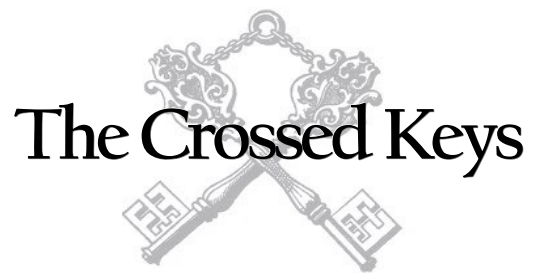




## St. Peter's Episcopal Church July 2015 Newsletter



**A word from Fr. John Inserra** • Email: frjohn@stpeterssheridan.com • Cell: 763-3220

### Steps in Becoming a More Welcoming Church

I appreciate how many of you reading this are faithful to St. Peter's and love this church. I appreciate your energy, your passion, and your devotion to this house of God. I try my best to hear and understand your concerns and I genuinely value your feedback. Please know that's my intention, and I can safely say that of the Vestry and staff, is always for the long term health and growth of St. Peter's.

Having said that, I'd like to explain why we have been and will be experimenting with bulletin changes over the summer months to produce a full bulletin that includes the liturgy.

#### 1) It helps newcomers and those not familiar with the liturgy follow along.

After talking with visitors, newcomers, and even people who have been here a little bit a common theme was emerging - They were getting lost in the liturgy and felt uncomfortable. I have mentioned before that one of the problem St. Peter's has experienced over my time is that visitors by and large were not coming back. Certainly there are several things that I can do better as a priest in this regard like being meticulous about follow up contacts. But that will not help someone feel more comfortable in the liturgy. There are several things we can do as a church as well – a full bulletin is probably the easiest way to address that.

2) **It gets us all on the same page.** Did you know that there are many customs unique to St. Peter's that many people, even those who are from other Episcopal churches, would not know? Two examples are standing during the Psalm and following it with a "Glory Be to the Father..." Having them spelled out puts us all on the same page, including visitors.

3) **It is what growing Episcopal churches do.** In an age where non-denominational churches project everything onto a giant screen, helping people follow along the liturgy is key. Liturgical churches have to work harder to help people participate. It is a statement that many of you will not want to hear but all the Episcopalians who know the Book of Common Prayer by heart in Sheridan are already at St. Peter's, we have exhausted that market. If we wish to bring new people to love our customs and traditions we have to make it easy to introduce them to it. Many of you have been to other churches and have seen this done and have brought the bulletins back to show me.

#### 4) **It's what will be happening in the future.**

I hate to say this, but the next Prayer Book revision (which is probably 9-12 years away) will most likely not be a book but an electronic resource for people to print or project on a large screen.

*Continued Pg... 2*

*Fr. John continued....*

The church is leaning in that direction. I am in no way saying this is what I personally want, but this is the way things are heading both within the church and outside of it.

Allow me to now counter two common criticism's I have heard.

**5) This is a waste of paper and resources.**

I appreciate the commitment to stewardship shown in this, but we have taken great care to not waste paper. The bulletin we were printing before was 8 pages (2 full sheets printed on front and back) and the current revision is 8 pages plus the 7:30 bulletin has been scaled down to 4 pages (1 full sheet printed front and back) so we are actually breaking even. Currently we use a service to print the readings and send them to us for between \$400-500 per year. If we print them on our own we eliminate the excessive reading choices and that cost only adding 1 extra sheet of paper to each bulletin.

**6) Having two bulletins is communicating we are two different churches.** I understand the dynamic between people from the 7:30 service not knowing people from the 10am service and vice versa. That happens at all churches with multiple services literally around the world (I say this because I remember talking to a priest from an Anglican church in Cairo, Egypt who complained about this very problem). I think it is unfair to blame this on the bulletin since it has been an issue long before I arrived and quite frankly, always

will be. The only way to overcome it is a commitment to fellowship (ex. a joint service on occasion, a fellowship meal) the part of both services.

I know change can be tough, but it is important we remember we are the people of God participating in the mission of God – which is bringing the Good News to all who are broken, hurt, and in darkness. In doing this we do not wish to compromise or abandon our traditions, but make it as easy as possible for others to participate in them. If we want people to share our love of liturgy and tradition, we have to make it easy for them to participate.

As always, I am happy to speak with any of you regarding your concerns over a cup of coffee anytime.

Your Priest

John+



\*\*\*\*\*

"I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go." Abraham Lincoln

*Submitted by Juanita Smith*

***Sr. Warden-Lynne Outland***  
***email: garyllynne@vcn.com***  
***Phone: 752-1918***

***Jr. Warden-Liz Swanson***  
***email: swanson238@bresnan.net***  
***Phone: 674-6662***



Two stories have featured prominently in the news in recent weeks. One is about Bruce Jenner, gracing the cover of *Vanity Fair* in his new incarnation as Caitlyn. The other concerns Rachel Dolezal, who has been passing herself off as black despite growing up as an ordinary white girl. How should we think about these kinds of cases?

Many in our culture appear inclined to celebrate, most unabashedly in the case of Jenner. And why not? These individuals have grabbed a hold--with undeniable earnestness--of a central passion of our time: the pursuit of freedom. An article in *People* had the headline, "Caitlyn Jenner Excited for Her 'Freedom'." It is worth pausing to ask, "What *is* freedom, anyway?"

A basic feature of human life is a tension between our desires and various constraints that get in their way. These come in many forms. Manners, for instance, may dictate that I need to listen and act like I'm interested when what I really want to do is walk away from a boring conversation. The law, to take another case, requires me to pay for goods and services when I'd rather have them for free. We find ourselves similarly constrained by moral norms, political institutions, family obligations, the laws of physics, etc. According to a dominant narrative in our culture, the past several hundred years have witnessed a string of victories over arbitrary constraints, issuing in an ever-increasing scope of freedom for the individual. The examples with which I began represent another move in this direction, showing us that we need not let biology hold us back from the attainment of our desires. For our culture, true freedom is the lack of obstacles to the fulfillment of desire, or, as we often like to put it, the expression of our authentic selves.

The basic idea in all this, then, is that when there is a tension between our desires and external constraints, the constraints are the problem and need to be overcome. It is this act of overcoming in which freedom consists.

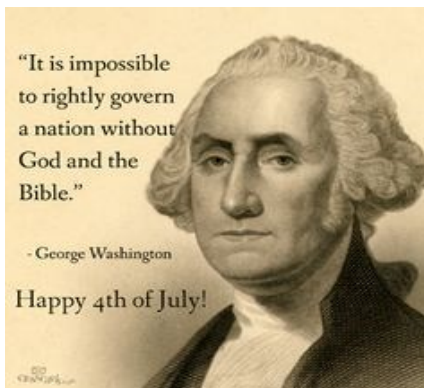
But there is another way to view this tension. Maybe the problem isn't with the constraint but with my desires? Indeed, scripture shows us that this is often the case. What we are apt to call our "authentic selves," our natural desires, passions, opinions, and goals, are corrupt.

*Continued pg ...5*

# St. Peter's Information, Events, & Activities for July 2015

## Vestry 2015

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



### ON-LINE DIRECTORY



If you are interested in having your contact information in the new On-Line Church Directory contact...  
Sandy Tharaldson at  
[stharaldson@yahoo.com](mailto:stharaldson@yahoo.com)  
Thank you!

### Planting Seeds of Hope and Faith

*Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces,  
I would still plant my apple tree. Martin Luther*

Planting seeds for future fruit is both an act of hope and an expression of faith. We plant in hope that the small seeds will one day produce a tree whose fruit will bless future generations. We plant in faith by entrusting those who follow us to nurture our tree, harvest the fruit properly and use it for the best purposes. Making a planned gift to our church is a similar undertaking. A planned gift is a seed whose promised fruit will support the church well beyond your lifetime.

Planned giving is often part of an overall estate plan to distribute your assets and possessions to the people and causes most dear to you. Planned gifts come in several forms. The simplest planned gift is to make a bequest to the church in your will. Other options, such as charitable gift annuities through the Episcopal Church Foundation, provide a guaranteed income for life and substantial tax savings. Planned gifts are funded from accumulated assets of your lifetime.

When you make a planned gift to the church, it typically does not impact your current income. In fact, there are several types of life-income gifts that can actually supplement your income for the rest of your life. Planned gifts are generally used to foster the long-term health of the church. These gifts empower ministry beyond what is possible through annual operating funds. They provide future parishioners with the means to continue to worship, learn, and serve the community and the world as we have been blessed to do. Planned giving is a powerful opportunity to ensure your most sacred values and commitments are part of your legacy. Your planned gift represents your hope for the future mission of our church and your faith in generations to come.

For the free booklet, *Planned Giving*, please complete this form and return it to the church office or contact St. Peter's Planned Giving at [307-674-7655](tel:307-674-7655) or [stpeterssheridan@gmail.com](mailto:stpeterssheridan@gmail.com).

Thanks for your continued support and involvement in St. Peter's.

Dave Nicolarsen-Vestry

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



*Ministry Schedule ~ July's Greeter ~ Dave Nicolarsen*

PENTECOST	July 5th	July 12th	July 19th	July 26th
LEMS	A: J. Smith B: J. McKnight C: J. Smith D: D. Kuehne	A: J. Smith B: D. Vaughan C: J. Smith D: D. Kuehne	A: J. Smith B: J. McKnight C: J. Smith D: P. Sorvik	A: J. Smith B: P. Dorsch C: J. Smith D: D. Kuehne
LAY READERS	7:30 - Asmus 10:00 - Evers	7:30 - Galloway 10:00 - Vaughan	7:30 - Bedard 10:00 - Helvey P. Haworth	7:30 - Clark 10:00 - Outland Dorsch
ACOLYTES	Joe Eisenach Bobby St. John Maya Fritz	Joe Eisenach Kate Alsup Lannan Alsup	Joe Eisenach Nate Haworth Maya Fritz	Joe Eisenach Aria Heyneman Quinn Heyneman
USHERS	Smedley Goodwin Ferguson	Benepe Dailey Boley	C.Haworth Nicholls Prusak	Rossa Stopka S. Tharaldson

**For any questions or changes contact ~ Juanita Smith at 673-4928**      *West View: Roberta Thompson*

*Dr. John from page ...3*

Jesus uses many different images to get at this central truth: we are *lost*, we are *blind*, we are *sinners*.

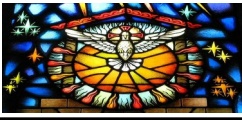
Following the path to which our natural self is most inclined is the road to death, not freedom. The culture says: bring the constraints in line with your desires. Scripture says: bring your desires in line with God's good constraints. True freedom means living a life in accordance with what God says is good.

Here's the problem, though. The desires of our natural selves chafe against the life Jesus says is best. We don't naturally love God above all else, or love others before ourselves, or love our enemies, or refuse to retaliate. What to do? Jesus puts it plainly: we must be born again. We need a spiritual transformation of our hearts so dramatic that it is like a totally new life has begun. We cannot bring about this change; only God can by his Spirit.

There are before us, then, two different paths. We can choose to bend the truth about what is good to fit our natural desires, or we can invite God to change our natural desires to fit what he says is good. The latter means, as Jesus put it, dying to self. Paradoxically, that's the only place true freedom is to be found.




In July, OCC will be receiving small plush toy animals: teddy bears, puppies, kittens ... also bouncy balls, whiffle balls, tennis balls. You may place your OCC items in the Blue Bucket in the Parish Hall. Blessings!



# Calendar Of Events for July 2015

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 St. Nick's Crafters 9:00 AM	2 Red Door 10-3	3 Independence Day-Observed Offices Closed	4 
5 7:30 HE 10:00 HE Patriotic Sunday & BBQ!!!! <b>6 Pentecost</b>	6	7 10:00 HS 1:00 SRS	8 St. Nick's Crafters 9:00 AM	9 Red Door 10-3	10 <b>Sheridan Rodeo Parade</b> 10:00 a.m.	11
12 7:30 HE 10:00 HE <b>7 Pentecost</b>	13	14 10:00 HS 1:00 SRS	15 <b>St. Nick's Crafters</b> 9:00 AM <b>Discipleship Training</b> July 15-16 5:30-8:30 PM Snacks served in Parish Hall <b>Juanita Smith</b>	16 Red Door 10-3 <b>Discipleship Training Continued....</b> July 15-16 5:30-8:30 PM Snacks served.	17	18
19 7:30 HE 10:00 HE <b>8 Pentecost</b>	20	21 10:00 HS 1:00 SRS	22 St. Nick's Crafters 9:00 AM	23 Red Door 10-3	24	25
26 7:30 HE 10:00 HE <b>9 Pentecost</b>	27	28 10:00 HS 1:00 SRS	29 St. Nick's Crafters 9:00 AM	30 Red Door 10-3	31	

## July Birthdays!!!

3 John Gale  
4 DuAnne Diers  
Leta Milner  
5 Sharon Bedard  
Bill Campbell  
6 Ginger Stout  
9 Gary Outland  
11 Mike Board  
Cathleen Armbrula  
Ann Ernst

12 Jessie Odom  
13 Cara Nicholls  
Cole Gustafson  
15 Tom Belus  
16 Steve Bachel  
18 Henry Craft  
Tristan King  
Phil Dorsch  
19 Milo Kaminsky  
21 Mary Burgess  
22 Sarah Campbell  
Katherine Campbell  
Zachary Campbell  
24 Juanita Smith

25 Rick Badgett  
Carol Clark  
Sophia Calkins  
26 Frank Smedley  
28 Courtney Wallach  
29 Virginia Connor  
Mary Beth Evers  
30 Anthony Mediate  
Mildred Carroll  
Shelly Gustafson  
31 Bailee Mentock

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Join us!!!



Sunday, July 5th  
10:00 a.m.

# St. Peter's Episcopal Church

★ Patriotic Sunday ★

All veterans, active duty personnel and their families  
are invited to worship with us  
and be recognized for your service to our country

Please be our honored guests  
at a BBQ celebration following the service



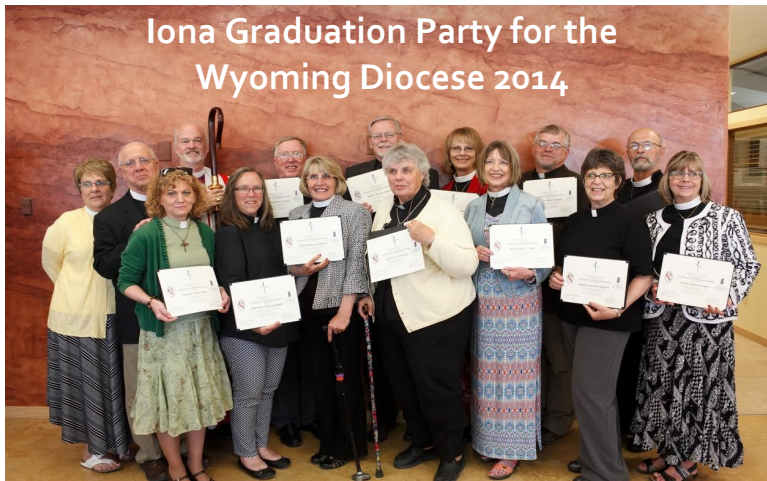
St. Peter's is located on the corner of West Loucks and Tschirgi

God Bless  
America



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

2015  
*July*



*Juanita Smith* ~ Congratulations for your hard work, passion & commitment to God, our community and St. Peters!

St. Peter's Office Hours ~ 9:00 am to 2:00 pm  
 (Monday - Friday) Office Phone: 674-7655

**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.stpeterssheridan.com>

**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

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