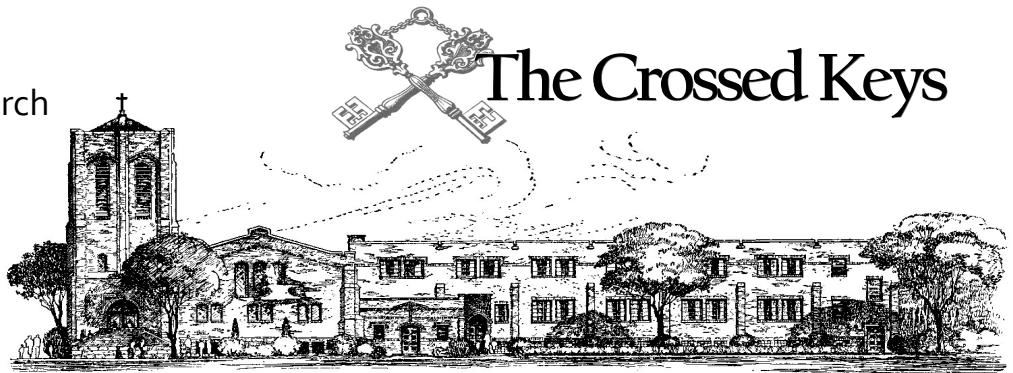


St. Peter's Episcopal Church
1 South Tschirgi
Sheridan, WY 82801



The Crossed Keys

A word from Fr. John Inserra

Email: frjohn@stpeterssheridan.com Cell: 763-3220

Introducing the Celebrating Grace Hymnal

You will notice in your pews something new this week and going forward, the Celebrating Grace Hymnal will be there in place of the 1982 Hymnal that has been there for nearly 30 years. No one likes change but please know this was not a rash decision but one that had been agonized over for quite some time.

Let me say a few things about the process to change hymnals.

It began with our music staff's dissatisfaction with our current music repertoire. Our staff felt the majority of the '82 Hymnal was too unfamiliar, too high to sing, and as one parishioner put it "too somber." In addition the black worship book, while containing some easier to sing contemporary songs, was not exactly the most professional way to handle a music supplement as we did not have a proper copyright license for some of the songs in the book. This issue was one of the very first conversations I had with Fritz Kehrwald when I began in 2012.

After spending some time here, I could see from my perspective (literally standing in front and facing all of you as you sing) that our music staff was right and there was little excitement during some hymns. This is not my comment on the music staff but the material they had to work with.

Fritz worked hard on providing alternative hymnal options and as he stepped down to retire in September, Suzie Shatz-Benson continued that

work with the help of Kathy McNickle. Suzie asked for your input and noted all your suggestions as to your favorite hymns. It should be noted that the majority of suggestions she received were from the black notebook or from the hymnal that predated the '82 Hymnal.

The hymnal choices were narrowed down to 3 and given to me to make the final decision, as ultimately anything having to do with worship is the Rector's decision.

I consulted with our Senior Warden and went to Casper to consult with Bishop Smylie. I settled on *Celebrating Grace* because it is the best combination of classic and contemporary hymns, eliminating the need for 2 books. It contains classics like *How Great Thou Art* and *In the Garden* as well as *Here I am to Worship* and *How Great is Our God*.

The final choice was presented to the Vestry by Suzie for their input and without any objections the process for ordering began. The hymnals have been paid for by a generous donation by Jim and Sharon Bedard in loving memory of Sharon's parents, Norm and Betty Spangler.

A word for those who are saying, "but its tradition" or "it's the Episcopal Hymnal and we are an Episcopal Church."

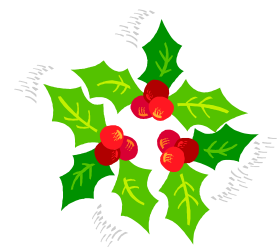
Continued on page 4.....

I often get asked, "How's the 9:00 service going?" That question has forced me to reflect on a different question: "Where is the 9:00 service going?" If you think about it, we can only evaluate outcomes in reference to an understanding of what we are trying to do. At the beginning of the family service I had my own ideas of what I was trying to do and what would count as success. I was thinking a lot about numbers. As often happens, however, I think God was trying to draw my attention to something else. Looking back over the past couple of months, the most exciting thing to me that has come from the family service (and the Sunday school time following it) has been the way fellowship is developing in the group.

I once heard a pastor joke about people having "helloship" instead of "fellowship." What's the contrast here? Helloship exists among a group of people who are friendly to each other but don't know each other very well. There are probably lots of people in your life--at church and elsewhere--with whom you share this sort of helloship. Fellowship, on the other hand, requires more. It means, first, knowing enough about others to have a sense of their history, their giftings, their struggles, their hopes, and their joys. But specifically Christian fellowship has another important component. It involves engaging with each other in the process of living the Christian life. It means, for example, wrestling together over how we are to apply the teachings of scripture to our own circumstances. It means praying for each other. It means encouraging each other. This is the sort of thing I have seen happening as a result of the 9:00 service and I feel truly blessed to be a part of it.

If you spend some time reading through Acts and the letters of the New Testament (and are on the lookout for it), you will be struck by how often you see phrases like "each other" and "one another." It was an assumption about the life of the church that it would be characterized by the kind of fellowship I described above. Here is a sampling of the things Christians are enjoined to do with and for each other: confess sin (James 5:16), serve (John 13:14), love (John 13:35), be devoted (Romans 12:10), instruct (Romans 15:14), be united (1 Corinthians 1:10), encourage (2 Corinthians 13:11), and admonish (Colossians 3:16). Most of these things are difficult if not impossible outside of fellowship. I don't think it is putting the matter too strongly to say that fellowship is the necessary condition for the body of Christ to function as it was designed to function. So here are two questions to ponder: With whom at St. Peter's do you have fellowship--and not just helloship? What steps can you take to help foster those kinds of relationships?

Dr. John Milliken





SUICIDE AWARENESS/SUICIDE PREVENTION

As many of you may know, Wyoming leads the nation in per capita suicides. Last year Bishop Smylie commissioned a group of Clergy and Lay Persons in our Diocese to form a Committee to determine what we could do as a Diocese to help change this statistic.

This Fall, at the Convention in Jackson, the delegates were given a presentation on the Committee's findings and their recommendations as well as a workshop on QPR Suicide Intervention. Delegates from each church in the Diocese were given a set of materials to be used as a resource and asked to share the Committee's vision for becoming a Faith Based Suicide Prevention Resource with their home parish.

On Wednesday, December 10, there will be an open meeting for all Parish members, or other interested persons, at St. Peter's at 5:30 P.M. This will be an organizational meeting to gather individuals who would be interested in furthering awareness, education and training for our Parish. We don't plan to reinvent the wheel in Sheridan for suicide prevention but to mesh our efforts with the groups that are already in place.

Please join Roberta Thompson and myself on Wednesday, Dec. 10th if you are interested in finding out more about this project and PLEASE if you are interested and unable to attend let us know so we may keep you in the loop.

Laura Galloway

Poem By: Ronald Doe

Christmas Time is finally here, it only comes but once a year. And it's a time to spread good cheer, to those we love and hold so dear.

Christmas Time is a time of glee, a time when peace and love run free. A time for those like you and me, to sit beneath the Christmas Tree.

Christmas Time is a time of joy, a time to sit back and enjoy. The smile on each girl and boy, as they play with a Christmas Toy.

Christmas Time is a time to share, the passing of another year. Birth of Jesus, a joyful prayer, to show loved ones how much we care.

Christmas Time is a time for song, a time for us to get along. To make us feel Lord Jesus strong, forgive all those who did us wrong.

Christmas Time is a time to pray, put love and kindness on display. Show compassion along the way, **Christmas Time should be everyday.**

Vestry

Meeting: December 17, 2014 6:00 pm
In the Conference Room.



From the Vestry

Hello,

We have begun our new church year, so let me be among the first to offer you a Happy New Year!

Fr. John's sermon for this first Sunday in Advent seemed to be particularly well suited, with its focus on the "Three Ps" – Promise, Patience, and Perseverance.

"Remember your word to your servant, for you have given me hope. My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise renews my life." Ps.119:49–50. We are close to celebrating the birth of our Savior, God's promise to us. I have to admit that like a child, this season causes me great excitement and creates an incredible lack of patience. I long to feel the warmth in people that is inspired by the coming celebration, and I wonder why we cannot experience those blessings throughout the year.

I need to learn from Proverbs, "A patient man has great understanding." And as to perseverance, I will, with His help, keep working on my shortcomings.

And that is my prayer for you this blessed Christmas Season – May you remember our Lord's promise to us of eternal life; may you deal patiently with each other, and may you persevere in your trust in the Lord.

Peace,

Sharon Bedard-Senior Warden

Introducing the Celebrating Grace Hymnal

Fr. John's article from page 1...

I think I have proved there is no bigger supporter of our Episcopal tradition than me, but the most important thing for me is that our hymns are worshipful, joyful, and can be sung from the heart. For St. Peter's, and after discussion with the Bishop I discovered for most of Wyoming, the '82 Hymnal is not providing that. Please know this does not mean that some of our classic hymns that can only be found in the hymnal will disappear, we will have them when needed printed in our bulletin. Also please know that this does not mean anything will change with the Prayer Book. Music is worship is flexible, the Prayer Book is not.

Lastly, let me say that this move is a missional move, as it slows St. Peter's to incorporate music that is more contemporary but can be done in a traditional way. If we want to grow younger, this is a good first step to take as music is one of the crucial factors in retaining visitors or bringing new people in.

I would ask you to give it some time to get used to, be patient if there might be an unfamiliar hymn, and make a joyful noise to the Lord this Sunday.

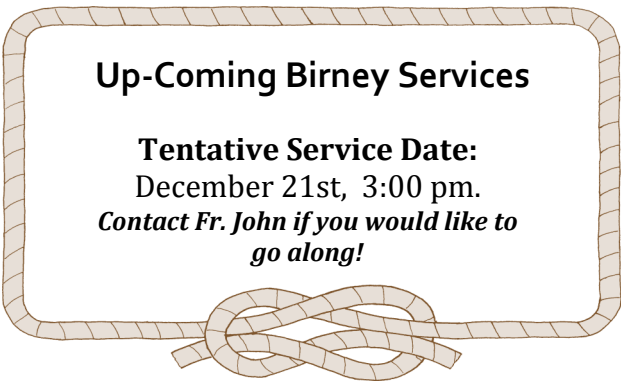
John+

Up-Coming Birney Services

Tentative Service Date:

December 21st, 3:00 pm.

Contact Fr. John if you would like to go along!



Operation Christmas Child

For December (OCC) is receiving monetary contributions to aide the over all shipping expenses and other needed items for the up-coming year.

From time to time we will, through the Crossed Keys, share testimonials from children who have been recipients of the Samaritan Purse Outreach. Last year's boxes went to the Ukraine. We will up-date you as to where this year's boxes went as we receive word.

Thank you for all your support!

Keep an eye out for seasonal sales!



The Women's Bible Study will resume in January 2015. A reminder will be sent out at a later date. The next study:

The Good and Beautiful Community. For book order information contact the church office.

Nursery Schedule Dec 2014

- 12/07 Michelle & Maya Fritz
- 12/14 Carol Clark & Cheryl Farman
- 12/21 Carol Clark & Cheryl Farman
- 12/28 Eric & Danae Brandjord

The Women of St. Peter's

extends a "heart felt thanks" to everyone who supported in preparations and serving during the Christmas Bazaar. The time, energy and contributions made for another successful year! Many thanks to all! Merry Christmas!



NOTICE: Kids & Parents!



Christmas Pageant

Christmas Pageant

The Angel Choir Practice has begun for 3-8 years old. Practices will be held during the 10 am service.

The older youth will begin practicing on Sunday, Dec 14 at 10 am.

Please contact Suzie Schatz-Benson for information.

672-2140 or 763-0525

LUNCH TOGETHER: Lunch Together for St. Peter's is scheduled December 22-24. (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday). We need helpers for Tuesday. Your service does not go unnoticed. Giving to the least of these...Matthew 25:40. Thank you!

St. Margaret's Dinner & Cookie Exchange:

Day: Sunday, Dec 14th at 2:00 pm

Place: Gail Boyer's residence

Details: Dinner is provided. Please bring cookies to exchange with others.

RSVP: Gail at the church office

674-7655 and for address information or contact Roberta Thompson at 751-5744.



This is for all women of all ages!



St. Peter's Ministry Schedule

December Vestry Greeter: Stan Peddicord

	Lay Readers	LEM's	Ushers	Acolytes
December 7 2 Advent	7:30 Forrest & Sandy Asmus 10:00 Mike & Mary Beth Evers	A: Juanita Smith B: Jeannene McKnight C: Juanita Smith D:	Lee Helvey Karen Ferguson Stan & Shari Peddicord	Bobby St. John Joe Eisenach
December 14 3 Advent	7:30 Holland Duell 10:00 Paul Haworth Lynne Outland	A: None B: Darracott Vaughan C: Juanita Smith D:	Geri Roth Cara Nicholls Sarah Mentock Frank Smedley	Joe Eisenach Nate Haworth Kate Alsup
December 21 4 Advent	7:30 Sharon Bedard 10:00 Stan & Shari Peddicord	A: None B: Donna Kuehne C: Juanita Smith D:	Lois Hall Mary Dailey Lynne & Gary Outland	Joe Eisenach Bobby St. John Nate Haworth
December 24 Christmas Eve	4:00 PM Paul Haworth Lee Helvey		Vestry Members	Nate Haworth Joe Eisenach
December 25 Christmas Day	10:00 PM Lynne Outland Isabel Wallop 10:00 AM Juanita Smith			Kalvin Eisenach Joe Eisenach Juanita Smith
December 28 1st Sunday after Christmas	7:30 Linen Greenough 10:00 Lee Helvey Roberta Thompson	A: None B: Juanita Smith C: Juanita Smith D:	Jodene & Robert Prusak Paul & Christina Haworth	Joe Eisenach Maya Fritz

Westview: Linen Greenough

**For any questions or changes contact
Juanita Smith at 673-4938.**



Calendar Of Events December 2014

HE: Holy Eucharist * FS: Family Service * HS: Healing Service * SRS: Sugarland Ridge
WBS: Women's Bible Study (Restarts in January)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7:30 HE 9:00 FS 10:00 HE	Handbell Practice 6:30	10:00 HS 12:00 WBS 1:00 SRS	Women of St. Peters 9:00 a.m.	Red Door 10-3 Choir 7 pm		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
7:30 HE 9:00 FS 10:00 HE 5:30	Handbell Practice 6:30	10:00 HS 12:00 WBS 1:00 SRS		Red Door 10-3 Choir 7 pm		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
7:30 HE 9:00 FS 10:00 HE 5:30 pm 	Handbell Practice 6:30	10:00 HS 12:00 WBS 1:00 SRS	Vestry 6:00 p.m.	Red Door Closed Choir 7 pm		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
7:30 HE 9:00 FS 10:00 HE	Handbell Practice 6:30	10:00 HS 12:00 WBS 1:00 SRS	Christmas Eve Service 4:00 pm & 10:00 PM	Christmas Day Service 10:00 am	<i>Church Offices will be closed at noon on the 24th (Wednesday) through January 2nd.</i>	
28	29	30	31			
7:30 HE 9:00 FS 10:00 HE No Altar Guild	Handbell Practice 6:30					

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



St. Peter's Staff

Gail Boyer: Parish Administrator (674-7655)
Karon Keahey: Parish Secretary (674-7655)
Suzie-Schatz Benson: Music Coordinator (763-0525)
Jeannene McKnight: Organist
Kathy McNickle: Pianist

Using Your Gifts and Talents St. Peter's Choir & Handbell....The Music Ministry is a vital part of our 10:00
Worship Service. If you are interested in joining one or both contact **Suzie Schatz-Benson**.

=====

St. Peter's Office Hours: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm - Monday thru 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 Office Phone #: 674-7655