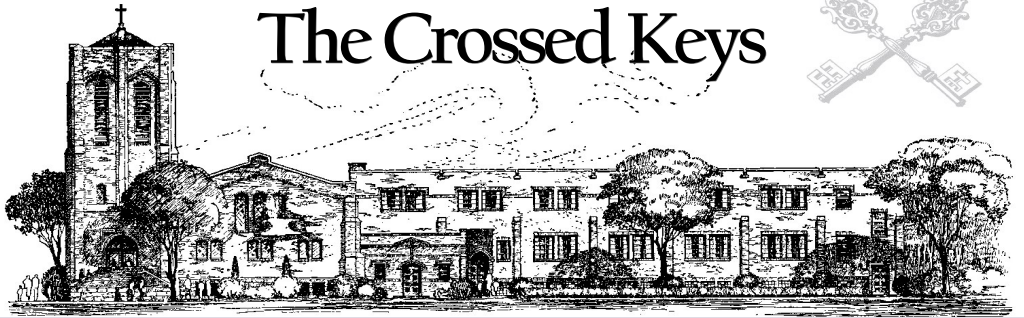


# The Crossed Keys



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



*A word from Fr. John Inserra*

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

Lent 2015 begins with Ash Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup> – services are at 12 noon and 6pm. It is hard to believe Lent is already here, it seems to have come quick. I am not going to spend any time trying to convince you to give something up (although I will not stop you if you'd like to) rather I would prefer you take something on. For 40 days could we possibly make room in our life for something extra to help bring us closer to God? In reality, nothing can do this better than prayer.

When a couple seeks marriage counseling one of the usual symptoms of a deteriorating marriage is lack of communication. It doesn't happen maliciously or even intentionally, it is just really easy to get lost in the business of life - problems at work, transporting the kids, making sure the bills are paid – that the couple stops communicating. The couple may still talk about things but they are all task oriented, did you take out the trash? Did you pick up the kids? Did you make sure the mortgage is paid? Gone are the days when they would share from the heart about hopes, dreams, and things they are passionate about. In short, they stop sharing themselves with their spouse.

The parallels to a living relationship with God are obvious. Often we get lost in life and our communication becomes quick little requests to God, and the sharing of our hearts and ourselves ends and the relationship suffers. We all want our church to grow and this can only really come from a deep and living relationship with God fostered by prayer. Every program, every endeavor will fall short if this is not the foundation. To this end I see this as the perfect opportunity to take Lent 2015 as an opportunity to focus on prayer in our soup suppers.

Schedule for each Wednesday

- 5:30pm – Stations of the Cross and prayer for St. Peter's
- 6:00pm – Dinner
- 6:30 – 7:10 pm – Study and Discussion

## **Soup Suppers 2015 – Digging deeper into Prayer**

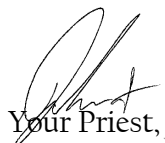
**Feb 25** - Session 1 – If God knows everything why do we pray? The point and purpose of prayer

**March 4** - Session 2 – What does Prayer look like in the Scriptures? Changing our ideas on what prayer needs to look like

**March 11** - Session 3 – How can we pray with the Scriptures? Using the Scriptures to help us pray.

**March 18** - Session 4 – How has the church prayed? Different styles of prayer from 2000 years of Christian tradition

**March 25** - Session 5 – What about the prayers we say together in church? Praying together with the Book of Common Prayer

  
Your Priest,

## Ambassadors for Christ

*15 He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.*

*16 So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! 17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*

*18 And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. 19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. 20 So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" 21 For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ." (2 Corinthians 5:15-21 NLT)*

Fr. John spoke about "fishing," the need for us to be reaching out into the community, before the annual meeting. I wanted to follow up on this over the next couple of months by unpacking this powerful passage from 2 Corinthians. Paul here uses the image of the ambassador to make clear our relationship to the world around us. There are three things this passage helps us think through as we engage in the process of fishing. Each one is revealed by a question: Who is the ambassador? Where is the ambassador? What is the ambassador's message? This month we'll look at question one.

Who is the ambassador? Sticking with the metaphor for a moment, an ambassador is someone sent from one country to live in another as an official representative of the first country. The purpose is to build relationships, understanding, and goodwill towards the sending country. The ambassador must be a *citizen* of the country that sends him and is usually selected because he or she models the values, perspectives, and policies of the sending country.

Paul calls us *Christ's* ambassadors. If we are to play this role well, we first need to be citizens of Christ's kingdom. We should note that no one is *born* a citizen of this particular kingdom--and yet all are invited to become so. See how Paul describes the transition this entails: it means going from living for self to living for Christ. It is a radical change, so much so that Paul can say "The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" The one who has gone through such a change has literally entered a glorious new country. When we make a discovery like that, we are naturally eager to tell others about it.

Let me suggest two lessons here for us. First, our identity as Christians is fundamentally as representatives of *Christ*, and only secondarily as representatives of St. Peter's. St. Peter's is, if you like, only one small town within the kingdom of Christ that has its significance only in relation to that larger whole. Second, just as an ambassador could hardly represent a country he didn't know, our role as ambassadors depends upon our own experience of new life in Jesus. People generally don't need another club to join, another activity to put on the calendar, or a new family tradition. People need the transformation of life that only Christ can bring, and before we can speak of this to others, we must know it ourselves.

### QPR- Suicide Prevention Training

On Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, a group of St. Peter's folks as well as other members of the community gathered in the parish hall to participate in a suicide prevention (QPR) training, led by Sydney Rowe, Community Prevention Professional. It was a fantastic morning of learning from this dynamic instructor, with participation from all the people gathered. Everyone came away with a clearer understanding of how to identify the indicators of suicide risk, and we learned concrete ways to begin the process of helping people in crisis.

Broaching the subject of suicide to a person at risk does not "give them ideas", but exactly the opposite. It is the most effective way to start them on the road to getting help. We lose more people in the US to suicide than to automobile accidents. Wyoming has one of the highest rates of suicide in the WORLD. For decades, the way most of us dealt with suicide was to sweep it under the rug. That isn't working! Talking frankly to a person in crisis, and getting them professional help does work. This training showed us how.

If you missed this program, but are interested, there will be another one coming up soon, so stay tuned. Thanks to Laura Galloway and Roberta Thompson for all your hard work!

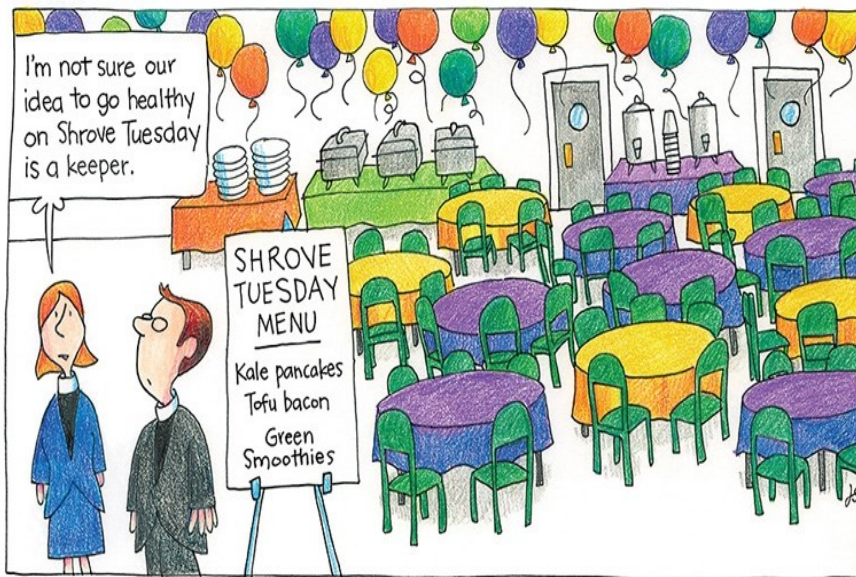
Sarah Mentock

# Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

On Shrove Tuesday, February 17, First Christian, First United Methodist, St. Peter's Episcopal and Trinity Lutheran Churches will join together for a Pancake Supper. Why pancakes? Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ritual shriving (to confess) of the faithful in preparation for the Lenten fast when they would abstain from eating, meat, butter, milk and eggs. To use up these "forbidden" foods, a last feast was held and the best way to use up these ingredients is to make and eat pancakes. Serving will begin in the First United Methodist dining room at 5:30 p.m. The Church is located at 215 West Works (the corner of West Works and Thurmond). A free will offering will be received.



**St. Peter's - Ash Wednesday Services:** will be held at 12 noon and 6:00 p.m. on February 18th. Lenten Soup Suppers begin on Wednesday, the 25th of February and will continue on the following dates: **March 4, 11, 18, 25th.** We welcome sign-ups for serving!!!!



## UP-COMING Services....

**Palm Sunday:** March 29 th  
(One service at 9:00 a.m.)

**Maundy Thursday:** April 2nd  
(6:00 p.m. service)

**Good Friday:** April 3rd  
(6:00 p.m. service)

**Easter:** April 5 th  
(8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Service)



**It's not too early to be thinking about your Easter Lily Memorials! Contact Vesta or the office!**

*Sr. Warden-Lynne Outland*

email: [garylynne@vcn.com](mailto:garyllynne@vcn.com) 752-1918

## **Vestry** New 2015 Members

Sr. Warden-Lynne Outland  
Jr. Warden-Liz Swanson  
Patrick Henderson  
Donna Kuehne  
Suzie Schatz-Benson  
Rick Thompson  
Billie Chapman  
Paul Haworth  
Holland Duell  
Karen Ferguson  
Phil Dorsch  
Dave Nicolarsen

## Convention Delegates for 2015

Sarah Mentock  
Sandy Tharaldson  
Rick Thompson

### **Alternates:**

Laura Galloway  
Maria Black  
Phil Dorsch  
Roberta Thompson  
Liz Swanson

"What wisdom can you find that is greater than kindness?"

Jean Jacques Rousseau

The ECHO Ministry: There are currently 31 members of St. Peter's who are willing to share in occasional tasks, in serving our parish.

Please feel free to utilize this ministry. The office is able to make that connection for you. Just let us know.

If you are interested in adding your name to the Echo Ministry, fill out the form that is inserted in your Sunday bulletin and return it in the offering plate.

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

### Operation Christmas Child:

For February Operation Christmas Child will be receiving Ivory Soap and wash rags. Ivory Soap floats so it is not easily lost in water. Place items in the Blue bucket in Parish Hall. Thank you for giving to this great cause!!!



The Women's Bible Study: The Good and Beautiful Community - Tuesdays, from 12 Noon to 1:00 p.m. (Held in the church library). No Child Care until summer.

## Birney, Montana Services

Feb. 22 - 3:00 p.m. (Beginning Lent)

March 29 - 3:00 p.m. (Reading of the Passions)

April 4 - 3:00 p.m. (Easter)

May 24—3:00 p.m. Feast of Pentecost (Bishop Brookhart's visit)

### LUNCH TOGETHER:

The volunteers for Lunch Together are serving the week of February 23-27. To those who are serving...Thank you for supporting this great outreach!

The Prayer Shawl Ministry: is putting out a request for prayer shawls and yarn donations. Prayer Shawls, once received, are prayed over and given to those who may be ill or in need of encouragement.

If you can assist in making shawls or donating yarn it is very much appreciated!



This is a special ministry that touches the hearts of each recipient.

Finished items may be brought to St. Peter's.

Please make sure the yarn is washable and dryable. Thank You!

"But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, self-control, against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23



## St. Peter's Ministry Schedule

February Vestry Greeter: Paul Haworth

	Lay Readers	LEM's	Ushers	Acolytes
February 1 4 Sunday after Epiphany	7:30 Forest & Sandy Asmus  10:00 Stan & Shari Peddicord	A: Juanita Smith B: Peggy Sorvik  C: Juanita Smith D: Donna Kuehne	Jodene & Robert Prusak  Mary Dailey Frank Smedley	Bobby St. John  Joe Eisenach Nate Haworth
February 8 5 Sunday after Epiphany	7:30 Laura Galloway  10:00 Mike & Mary Beth Evers	A: None B: Jeannene McKnight  C: Juanita Smith D: Donna Kuehne	Georgia & Frank Boley  Jim & Barbara Benepe	Bobby St. John  Joe Eisenach Maria Black
February 15 Last Sunday after Epiphany	7:30 Sharon Bedard  10:00 Darracott & Ann Vaughan	A: None B: Darracott Vaughan  C: Juanita Smith D: Peggy Sorvik	   Laura & Chris Galloway	Nate Haworth  Joe Eisenach Maya Fritz
February 22 1 Lent	7:30 Peter & Carol Clark  10:00 Paul Haworth Lee Helvey	A: None B: Donna Kuehne  C: Juanita Smith D: Donna Kuehne  Westview: Phil Dorsch	Christina Haworth Dorothy Goodwin  Frank Smedley Sherri Wheelock	Joe Eisenach  Quinn Heyneman Aria Heyneman

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

**(Ash Wednesday Services) February 18th:** 12:00 Noon Roberta Thompson ~ 6:00 pm: Laura Galloway

### Wednesday Noon Lent Services

**Feb. 25th:** Lee Helvery

**March 11th:** Mary Beth Evers

**March 25th:** Stan Peddicord

**March 4th:** Roberta Thompson

**March 18th:** Sandy Asmus

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



## Calendar Of Events February 2015

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 4 EPHIPANY 7:30 HE 10:00 HE	2 Handbell Practice 6:30 pm	3 10:00 HS 12:00 WBS 1:00 SRS	4 Women of St. Peter's council meeting 9:00am	5 Red Door 10-3 Choir 6:30 pm	6	7
8 5 EPHIPANY 7:30 HE 10:00 HE  No Potluck this month	9 Handbell Practice 6:30 pm	10 10:00 HS 12:00 WBS 1:00 SRS	11 St. Nick Crafters Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. ↓	13 Red Door 10-3 Choir 6:30 pm	13	14 Valentine's Day  
15 Last Sunday after Ehipany 7:30 HE 10:00 HE	16 Handbell Practice 6:30	17 10:00 HS 12:00 WBS 1:00 SRS	18  ASH WEDNESDAY Services 12 noon & 6PM	19 Red Door 10-3 Choir 6:30 pm	20	21
22 1 LENT 7:30 HE 10:00 HE	23 Handbell Practice 6:30	24 10:00 HS 12:00 WBS 1:00 SRS	25 Altar Guild Serving Lent Supper 6:00 PM	26 Red Door 10-3 Choir 6:30 pm	27	28

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 ~ 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 McKnight: Organist  
Kathy McNickle-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