

September 2017



The Crossed Keys

The Sabbath

One of my favorite topics in all the world is the sabbath. I could talk on it all day. I feel it's one of the most important and misunderstood ideas in all of Scripture. In honor of our upcoming women's retreat on the Sabbath I thought I could do a true or false on the Sabbath.

The Sabbath is a man-made thing – False. Remembering to keep the sabbath is a commandment of God, on par with “Do not kill” and “Do not steal.” Man has made rules about the sabbath, but the very idea is part of the creation story.

The Sabbath is something we still need today – True. All creation needs periods of rest, plant life, animals, and humans, to deny this is to act to our own detriment. Studies show how dangerous and harmful it is for humans to function without proper rest.

Jesus did not keep the Sabbath – False. Jesus did not keep the Sabbath in a way that the religious leaders of his time approved of. In his time, the religious leaders were very legalistic and made rules upon rules about what could be done on the Sabbath covering everything. In the Gospels, Jesus is accused of healing the sick on the Sabbath as his “breaking the Sabbath.” In the traditional manner of taking a day to honor God and rest, Jesus kept the Sabbath. In the legalism of his day, he did not.

The Sabbath is a thing from the 1950's (a simpler time) when stores were closed on Sundays – Kind of true. Yes, that was one way the Sabbath was observed as a society. The days of stores being closed on Sunday are mostly over, but that does not mean the Sabbath is still not vital to us.

The Sabbath needs to be on Sunday – False. The sabbath has traditionally been observed on Sundays as that is the day of the Lord's resurrection. The sabbath does not have to be, as it is about a period of time away from “work” to worship, rest and recharge. Many Christians living in Muslim countries celebrate the Sabbath on Friday as that is the day worship is allowed to take place. What is important is the principle of one 24 hour period of Sabbath per week.


I am too busy for the sabbath – False. You are busy, which is why you need a time of sabbath in your life. That is like saying I have too much driving to do so I have no time to get gas or I am so tired I cannot sleep. You know how ridiculous that sounds, when we are busiest is when we need the Sabbath most.

Continued on page 2....

The Sabbath is not just a time to refrain from manual labor but a time for reflection, gaining valuable perspective and spiritual renewal. Quite frankly it sounds hard for us as Americans to wrap our heads around Sabbath because we place our value in how much we do and how much we make. This is not God's intention to measure the value of a person. The Sabbath is an opportunity to step away from that narrative and rest, reminding us our value is found as a child of God, and our provision and blessing is from him.

I personally have found Sabbath to be one of the cornerstones of my spiritual life. I encourage you, especially if you are a woman in our congregation, to hear it out at the Women's Retreat and let Sabbath rest change your life.

Your priest,



John+

Life Planning Seminar

Dave Nicholarsen

St Peter's would like to welcome any parishioners that are interested to our first "Life Planning, a task for all ages" seminar to be held on October 24th at 7 PM in the down stairs conference room. We have put together a great team consisting of Fr. John, Christopher Sherwood and Kevin Kessner of St. Peter's who are attorneys with Yonkee Toner, and Carmen Rideout. This group will present a short seminar on Life Planning and what we need to think about to protect our loved ones no matter what age they are.

The Episcopal Church Foundation has developed a thorough booklet to guide us through the process of such things as naming guardians for young children and dependents, appointing trustees, designing your funeral, and deciding how to distribute your worldly goods.

We hope the session is informative and will assist our parishioners in taking these important steps. You will be able to ask questions and this program will help anyone in any stage of their life. If we can answer any questions about the seminar beforehand call Dave Nicolarsen at 751-7723 or Dan Alsup at 752-1280.

In Peace

Dave & Dan

Dr. John Milliken

“You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’ But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.” Matthew 5:21-22 (NLT)

Jesus here reminds us that murder is the external action that corresponds to internal attitudes of anger, contempt, and hatred. The real problem is one of the heart; murder is a symptom.

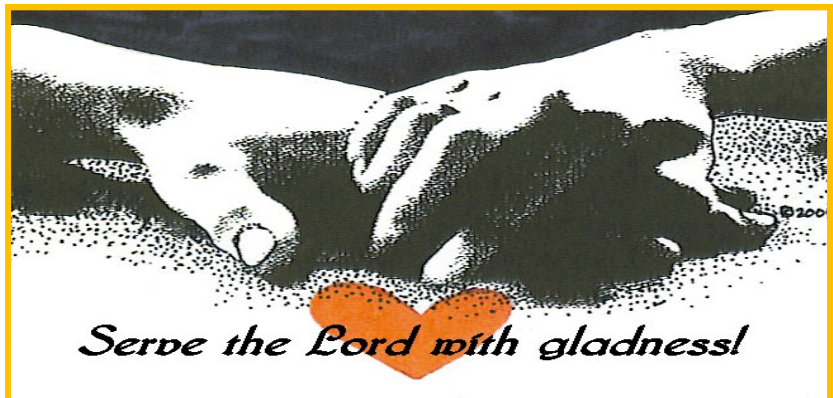
Our culture of late seems to be increasingly marked by these attitudes of the heart. That is troubling enough. But it also seems we are embracing the idea that these things are even virtuous, provided they are directed towards the proper people. There have been ripples of violence; much more is sure to come if we continue as a nation along this path.

As Christians, we are faced with a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is this: we need to search our hearts and resolutely turn away from anger, contempt, and hatred. Contempt is perhaps the most easily overlooked but, I would suggest, the most dangerous. It is the attitude that says of another person, “You are, either because of who you are, what you think, or what you have done, no longer worthy of respect, care, or compassion.” Once we have mentally placed another in this category, all manner of ill-treatment comes to seem justified, even morally demanded. Yet it is foundational to our faith that we understand ourselves to be broken, rebellious, sinners who have nevertheless been loved, redeemed, and remade by God. We were, indeed, not worthy of God’s love but he showered it upon us nevertheless. If you need reminding, reread the parable of the prodigal son (which, as Timothy Keller points out, is really the parable of the prodigal God). In turn, we are called to take this same approach towards others. There should be nothing another can be, say, think, or do that strips him of his dignity as an image-bearer of God or gives us leave to withhold our compassion or concern.

The opportunity is to take this challenge to heart and start to live it out as a witness to a culture stripped of grace. This means we need to think carefully about how we speak of others. Calling this or that person an “idiot,” or this or that group “stupid morons,” is to proclaim our contempt.

This means we should reflect upon what we nourish our hearts with. Watching political comedy shows that have contempt and derision as their theme and substance invites us to laugh at what Jesus sternly warns us against. Watching the talking heads tear into others and each other is probably equally unedifying. This means, finally, that we need to reflect upon what we do. Should we hold signs and shout slogans at others? Or should we look for practical ways to show love and concern for those we are tempted to scorn? Let us become those who would rather win our brothers and sisters than win our arguments.

ALTAR GUILD	LAY READERS	USHERS/Greeters	ACOLYTES
September 3	September 3	September 3	September 3
Linda St. Clair Sandy Tharaldson Shari Peddicord	7:30 Forrest & Sandy Asmus 10:00 Mike & Mary Beth Evers	7:30 Bill Courtney 10:00 John & Pam Standish Robert & Jodene Prusak	Nate Haworth
September 10	September 10	September 10	September 10
Ann Ernst Peggy Sorvik Georgia Boley	7:30 Sharon Bedard 10:00 Paul Haworth Christina Haworth	7:30 Vesta Gale 10:00 Rick & Liz Rossa Mary Dailey Karen Ferguson	Nate Haworth Maya Fritz
September 17	September 17	September 17	September 17
Karen Nicolarsen Jaynie Spell	7:30 Lois Hall 10:00 Anne Vaughan Lynne Outalnd	7:30 Donna Kuehne 10:00 Stan Peddicord Frank Smedley Cara Nicholls Dorothy Goodwin	Corey Hansford Bailee Mentock
September 24	September 24	September 24	September 24
Sandy Asmus Wendy Gale Maria Black	7:30 Laura Galloway 10:00 Linen Greenough Isabel Wallop	7:30 Roxanne Darnell 10:00 Sandy Tharaldson Gary & Lynne Outland Stan Peddicord	Corey Hansford Bailee Mentock



Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 13 Pentecost 7:30 HE I 9:00 SS 10:00 HE II	4 Labor Day Church offices Closed	5 Midweek Eucharist service 12:05 PM	6 Women's Council 9 am	7 Red Door 10-3 pm	8 Men's Retreat 6 PM Camp Story	9 Retreat Saturday through 1 PM
10 14 Pentecost 7:30 HE I 9:00 SS Education Room 10:00 HE II	11 NOTICE! Last chance to register for Ladies Retreat. <i>Register in the church office.</i>	12 Midweek Eucharist service 12:05 PM	13 St. Nick's Crafters 9 am Life of Moses Study 12:10 6:30 Men's Breakfast	14 Red Door 10-3 pm	15	16 Mug & Muffin 10:30-Noon
17 15 Pentecost 7:30 HE I 9:00 SS 10:00 HE II	18	19 Midweek Eucharist service 12:05 PM	20 St. Nick's Crafters 9 am Vestry 5:15 pm Life of Moses Study 12:10 <i>Financial Peace</i> 5:30-8 PM	21 Red Door 10-3 pm	22	23
24 16 Pentecost 7:30 HE I 9:00 SS 10:00 HE II West View: R. Thompson	25 Lunch Together Mon-Thurs	26 Midweek Eucharist service 12:05 PM	27 6:30 Men's Breakfast St. Nick's Crafters 9AM Life of Moses Study 12:10 <i>Financial Peace</i> 5:30-8 PM	28	29 Ladies Retreat 29th-30th	30 Contact: Jaunita Smith or Rachel Milliken For details.

Women's Retreat—September 29 & 30

Join us!

Location

The Barn in Big Horn, WY

Dates & Times

Friday— September 29th (5-9 p.m.)

Saturday— September 30th (9 a.m.-5 p.m.)

Schedule

Friday Evening

Dinner & study

(DVD) *Breathe*, by Priscilla Shirer

Saturday

Study, small group discussions, lunch, outreach project, time for fellowship & rest.

Registrations are to be in the church office by September 11th, along with your \$40.00 fee.

Scholarships are available for those who in need. A shuttle is also available who are unable to drive at night.

The Bible does call us to fear God -- but not because of his anger nearly so much as his love and friendship.

The Creator, who made the heavens and the earth, is so passionate about us that, in Christ, he went even to the cross to find us. This is no ordinary friend we've got. He's going to be hard to control. He's not going to tell us what we want to hear, show up only when we want him, or be just another ornament in our neatly ordered lives. This friend is going to confront us with the truth and go with us to places we don't want him to be. He's going to give us his own passion for things we would rather avoid.

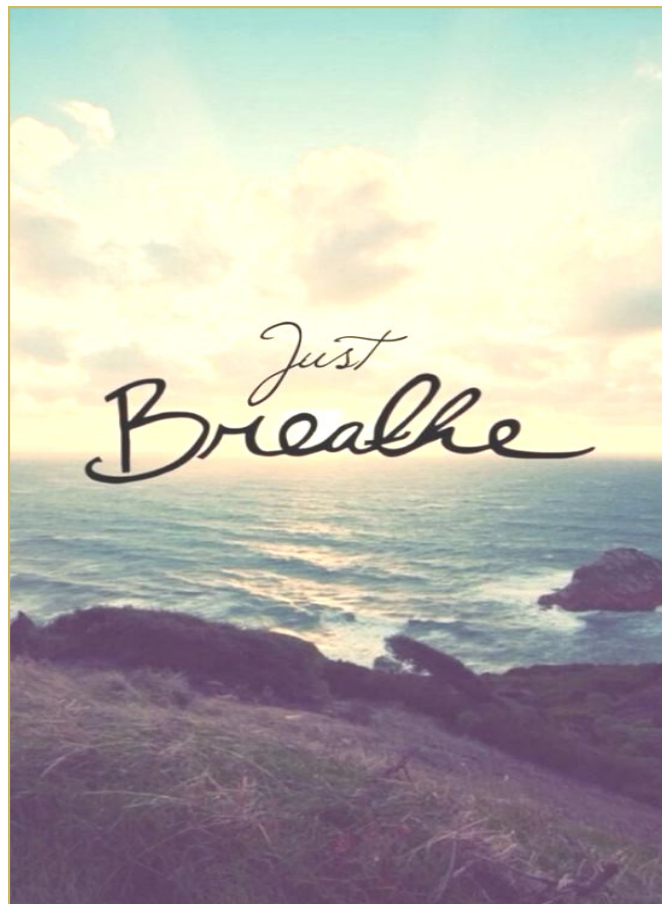
Hardest of all, God will enjoy us even when we're afraid we're not good enough to enjoy either him or ourselves.

Juanita Smith

From [An Extravagant Mercy](#) by M. Craig Barnes.

Psalm 25:14 The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him.

I'm struck by how many of us strive to serve God as if his strongest attribute is anger. Perhaps this is because in our childhood we were exposed to a vision of God the Father that stressed how much he has done for us and how little we have done for him. Falling short, we were told, makes Daddy very angry. This vision has the effect of making all our service little more than a codependent effort at appeasing a father who is never satisfied, no matter how good we are. So we continue to be afraid of our angry God even as adults.



An
Old-Fashioned
CHRISTMAS



September

ATTENTION: Booth Space Rentals Available.

The Women of St. Peter's are expanding opportunities to rent booths during the 2017 Christmas Bazaar.

"An Old-Fashioned Christmas"
Saturday, November 18.

We are looking for hand-crafted goods that do not compete with items sold in the Parish Hall.

The \$40.00 rental for a 12 X 10 foot booth space located in the Community Room includes an 8-foot table and 2 chairs.

For additional information and to make a reservation, contact Kathy Mc Nickle at 752-5745. (Some restrictions apply.)



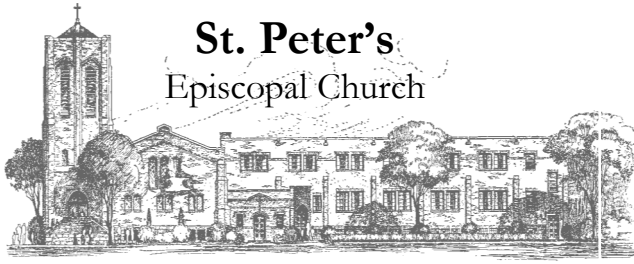
Sunday Coffee Hour is held at 9:00 a.m. in the church parish hall.

Everyone is invited.
It's a great time of fellowship!

If you are interested in hosting a Coffee Hour a sign-up sheet is provided in the parish hall near the kitchen entrance.

If anyone has an inspiring article; relevant/interesting facts; a short story/poem or testimonial, you may submit it to the church office for the Crossed Keys edition. Crossed Keys go out the 1st of each month. Submit by the 25th of the month. Thank you!

Email: karon@stpeterssheridan.com
Office: 674-7655



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

1 South Tschirgi Street
Sheridan, WY 82801
Phone: 307-674-7655

Email: stpeterssheridan@gmail.com

Visit our website at: www.stpeterssheridan.com



Contact Information

Fr. John Inserra: (763-3220)
Rector
frjohn@stpeterssheridan.com

Dr. John Milliken: (461-1924)
Assistant for Discipleship
drjohn@stpeterssheridan.com

Juanita Smith: (673-4928)
Deacon
keyes555@msn.com

Patrick Henderson: (461-0554)
Sr. Warden
phenderson@vcn.com

Robert Prusak: (737-2561)
Jr. Warden
robertp@rangeweb.net

Suzie Hills: (763-0525)
Music Coordinator
suzie.schatz@gmail.com

Kathy McNickle (752-5745)
Pianist
kathymcnickle@aol.com

Cathy Storm: (674-4565)
Pianist/Organist
cstorm@fiberpipe.net

Gail Boyer: (674-7655)
Parish Administrator
gail@stpeterssheridan.com

Karon Keahey: (674-7655)
Parish Secretary
karon@stpeterssheridan.com

Church Office Hours

9:00 am to 2:00 pm
(Monday - Friday)