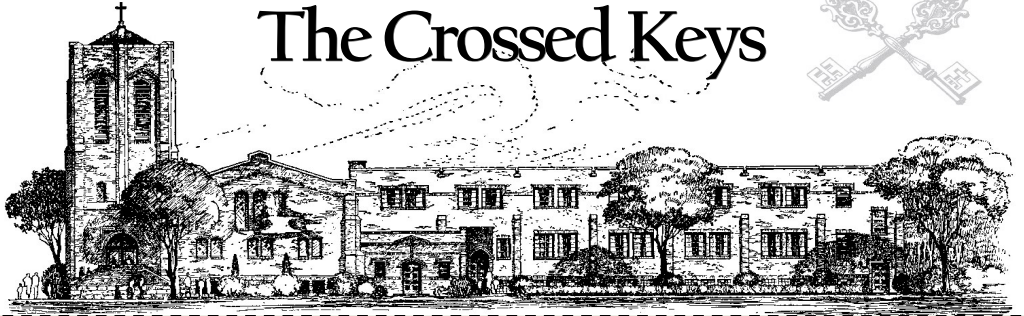


April 2015

*St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
1 South Tschirgi  
Sheridan, WY 82801  
307-674-7655*

# The Crossed Keys



*A word from Fr. John Inserra*

Email: [frjohn@stpeterssheridan.com](mailto:frjohn@stpeterssheridan.com) Cell: 763-3220

Alleluia, Christ is Risen! The Lord is Risen indeed!

I wanted to take the time this month to address two common question that I am asked.

Why is there a Birthday Jar and where does the money go?

You may have noticed a custom at St. Peter's to put money in the birthday jar as people come up for a birthday blessing. To be honest, I have had a few newer people ask me if they have to pay to get the birthday blessing. Of course the answer is no, we settled that idea for church blessings and sacraments 500 years ago with the Reformation.

The Birthday Jar is a freewill offering that goes to support a child St. Peter's sponsors for her education in a third world country through Compassion International. This was the custom that was in place before I arrived here.

Our child's name is Diane Umuhzoza, and she wrote a letter to St. Peter's to update her progress. The original is in the office if you are interested, I have copied it for computer below including her use of pronouns.

*To St. Peter's Church*

*Your daughter Diane greets you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. The whole family is alright, none of them is sick. She has got one goat and she (I) like it. She is studying in P2, she was 7 out of 32 students. Pray for her to succeed in the third term. She goes to church on Sunday and Sunday School. She likes to sing. She wishes you God's peace.*

I have asked Karon to post this letter on the bulletin board, if any wish to write back we have an address to send letters to.

The Birthday Jar is a great thing if we all know what it is for, and an incredibly scary thing for someone who walks up for a blessing and has no clue why a jar is coming out. It's good to remind ourselves what it is there for from time to time so we can answer those who ask, "Do I have to pay for a blessing?"

## **Travel Notes**

I will be away for 10 days this month from April 7 to 17. For the first 5 days I will be in New Orleans on vacation with Sarah and Rosie. We will take some time to visit old friends and eat some creole cuisine.

Continued top of pg 2...

....from Fr. John

After that I will be going to Nashotah for my yearly teaching time (I was there in January working on my own continuing education). I spend a few days working with seniors and distance students offering insight into what the transition from seminary to parish is like.

During this time please feel free to contact the parish office (674-7655) or our Senior Warden Lynne Outland (752-1918) with any emergencies. They will know what to do.

Your Priest,

John+

**The Story April, May and June**  
*Holy Week and Easter Break*  
*No Study from March 29—April 16*

<u>Sunday &amp; Thursday Dates</u>		
March 29 and April 2	NO STUDY	Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday
April 5 and 9	NO STUDY	Easter Sunday
April 12 and 16	NO STUDY	Fr. John away

**Section 3—The Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus**

<u>Sunday &amp; Thursday Dates</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Topic</u>
April 19 and 23	22	The Birth of the King
April 26 and 30	23	Jesus Ministry Begins
May 3 and 7	24	No Ordinary Man
May 10 and 14	25	Jesus, the Son of God
May 17 and 21	26	The Hour of Darkness
May 24 and 28	27	The Resurrection

**Section 4—The Early Church**

<u>Sunday and Thursday Dates</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Topic</u>
May 31 and June 4	28	New Beginnings
June 7 and 11	29	Paul's Mission
June 14 and 18	30	Paul's Final Days
<b>SUNDAY ONLY</b>		

God did not intend for us to live the Christian life alone. In fact, as New Testament scholar Richard Hays notes, *community is one of the three central themes of the New Testament. If I am not integrated into a community of believers I cut myself off from a vital source of life for my faith.*

One of the ways in which this is true concerns the nature and strength of my trust in God. On our own, it is very easy to come to a place where we have very low expectations of what God can do in our lives and the lives of others. We do not anywhere around us see lives being changed by God and so come to accept as normal a life with God that is, essentially, deistic. Deism is the view that God set up the world but then withdrew, leaving us to carry on under our own steam. He does not meddle in the everyday affairs of humans. On this view, our part is to try as best we can to follow the model Jesus set for being a good person (which suggests, incidentally, that belief in God at all isn't really necessary, since my unbelieving neighbor can undertake the project of following a model of goodness just as well as I can). And thus Christianity becomes just another approach to self-improvement and community service.

If we look, however, at the lives of the early Christians as described in Acts, we find a very different pattern. Their lives were marked by transformative encounters with the living God through Christ, so much so that they experienced the daily reality of God's presence, guidance, and empowerment. As a result, not only were their lives radically altered, but they became agents of radical changes in the lives of others around them. They trusted God completely, expecting him to do amazing things in their lives and, through them, in the lives of their neighbors. We can see in the text that behind this rich spiritual life lay an equally rich community life and that the two were interrelated: their community was strengthened by their shared faith, and their shared faith was strengthened by their community.

Are you part of Christian community? Or are you attempting to live out your faith solo? If you find your faith tenuous, your expectations of God low, and your sense of His reality and power in your life weak, chances are you are lacking the kind of rich Christian community for which we are made. I would encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities at St. Peter's to form these kinds of relationships. (Some possibilities: Fr. John has two groups studying *The Story*; I have a small group study on Friday afternoons and one of the basics of the Christian faith on Sunday morning; a group of men also meets once a month for breakfast.) *As always, if you'd like to talk about this, please be in touch.*

God bless,

John



All of us live in a very fast moving, transient world. Expressions abound about time flying and change is the only constant. I sit at my desk daily and watch the financial world move by, markets up, markets down, what will oil do, and on and on. It can be overwhelming.

How do we hope to cope? I was reading a review of a recent Dave Ramsey book concerning his efforts at helping people manage money and debt. The disclaimer of the reviewer was to take the 'meat' and ignore the religious inferences. Many in our world do exactly that. The problem with that is the labeling of what is the 'meat' by the reviewer is completely misguided. This is not to say that being a good steward of your financial blessings is unimportant, but the coping mechanism for that and all else is upon us in the season of EASTER.

The gift of the SON gave us all a true sign of the love of God. This season lets us know of the strength of that love in that it overcame all, including death. The Resurrection and the Life were patterned for us to use as a constant guide in all we do. All things worldly will continue to move and swirl around us, but let this season of Easter be a constant reminder of what is our source of strength and coping. Pray for strength, wisdom and peace.

Blessings,

Karen Ferguson

### NEW CHURCH WEBSITE!

We have recently re-designed our church website. You can find information about activities, digital copies of the Crossed Keys and sermon audio. Log on this site at....

<http://www.stpetersheridan.com>

### QPR Training - Saturday, May 2, 9a.m.-1 pm.

QPR Suicide Prevention Training is a training that anyone, in any field or walk of life, can take to learn to help save a life from suicide. QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer - these are three easy steps that anyone can learn to help prevent suicide. Just as anyone in our community can be trained in CPR to help a person in medical need get to the professional help they need, QPR trains anyone in our community to help a person who is struggling with mental or emotional needs to get the professional help they need. Just as no one trained in CPR is expected to then perform open heart surgery, no one trained in QPR suicide prevention training is expected to become a mental health professional. However, those trained in QPR Suicide Prevention will be able to help save lives because they will learn to: recognize the warning signs of suicide, know how to offer hope, and know how to get professional help to save a life. In QPR, the general public is educated about the known warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to respond: expressions of hopelessness, depression, giving away prized possessions, talking of suicide, or securing lethal means.

As Wyoming communities, we need to approach the issue of suicide prevention in the same way - ensuring that individuals throughout our community are trained in recognizing and referring those at risk of suicide. Because suicides happen in families - where emergency interventions are more likely to take place - we believe that AT LEAST ONE PERSON PER FAMILY UNIT should be trained in QPR. The training is free and open to the public, and we hope you will join us. Please be trained in suicide prevention - for your family, for your faith community, for your neighbors, and for your co-workers.

By Wendy Bruso, MS  
Community Prevention Professional



Contact St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
to sign-up for this training  
674-7655 .



The ECHO Ministry. The purpose of the ECHO Ministry offers 'handyman' services to our members which may include: changing a light bulb, small carpentry projects, shopping, meals, and more!

If you have a need, please call the church office. We can make that contact for you.... (674-7655).

.....Episcopalians Connect by Helping Others....

Operation Christmas Child

For April OCC will be receiving small toys for boys or girls (crayons, small coloring books, puzzles, hand held games, etc. Place items in the Blue bucket in Parish Hall. Thank you for giving to this great cause!!!



*The Altar Guild has openings for new members. Anyone interested may contact Theo Powers, Maria Black or Wendy Gale.*

Episcopal Church Women of Wyoming invite you!

**From Sinner to Saint**  
**A Walk with Mary Magdalene**

**Episcopal Church Women**  
**SPRING CONFERENCE**

April 24-25, 2015  
Casper, Wyoming  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church

*Featuring*  
**THE VERY REV. KATE MOOREHEAD**  
*'wife, mom, author, priest'*  
Dean of St. John's Cathedral  
Episcopal Diocese of Florida




In addition to serving as Cathedral Dean, Kate Moorehead is the vice-president of the Episcopal School of Jacksonville, the Cathedral School Early Learning Center, Cathedral Arts Project, Cathedral Care nursing facility and Aging True Community Senior Services. Kate graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Vassar College and cum laude with a Master of Divinity degree from Virginia Theological Seminary. She has an engaging series of videos about Mary Magdalene on YouTube and is author of four books: *Organic God, Between Two Worlds, Get Over Yourself: God's here and Resurrecting Easter.* Kate and her husband James (J.D.) have three sons—Luke, Jake and Max.

**CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**  
6:00pm-9:30pm • Friday, April 24: Dinner & Eucharist with Kate Moorehead  
8:00am-9:00pm • Saturday, April 25: Worship, Workshops & Lunch  
Evening Banquet & Entertainment

**Registration only \$100**

**REGISTER NOW! Seating will be Limited**

*JOIN US for this exciting event!*

*For More Info:*  
Carole Buckingham, ECW President • (307) 738-2416 • onediamondbar@rtconnect.net



Billings, MT April 24-25, 2015  
406-223-4323 (Tickets at this number)  
Rimrock Auto Arena at Metra Park  
Friday 7-10 PM / Saturday 9 AM-5PM  
Applications on Community Board in Parish Hall


EWC Applications are on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Get your registration in ASAP!!!

Senior Warden ~ Lynne Outland 752-1918 ❁ Junior Warden ~ Liz Swanson 674-6662



## St. Peter's Ministry Schedule

*April Vestry Greeter: Karen Ferguson*

	Lay Readers	LEM's	Ushers	Acolytes
April 5th  Easter	<b>8:00</b> Forrest & Sandy Asmus  <b>10:00</b> Mike & Mary Beth Evers	A: Juanita Smith B: Juanita Smith  C: Juanita Smith D: Peggy Sorvik	Dorothy Goodwin Frank Smedley  Jim & Barbara Benepe	Landon Alsup Joe Eisenach Kate Alsup  Nate Haworth Maya Fritz Quinn Heyneman Aria Heyneman
April 12th  2nd Sunday after Easter	<b>7:30</b> Sharon Bedard  <b>10:00</b> Linen Greenough Lynne Outland	A: None B: L. Greenough  C: Juanita Smith D: Peggy Sorvik	Darracott & Ann Vaughan  Karen Ferguson Geri Roth	Nate Haworth Joe Eisenach Maya Fritz
April 19th  Third Sunday after Easter	<b>7:30</b> Peter & Carol Clark  <b>10:00</b> Darracott & Anne Vaughan	A: None B: D. Vaughan  C: Juanita Smith D: Donna Kuehne	Sandy Tharaldson Mary Lee Stopka  Stan & Sherry Peddicord	Bobby St. John Joe Eisenach Maya Fritz
April 26  Fourth Sunday after Easter  	<b>7:30</b> Laura Galloway  <b>10:00</b> Stan & Shari Peddicord	A: None B: J. McKnight  C: Juanita Smith D: Donna Kuehne  Westview: Phil Dorsch	Rick & Liz Rossa  Cara Nicolls Sarah Mentock	Nate Haworth Joe Eisenach Kate Alsup


 For any questions or changes contact - Juanita Smith at 673-4928
 



# Calendar Of Events April 2015

HE: Holy Eucharist \* HS: Healing Service \* SRS: Sugarland Ridge

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <b>Holy Week</b>  Women of St. Peters 9:00 AM	2 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> <b>6:00 PM</b>  Red Door Closed	3 <b>Good Friday</b> <b>6:00 PM</b>	4
5   <b>8:00 HE</b> <b>10:00 HE</b>	6 Handbell Practice 6:30 PM	7 10:00 HS 1:00 SRS	8  St. Nicks Crafters 9 AM	9  Red Door 10-3  Choir 6:30 PM	10	11
12  7:30 HE 10:00 HE	13 Handbell Practice 6:30 PM	14 10:00 HS 1:00 SRS	15  St. Nicks Crafters 9 AM	16  Red Door 10-3  Choir 6:30 PM	17	18
19  7:30 HE 10:00 HE	20 Handbell Practice 6:30 PM	21 10:00 HS 1:00 SRS	22  St. Nicks Crafters 9 AM	23  Red Door 10-3  Choir 6:30 PM	24	25
26  7:30 HE 10:00 HE  	27 Handbell Practice 6:30 PM	28 10:00 HS 1:00 SRS	29  St. Nicks Crafters 9 AM  7	30  Red Door 10-3  Choir 6:30 PM		

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



*Using Your Gifts and Talents:* St. Peter's  
Choir & Handbell Ministries are a vital part  
of our 10:00 a.m. worship service.



If you are interested in joining one or both  
contact Suzie Schatz-Benson at 672-2140.

**St. Peter's Office and Music Staff**

Gail Boyer: Parish Administrator (674-7655)  
Karon Keahey: Parish Secretary (674-7655)  
Suzie Schatz-Benson: Music Coordinator (763-0525)  
Jeannene Mc Knight: Organist  
Erin Hanke-Pianist

**St. Peter's Office Hours ~ 9:00 am to 2:00 pm (Monday - Friday)**

Generally someone is in the church until 4:00 pm. If the doors are locked a door bell is available at the main entry. Also, if you are not receiving your Crossed Keys or Sunday Bulletin via E-mail, please notify the office. Or, if you would like to sign-up for one or both call the office. Thank You!

Email: [stpeterssheridan@gmail.com](mailto:stpeterssheridan@gmail.com) Office Phone #: 674-7655