

May 2017



The Crossed Keys

For I was a stranger and you welcomed me....

Matthew 25:35

The above line is taken from the words of Jesus as he describes something of the dialogue that occurs at his return. In it he is rewarding those who are blessed for all that they have done for him, he lists those things: when he was sick they cared for him, when he was naked they clothed him, when he was a stranger they welcomed him, etc. The story ends with a famous question and answer as the people ask him “When did we do this for you Lord?” And Jesus responds “Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.”

One of the things I enjoy so much about being your priest is when you get excited about St. Peter's. Lately I have noticed many of you getting excited about what is happening here, and the new life we are being blessed with. Perhaps some of you might wonder why? First off, we give God all the glory for that, but I also want to emphasize how important it is when we become intentional about doing what he asks us. I have the privilege of being able to visit with most of our new people and ask that very question of “Why?” Do you want to know what the number one answer (by far) that I hear? It's “I was made to feel so welcome.”

It seems like such a small thing to say “Hello” and “Welcome” to a face you have never seen before, or to ask someone their name and say, “I am glad you are here” but it makes all the difference in the world. Repeatedly as I talk with people who have recently come to St. Peter's I hear them speak of the welcome and warmth of the church as the reason they returned.

Sociologists and people who study these things say the magic number is 7. It takes seven people knowing your name, and you knowing seven people's names to feel like you belong in a group. So when people comment that they feel welcomed and they feel they belong, it is because many of you are doing it. I could not be more proud, thankful, or encouraged by this and I write this so that you know how much it has mattered to so many.

Please continue to be intentional about this and look around the next time you are in church and if you see a new face you do not know, introduce yourself and welcome them. No one has yet to complain to me that they felt “too welcomed” or “too many people were nice to me.” I promise I will let you know if that becomes a problem. But in the meantime, keep sharing the love and warmth of Christ in your welcome to those who walk in our door, as it makes a huge difference to all who enter and means a great deal to our Lord himself.

Travel plans for May – As many of you know, our travel plans were cancelled earlier this year due to my father's death. We are going to try again, this time going to Seattle and Vancouver. It will be our first trip in the Northwest region. We have some family in Seattle we will stay with and we will catch up with some friends as well. I will spend some time in Vancouver working on my Continuing Education at Regent College taking a seminar on “Difficulties in the Old Testament: Violence, War, Sex and Creation vs. Evolution.” We will be gone May 16-28 and you will be in capable hands while we are away.

John+

Recently, I had to unclog the drain in my bathroom sink. Maybe you've done that; it isn't pretty to behold what gathers in the trap and slows the escaping water to a trickle. After the unpleasant task of clearing away the obstruction, the water could flow freely again. Sometimes the "drain" of our connection with God gets clogged, too, and it seems like the water isn't moving. You probably already know the problem in this case isn't hair. What is it?

I don't want to oversimplify, for there can be various reasons for a feeling of disconnection with God. But there are two that are especially common and especially effective at gumming up the works. These are disobedience and unforgiveness.

Jesus told us the most important command was to love God with all our heart, soul, and strength. In the end of John's gospel, as Jesus is speaking with his disciples at the last supper, he says, "If you love me, you will obey what I command." (John 14:15) Our love for God is expressed in an attitude of willingness to do what he asks us. It is important to note that we do this not to earn God's love or favor, but out of gratitude that he has given us his love and favor. Sometimes a distance opens up between us and God because our attitude has slipped in this area, and we are resisting what he is asking of us. Or it may be that we have simply been indifferent, not bothering to engage with scripture and prayer to find out what he is asking of us. In both cases the way to unclog the drain is to turn from resistance or indifference to obedience.

Then there's unforgiveness. Every Sunday, in the Lord's Prayer, we say, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." What Jesus tells us here and elsewhere is that there is an important connection between God's forgiveness of us and ours of others. What does the spirit of unforgiveness say? "I can't forgive; they do not deserve it. What they did is inexcusable." And yet for each of us our own sin is inexcusable and we do not deserve God's forgiveness. Yet he forgives us. He requires that we extend that same grace towards others. (See the parable of the unmerciful servant, Matthew 18:21-35.)

I invite you to take some time alone with God and ask him to search your heart. Do you need to yield? Do you need to forgive? As you do so, you will find the way opened to fresh fellowship with God. (Just in case this thought is in your head: "I don't need to forgive so and so; I've gotten over it," know that getting over a hurt and forgiving it aren't the same thing. We are asked to forgive.)

Dr. John Milliken
Assistant for Discipleship





Ministry Schedule-May 2017



ALTAR GUILD	LAY READERS	USHERS	ACOLYTES
Psalm 100: 2 "Serve the Lord with gladness, come before his presence with singing."			
MAY 7	MAY 7	MAY 7	MAY 7
Debbie Ebia Karen Ferguson DuAnne Diers	7:30 Forrest & Sandy Asmus 10:00 Holland Duell Lynne Outland	7:30 Steve & Jane Jennings 10:00 Frank & Georgia Boley Anne Vaughan	Bobby St. John Maria Black
MAY 14	MAY 14	MAY 14	MAY 14
Sally Labore Liz Swanson Carmen Rideout	7:30 Peter & Carol Clark 10:00 Roberta Thompson Anne Vaughan	7:30 Janet Holcomb 10:00 Sandy Tharaldson Cara Nicholls Rick & Liz Rossa	Nate Haworth Maya Fritz
MAY 21	MAY 21	MAY 21	MAY 21
Theo Powers Cara Nicholls Tina Mediate	7:30 Sharon Bedard 10:00 Lynne Outland Isabel Wallop	7:30 Lois Hall 10:00 Frank Smedley Dorothy Goodwin Robert & Jodene Prusak	Bailee Mentock Corey Hansford
MAY 28	MAY 28	MAY 28	MAY 28
Linda St. Clair Sandy Tharaldson Shari Peddicord	7:30 Holland Duell 10:00 Paul & Christina Haworth	7:30 Bill Courtney 10:00 John Standish Stan & Shari Peddicord Frank Smedley	Kate Alsup Nate Haworth

Westview: Last Sunday in May
LEM: Phil Dorsch

Never let the things
you **WANT**
make you forget
the things
you **HAVE.**
www.liveinspirednow.com

Rememberingand giving thanks for what I have.

Psalm 103:2 My soul, praise the LORD, and do not forget all His benefits.

Jesus offered up prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears. Hebrews 5:7

Often when we are having hard times, someone will say, "I'll pray for you." We always respond by saying, "Thanks." We may not know what those prayers will accomplish, but we do appreciate the effort.

What if it were Jesus Christ who offered to pray for you? How would you react then? My guess is that you would respond with something stronger than, "Thanks." Maybe it would be more along the lines of, "Really?" And you would expect those prayers to be answered because, after all, you would have the Son of God praying for you now. Yet you might want to listen in on what Jesus is saying when he prays for you. Nowhere in the Bible are we told that Jesus will ask God to prevent us from having hard times. What we are told is that he will forgive our sins and bring us home to his Father.

The author of Hebrews claims that Jesus is our Great High Priest. Like a priest, Jesus hears our confession and grants absolution. Yet priests don't change our circumstances. What they change is our relationship to God. When it comes to that, Jesus prays "with loud cries and tears." Once you are in the right relationship with God, you no longer will allow the hard times to define you. You will still have them, but you just won't value them so much.

-M. Craig Barnes, An Extravagant Mercy

Submitted by Deacon Juanita Smith

**Church
Office Hours**

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

*For ministry
schedule changes contact*

*Juanita Smith at
673-4928*

You may not *understand*
today or tomorrow, but
eventually God will
Reveal
why you went through
everything you did.

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Calendar of Events

May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
HE: Holy Eucharist I	SS: Sunday School	HE: Holy Eucharist II	SRS: Sugarland Ridge			
	1	2	3 Women's Council 9 am	4 Red Door 10-3 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm	5 Violet Show 10-6 pm 	6 Violet Show 9-2 pm 
7 4 Easter 7:30 HE I 9:00 SS 10:00 HE II	8	9	10 Men's Breakfast 6:30 am St. Nick's Crafters	11 Red Door 10-3 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm	12	13 Ladies & Friends Join us for Mug & Muffins from 10-11:30 am in St. Peter's parish hall.
14 5 Easter 7:30 HE I 9:00 SS 10:00 HE II Happy Mother's Day!	15	16	17 St. Nick's Crafters Vestry 5:15 pm	18 Red Door 10-3 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm	19	20
21 6 Easter 7:30 HE I 9:00 SS 10:00 HE II	22	23	24 Men's Breakfast 6:30 am	25 Red Door 10-3 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm	26	27
LUNCH TOGETHER (22-25)						
28 7 Easter Ascension Day 7:30 HE I 9:00 SS 10:00 HE II 1:00 SRS	29 Offices Closed 	30	31			



- 05/02 Connie Zemple
- 05/03 Dan Alsup
- 05/03 Anna Calkins
- 05/03 Cutter Fletcher
- 05/04 Jane Rader
- 05/04 Mary Obermiller
- 05/04 Michael Roe
- 05/05 Dick Shelton
- 05/05 Jessie Chapman
- 05/06 Stephen Campbell
- 05/06 Douglas Enloe
- 05/06 Gustav Kaminsky
- 05/06 Charlie Gibbons
- 05/07 Lynn Gordon
- 05/08 Grace Henderson
- 05/08 J.T. Craft
- 05/09 John Heyneman
- 05/09 Dan Berens
- 05/12 Mike Evers
- 05/14 Melanie Townsend
- 05/14 Calvin Eisenach
- 05/15 Bill Ferguson
- 05/16 Brody Dominguez
- 05/17 Debbie Iverson
- 05/17 Grant Isakson
- 05/18 Jack Sorvik
- 05/19 Billie Chapman
- 05/20 Taylor Crosby
- 05/20 Diane Wimmer
- 05/20 Paul Haworth
- 05/21 Amy Smedley
- 05/22 Rick Wallach
- 05/23 Daniel Mediate
- 05/23 Augustin Gibbons-Pelayo
- 05/24 Forrest Asmus
- 05/27 Scott Bentzen
- 05/29 Steve Jennings
- 05/29 Gina Thoney

The Crossed Keys



If anyone has special news, an article, short story or testimonial to share in the Crossed Keys, please submit it to the church office at the email below.

Poems and informal items are also welcome. Any submissions must be in given by the last week of each month.

karon@stpeterssheridan.com



ATTENTION: Booth Space Rentals Available.

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

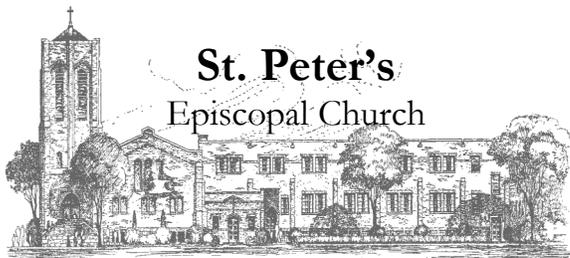
"An Old-Fashioned Christmas"
Saturday, November 18.

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.)



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

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Visit our website at: www.stpeterssheridan.com



2017



