



# THE CROSSED KEYS

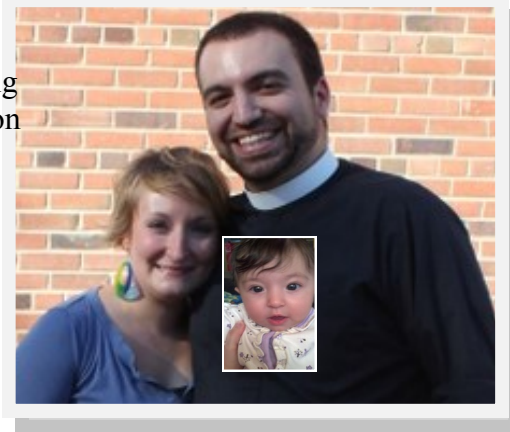
St. Peter's Episcopal Church Newsletter - October 2014

**A Message from Fr. John Inserra**

## What's God's purpose for us?

In the past several weeks, many people at St. Peter's have been studying The Story. The Story is an attempt to look through the Bible focusing on the main narrative, which is God's relentless pursuit of a relationship with his creation.

In this story Abraham plays a central role. The call of Abraham is the beginning of God's building a nation, but there is a purpose in God's call of Abraham that extends to Israel throughout the Old Testament. This purpose is picked up by the church in the New Testament and extends to St. Peter's today. It is found in God's call to Abraham in Genesis 12 :1-3.



Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Abraham is set apart and blessed so that others may be blessed by him. He is the vessel through which God wants to bless the whole world; the people of Israel came to be so God could bless the world through them. The church came to exist for the same reason, to be the vessel through which God blesses the whole world.

The purpose of the church has not changed and this extends to St. Peter's today. St. Peter's exist to be a vehicle to bless the world (at least our little corner of it). Abraham's purpose is our purpose too. If you ever wondered why in the Old Testament God gets angry with Israel, it is because it drifted from its purpose and became self-absorbed and idolatrous.

The amazing thing about God's promise to Abraham is that he assures him that God himself will be with him, blessing and defending him along the way. God wants Abraham, and Israel, and us, to succeed. The challenge is to avoid the temptation of that affected Israel, focusing on ourselves instead of thinking about those around us that we are called to be a blessing to. St. Peter's is in constant change, this past month introduced a 9am family morning prayer, you have seen facility renovations, and you will read about music changes. This is not done to confuse, annoy, or agitate anyone, it is done to help us reach those who do not know God. I am happy to talk more with anyone about issues that arise with the changes, we are still working out the kinks there is no doubt about that, but hopefully as we evaluate and discuss, we can remember the purpose with which we are charged and which our life as a church depends, to be a vehicle of blessing to our world. became self-absorbed and idolatrous.

John +

## Family Minister



In the next couple of installments of Crossed Keys I am going to be passing along an article that is adapted from *The Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family*. I think it has some great material about what role we play in parents in the faith formation of our kids. Enjoy.

-John

## You Get What You Are

Modeling Sticky Faith, by Kara Powell

*This article is adapted from chapter two of the new Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family. To find out more about this book or our new video curriculum for parents, please visit [stickyfaith.org/guide](http://stickyfaith.org/guide).*

“I’m Kah-wa Powell.”

What our youngest child, Jessica, lacked in pronunciation of the letter r, she made up for in her gusto for pretending to be me. Every day for two months, she plunged into my bedroom closet, grabbed as many items as her five-year-old fists could carry, and then wore them over her own clothing. Her favorite items were my black leather boots, an orange blouse, a turquoise scarf (trust me, it isn’t as eighties as it sounds), a gold linen dinner jacket (okay, that is as eighties as it sounds), and a wool hat.

Regardless of how you evaluate her fashion sense, if you saw her walk around our house, you’d see that she had a sixth sense for imitating me. Stumbling awkwardly in boots that were twice her size, she’d grab my briefcase on wheels and stride across our wood floors, proclaiming to all other family members, “I’m Kah-wa Powell.” It was even more adorable than it sounds.

It got less adorable when Jessica started imitating facets of my parenting. She’d stand in our living room, wag her finger at an invisible daughter and sternly warn, “Jessica, you need a better attitude.” Imaginary Jessica didn’t seem to improve. My daughter’s remedy? More wagging of the finger, mixed with, “Jessica, go to your room.” Sometimes she’d invite friends to join in the dress-up play. Jessica was always “Kah-wa Powell,” and the friend was usually talked into being “Jessica.” What did they do together? Play cards? Color at the kitchen table? Nope. “Jessica” usually spent most of her time on the couch, receiving a lecture from “Kah-wa Powell”.

One Friday afternoon, another mom and I were invited to watch a “play” that the two five-year-olds had created. In this play, there were no fairies, doggies, or princesses. The “story” (if you’ve watched your five-year-old child’s plays, you know that the quotes are warranted) revolved around my daughter playing me and giving her “daughter” a grim lecture. The other mom and I laughed (somewhat awkwardly) at the scene. But long after the other family walked down our driveway, one question sat on the front steps of my heart: Was that my daughter’s primary picture of me? Jessica mirrored to me a posture and a tone of voice that was everything I didn’t want to be as a mom. As she acted out her version of how I corrected her, I knew I was the one who needed correcting.

### 3 Sticky Findings

As our team has surveyed others’ research on family faith as well as analyzed our own studies of over 500 teenagers and 50 parents, we have identified three “Sticky findings” that are important for parents who want to model vibrant faith in front of their children and teenagers.

*Continued Page 3*

*Dr. John.....Contintued.*

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### **Finding #1: We Will Get What We Are**

After studying the faith development of more than three thousand young people nationwide from Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, and Mormon families, Christian Smith and his team concluded, "The best general rule of thumb that parents might use to reckon their children's most likely religious outcomes is this: 'We'll get what we are.'" As important as this guide's other ten factors are in building Sticky Faith families, the reality is that in general, the primary influence in a child's faith trajectory is his or her parents.

As with all research, please take this with a grain of salt. Or even a mountain of grains of salt. You might have a very different faith journey than your parents'. You might have multiple kids who are choosing different faith paths themselves.

While there is no foolproof formula, in integrity as a researcher I need to be clear: your strategy for developing a Sticky Faith family starts by assessing the vibrancy of your own faith.

### **Finding #2: We Will Get What Our Kids Think We Are**

Here's something fascinating. As important as our faith lives are in influencing our kids, multiple studies of teenagers indicate that more important than what parents believe is what teenagers perceive they believe.

When I was a high school student, our youth pastor decided to make the focus of one of our Wednesday night meetings this question: If you were on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you? To my surprise (and dismay), I was one of the three students picked to be on trial. Friends of mine from youth group then gave testimonies about both my character and my behaviors. I remember sitting on a grey plastic chair in the front of our youth room, palms sweating and heart pounding, wondering if there was going to be enough evidence to convict me. There was. In my opinion, barely.

Because that sort of mock trial can easily become emotionally manipulative and guilt producing, I don't recommend trying this at your home church. But given the research on Sticky Faith families, I hope you reflect on this question: If I were on trial for being a Christian, what evidence could my kids offer to convict me?

### **Finding #3: There Are Many Ways to Build and Model Sticky Faith in Front of Your Kids**

As we interviewed parents who had developed enduring faith in their kids, this theme emerged: they made the cultivation of their own faith a priority. While that was a nearly universal goal, there were no universal steps parents took to make that goal a reality. Each parent seems to find their own channel to stay in tune with Jesus. Some hold traditional "quiet times," often in the morning before children are looking for breakfasts and backpacks. Others prefer to journal in the evenings while kids are sleeping or studying. Some like to sit. Others feel closer to God while moving—while jogging, walking, gardening, or even driving. Some need quiet. Others prefer the stimulation of a good sermon or great worship music, or even the background noise of a coffee house or the morning bus commute. The length, location, and posture of parents' time with God varies. What is constant is their recognition that regular (generally daily) time with God needs to be a priority in their schedules.

*Next month I'll post the rest of this article, which explores some ideas about how to respond to these findings in concrete ways with your family.*

## The Case for a New Hymnal

I am a strong believer in the power of music. With that thought in mind, the music staff is in the process of searching for a new hymnal for St. Peter's. Our current hymnal is 32 years old, and though it contains many beloved hymns, it also leaves out some of the most well known and loved hymns, has very few of our communion songs, and lacks appeal for the younger generation. WHAT IF: we were able to find a nondenominational hymnal that contains our most beloved hymns, AND has many favorite hymns that were left out of the 1982 Hymnal, plus many of our communion songs, and even appeals to children and teens, and lastly, we had an anonymous donor willing to purchase these hymnals. Wouldn't that be a win-win situation? We will keep the 1982 Hymnal and store it in the music room. The hymns and Episcopal Service music from that hymnal can readily be accessed and put into the bulletin at any time they are needed. Some of the many factors we are considering in a new hymnal include: compatible with the Episcopal Doctrine, contains more well-known hymns and the best loved hymns of our current hymnal, larger print size, has song titles, contains many of our current communion songs, has a good and 'easy to read' topical index, a warm and 'user friendly' look, and is appealing across the generations. While we probably won't be able to find the PERFECT hymnal, we are committed to making a balanced choice that allows us to come together and worship in song and still honor our individual preferences.

Thank you,  
Suzie Schatz-Benson



**The Red Door is collecting plastic bags. Bring to the Parish Hall.**



E-mail: [stpeterssheridan@gmail.com](mailto:stpeterssheridan@gmail.com)

St. Peter's Church  
674-7655

**Fr. John Inserra** Rector @ 763-2330  
**Dr. John Milliken**  
Family Minister @ 461-1924  
**Sharon Bedard**  
Senior Warden @ 655-5761  
**Cara Nicholls**  
Junior Warden @ 672-6573

## Nursery Schedule Oct – Dec 2014

11/12 Tobie & Kate Alsup  
11/19 Carol Clark & Cheryl Farman  
11/26 Eric & Danae Brandjord  
11/02 Tobie & Kate Alsup  
11/09 Michelle & Maya Fritz  
11/16 Carol Clark & Cheryl Farman  
11/23 Eric & Danae Brandjord  
11/30 Tobie & Kate Alsup  
12/07 Carol Clark & Cheryl Farman  
12/14 Michelle & Maya Fritz  
12/21 Carol Clark & Cheryl Farman  
12/28 Eric & Danae Brandjord



**Jeannene McKnight:** Organist  
**Kathy McNickle:** Pianist  
**Suzie Schatz-Benson:** Music Coordinator

**Juanita Smith:** Deacon  
**Gail Boyer:** Parish Administrator  
**Karon Keahey:** Parish Secretary

## Lunch Together

St. Peter's is serving on  
October 20-23, 2014

If there is someone who would like to take the Thursday meal time on a regular basis contact the church office. This would involve an entire team: Head cook & 3 helpers. Thank you to those who are systematic and to those who are covering the Thursday gap for October!

### *Life Isn't Fair*

A few Sundays ago, Fr. John's sermon was based on the parable dealing with fairness in Matthew 20: 1-1b. Life isn't fair - but God is! This is a parable for those who tend to keep a scorecard for life - for those who are tempted to envy others.

When we were children we were told, "one cuts the PBJ sandwich and the other gets to choose." A grand attempt was made to be fair.

This parable is about a land owner who hired laborers for his vineyard. Early in the morning he hired a few men for a fair days wage. Later that evening, he called them all in and paid them a fair day's wage. The same amount was given even though they worked different hours. The men who had worked hard all day grumbled "that's not fair!" The landowner reminded them that he had only done what he had promised. "Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own? Or, is your eye envious because I am generous?" The men who had worked less but received the same wage didn't have much to say. The owner had given them more than they deserved. It' called GRACE.

Life hardly ever delivers equal portions. Our problem is that we only see the short picture, but God is weaving the tapestry of our lives with an eternal plan. We presume that we are the best judges of fairness and equality. We think we deserve to receive the "good stuff". We look at what we've done and believe God ought to give us all we want. What a dangerous evaluation of worth. After all, He gave us everything we have! God is the master of the universe. He alone controls and rules over all. He knows what He is doing and He loves us!

Life isn't fair! But we know one who is fair and He can be trusted!



*Liz Swanson-Vestry Greeter*

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### Prayer Shawls Needed



If you love to knit or crochet and want a winter project, St. Peter's is in need of Prayer Shawls. These shawls are Blessed and can be given to shut-ins, the sick, and as special gifts.

*Needles and yarn are available at the church. If you are interested contact the office. Thank you!*

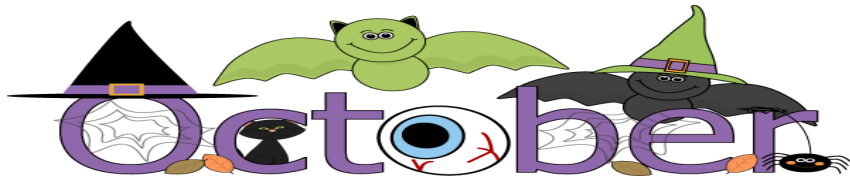
# St. Peter's Ministry Schedule



October Vestry Greeter: Liz Swanson

	Lay Reader	LEM	Ushers	Acolytes
October 5 17 Pentecost	7:30 Asmus'  10:00 Evers	A: J. Smith B: J. McKnight C: J. Smith D: P. Sorvik	Rick & Liz Rossa Dorothy Goodwin Frank Smedley	Bobby St. John Nate Haworth
October 12 18 Pentecost	7:30 S. Bedard  10:00 L. Greenough P. Haworth	A: None B: D. Kuehne C: J. Smith D: D. Kuehne	Lee Helvey Karen Ferguson Geri Roth Christina Haworth	Nate Haworth Joe Eisenach
October 19 19 Pentecost	7:30 H. Duell  10:00 I. Wallop L. Outland	A: None B: J. Smith C: J. Smith. D: P. Sorvik	Sandy Tharaldson Mary Lee Stopka Shari & Stan Peddicord	Bobby St. John Joe Eisenach Kate Alsup
October 26 20 Pentecost	7:30 L. Greenough  10:00 Peddicords	A: None B: J. Smith C: J. Smith D: D. Kuehne  LEM: Westview Linen Greenough	Lynne & Gary Outland Cara Nicholls Sarah Mentock	Joe Eisenach Quinn Heyneman Aria Heyneman

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



# Calendar 2014

HE: Holy Eucharist \* HS: Healing Service \* SRS: Sugarland Ridge \* WBS: Women's Bible Study

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Women of St. Peters 9 am	2 Red Door 10-3 Choir 7 pm	3 Diocese of Wyoming Convention October 2-5	4
5 7:30 HE 10:00 HE	6 Handbells 6:30 pm	7 10:00 HS 12:00 WBS 1:00 SRS	8 St. Nick's Crafters 9:00 a.m.	9 Red Door 10-3 Choir 7 pm	10	11
12 7:30 HE 10:00 HE  POTLUCK DINNER 5:30 pm	13 No Handbell Practice	14 10:00 HS 12:00 WBS 1:00 SRS	15 St. Nick's Crafters 9:00 a.m.  6:00 pm	16 Red Door 10-3 Choir 7 pm	17	18
19 7:30 HE 10:00 HE	20 Handbells 6:30 pm	21 10:00 HS 12:00 WBS 1:00 SRS	22 St. Nick's Crafters 9:00 a.m.	23 Red Door 10-3 Choir 7 pm	24	25
26 7:30 HE 10:00 HE  8:30 am	27 Handbells 6:30 pm	28 10:00 HS 12:00 WBS 1:00 SRS	29 St. Nick's Crafters 9:00 a.m.	30 Red Door 10-3 Choir 7 pm	31	

# St. Peter's Church Events & Information

## Vestry

Meeting: October 15, 2014  
6:00 pm  
In the Conference Room.

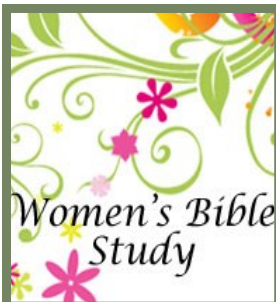


### The Peters Educational Fund

The Peters Ed Fund is accepting loan applications for higher education. You may contact the church office for information.



On several occasions the doors into the church have been found unlocked. Please check all doors when leaving the premises.  
Thank You!



For Bible Study information contact Wendy Gale or the church office, 674-7655.

Tuesdays from Noon-1pm  
Held in the Library

### Birney Services

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

A map of the Birney area in Montana, showing the towns of Muddy, Muddy, MT, and Lame Deer, and the road 212.

**Tentative Service Dates:** October 26th, 3:00 pm; November 30th, 3:00 pm; December 21st, 3:00 pm.



Saturday, November 1st, 9am-Noon

This is a required training by the Diocese of Wyoming and is applicable to anyone in ministry, for those who work with children or planning to do so in the near future.

Please take to heart. A sign-up sheet is available in the church office.

If you attended last fall's training you are not required to be at this session. However, anyone is welcome and is a great refresher course.

Contact Rachel Milliken for questions or concerns.

This is a great reminder and an informative training ... keeping our children safe!

### 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.



United Thank Offering Gathering  
November 16th  
Boxes Available



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

# 2014 OCTOBER

**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. 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 (674-7655). Thank You!

Email: [stpetersheridan@gmail.com](mailto:stpetersheridan@gmail.com)

**For the month of October** ~ "Operation Christmas Child"  
 Receiving pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers and small note pads. Items may be placed in the Blue Bucket in Parish Hall.  
 All items must be small enough to be placed in a shoe box.  
 Thank you for your support!

