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 Sheridan, WY 82801

# The Crossed Keys

## September 2015



I hope you all had a wonderful Sheridan summer. Fall is upon us, and I wanted to use this space to offer a look ahead at what is coming in the next several months.

### September/October

**What on Earth Am I Here For? A study on God's purpose for you.** Beginning September 13<sup>th</sup> we will have a 6 week sermon series and study on the bestselling book by Rick Warren. It is the best selling non-fiction hardback in history. The focus on the book is discovering the purpose God made you for. It is an easy 40 day read. Copies are available at the church for \$11 if you wish to get one here, or you can get one in kindle or e-book format.

Discussion groups will meet:

- Sunday at 9am
- Wednesdays at 5:30pm
- Friday lunch hour at 12 noon

**Samuel Carabetta Organ Concert** - Also in October we will have a special treat for the parish as nationally renowned organist Sam Carabetta comes to St. Peter's to perform an organ concert on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Sam is the organist for St. John's Episcopal Church in the Georgetown area of Washington D.C. Sam has played here before and we are very much looking forward to him being with us again.

### November/December

**Baptismal Covenant Study** - Our study for November/December will surround the Baptismal Covenant. It will be an opportunity for inquirers to learn more about the Episcopal Church, for those seeking sacramental rites like Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation when the Bishop comes (more on that in a second) to prepare, and those who are longtime Christians to freshen up. We will spend 6 weeks from Nov. 1- Dec. 6 on the promises made and the incredible significance they hold. Study group will meet at 9am Sunday and a weeknight to be determined.

**Christmas Bazaar** – November brings with it our annual bazaar. More information on this in the coming weeks but help is always appreciated.

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**D**r. John Milliken-Family Minister  
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There are two truths of the Christian life that are very simple but easy to miss. They are not trivial, however; they make a great difference in the nature and fruitfulness of our faith. The first is this: being a Christian not primarily about accepting a set of beliefs or about performing particular religious exercises or following moral rules. Instead, it is about being in a relationship with God through Jesus. The second truth is that the Christian life is not a matter of trying to live a life like Jesus, having been inspired by his example. Instead, it is about Jesus himself living in us and through us. These two truths are intimately related. As we draw near to God in relationship his life spills over into our own, and from us into the lives of those around us. It is entirely possible for a person to hold correct doctrine, to faithfully attend church, and to follow all the moral rules while still having a cold, prideful, selfish heart that is far from God. On the other hand, intimacy with God cannot fail to transform a heart into one of love, humility, and generosity.

Intimacy with God, then, ought to be the central pursuit of the Christian life. In at least one respect, our relationship with God is like any other relationship: intimacy comes through spending time together. The primary means of this sort of communion with God is prayer. We should not expect to make much progress in knowing God unless we are willing to invest time and effort in prayer.

I will be the first to admit this isn't easy. Prayer is often dry, boring, and seemingly unproductive. We like instant gratification and positive feedback, and prayer often offers neither. I am presently reading a book by Timothy Keller on prayer and I noted an interesting claim he made in the beginning chapter. After explaining that he found his prayer life lacking he described some changes he made in an effort to deepen it. He then goes on to note that, "The changes took some time to bear fruit, but after sustaining these practices for about two years, I began to have some breakthroughs." He is talking about a time of morning and evening prayer, daily, for two years, before he really began to see fruit. That's daunting, but honest.

Is it worth the effort, then? A little bit later Keller summarizes the benefits of prayer this way: "Prayer is the only entryway into genuine self-knowledge. It is also the main way we experience deep change—the reordering of our loves. Prayer is how God gives us so many of the unimaginable things he has for us. Indeed, prayer makes it safe for God to give us many of the things we most desire. It is the way we know God, the way we finally treat God *as* God. Prayer is simply the key to everything we need to do and be in life." That's a bold claim, but I think he's right. Wherever you presently are in your own life of prayer I encourage you to consider how you might more deeply enter into communion with God. Do not expect results tomorrow, but *do* expect results. No investment of time could be more worthwhile than that invested in intimacy with God.

## Church and Community Information



# Walk to Fight Suicide

## Out of the Darkness Community Walks

Suicide prevention starts with everyday heroes like you. You'll raise money for critical research and prevention programs, and show your community that you support a culture that's smart about mental health.

### Sheridan Wyoming Out of Darkness Community Walk

**Location:** Whitney Commons Park Plaza (Paul St., Sheridan, WY)

**Date:** Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**Time:** Register 9am, Walk 10am–12pm, Food/Music 12-2pm

**Contacts:** Anne Quast & Wendy Brusco

**Emails:** [aquast@pmowyo.org](mailto:aquast@pmowyo.org) or [wbruso@pmowyo.org](mailto:wbruso@pmowyo.org)

**Website:** [afsp.donordrive.com/event/wyoming](http://afsp.donordrive.com/event/wyoming)



AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR  
Suicide Prevention

[afsp.org/walk](http://afsp.org/walk)

**WALK. VOLUNTEER. DONATE.**

**QPR Suicide Prevention Training** is a training that anyone, in any field or walk of life, can take to learn to help save a life from suicide. **QPR** stands for **Question, Persuade, and Refer** - these are three easy steps that anyone can learn to help prevent suicide. Just as anyone in our community can be trained in CPR to help a person in medical need get to the professional help they need, QPR trains anyone in our community to help a person who is struggling with mental or emotional needs to get the professional help they need. Just as no one trained in CPR is expected to then perform open heart surgery, no one trained in QPR suicide prevention training is expected to become a mental health professional. However, those trained in QPR Suicide Prevention will be able to help save lives because

they will learn to: recognize the warning signs of suicide, know how to offer hope, and know how to get professional help to save a life. In QPR, the general public is educated about the known warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to respond: expressions of hopelessness, depression, giving away prized possessions, talking of suicide, or securing lethal means. As Wyoming communities, we need to approach the issue of suicide prevention in the same way - ensuring that individuals throughout our community are trained in recognizing and referring those at risk of suicide.

Because suicides happen in families - where emergency interventions are more likely to take place - we believe that **AT LEAST ONE PERSON PER FAMILY UNIT** should be trained in QPR. The training is free and open to the public, and we hope you will join us. Please be trained in suicide prevention - for your family, for your faith community, for your neighbors, and for your co-workers.

Kind Regards to all!

Community Prevention Professional

Prevention Management Organization of  
Wyoming, Sheridan County Office

[307.655.8263](tel:307.655.8263) office | [307.760.6272](tel:307.760.6272) cell

[wbruso@pmowyo.org](mailto:wbruso@pmowyo.org) | <http://www.pmowyo.org>

23 N Scott St Suite 25, Sheridan WY 82801



Wendy Brusco, MS



## QPR Training:

*St. Peter's will be hosting 2-QPR Trainings*  
*Thursday, Sept. 24 from 11am-1pm*  
*Saturday, Sept. 26 from 9-11*  
*Both sessions will be held in the*  
*St. Peter's Parish Hall.*  
*Everyone is welcome!*

**The ECHO Ministry:** There are currently 32 members of St. Peter's who are willing to share in occasional tasks which is designed to serve members in our parish (from running errands, to small household chores /repairs etc). Please feel free to utilize this ministry. The office is able to make that connection for you. If you are interested in adding your name to the Echo Ministry, you may contact the church office. 674-7655

...Episcopalians Connect by Helping Others



The United Thank Offering... is a personal and family devotional program of the Episcopal Church.

UTO represents our daily thanks for the blessing in our everyday lives — for good weather, happy times, job opportunity, and unexpected visits— there are so many things for which we can be thankful. At the very least, we can be thankful to God for blessings and take action by putting coins in the Blue Box. Twice a year we are asked to bring the amount of our daily thanksgiving for an ingathering, where it is combined with the offerings of hundreds of thousands of other Episcopalians to become the United Thank Offering.

***St. Peter's ingathering day will be Sunday, November 1, Boxes are available on the Parish Hall book case.***



**Handbells  
& Choir  
Members...**

**September 14 - Handbell practice begins at 6:30 pm, in the basement. (Mondays)**

**September 3 - Choir practice begins at 6:30 pm, in the parish hall. (Thursdays)**

### **September 2015 Operation Christmas Child**

We will be receiving: Pens, Pencils, Erasers, Crayons, Markers, Safety Scissors, Note Pads, Rulers & Coloring Books.

Thank you for your support towards this ministry!



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) or the church office at [stpetersheridan.com](http://stpetersheridan.com).

Thank you!



## Members

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

### The Price of Christian Division

I hope you will oblige me as I use this space to discuss something that has been on my mind for years: the division among Christians.

On the night before he died, Jesus prayed in the garden. He prayed for his disciples and he prayed for those who would believe through them and his prayer was that we would be one. His prayer follows this line of reasoning – Jesus and the Father are one, he prays his followers would be united with him and one another – and this unity would be a witness to the world that Jesus truly is the Messiah. (See John 17:17-21, if you don’t want to take my word for it.) Protestants generally have viewed this as saying there is an invisible unity between believers, and I say this is a cop out. I say this fully aware of the irony that I am an Episcopal priest who is part of a church that began with Henry VIII’s division from the Roman Catholic Church. Nevertheless, Jesus does not pray for invisible unity that only he can see, quite the opposite, he prays for a unity the world can see and marvel at.

Is it any wonder as we fracture further into division and the unity of Christians becomes harder and harder to see that the Christian witness in the Western world is so weak? The United States is still the largest Christian nation in the world, at least until 2030, when data suggests we will be passed by China--yes, communist China.

So why as the largest Christian nation in the world does the Christian faith seem to be banished from the public square, ridiculed by media, and a taboo subject in most conversations?

Many analysts will offer reasons, but I give you one clear reason drawn from the prayer of Jesus. If our unity is a sign to the world that Jesus is the Messiah, then our division weakens that message. Divide over and over again and we dilute our witness more and more. Divide 33, 820 times (the number of different Christian denominations worldwide according to the World Christian Encyclopedia) and our witness to the world becomes “Christians don’t even know what they are talking about.” This is a problem.

As American Christians we have dropped the ball and let division dilute our witness and the voice of the church has become weak. Perhaps we can use this predicament as an opportunity to see things anew, and leave behind the church battles of 500 years ago, or even 15 years ago, and view ourselves as one church and work towards visible signs of that. I am cynical enough to not expect this to happen from the top down, but if we are to take the words of our Lord seriously in the prayer before he dies, shouldn’t we at least try from the bottom up? Almost anything would be better than 33, 820 divisions we have tried thus far.



Your study book is here.

You may pick it up in the church office!

\$11.00 each

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**Instructed Eucharist Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>** – Did you ever wonder why we do some of the things we do in liturgy. On Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> there will be no sermon (stop cheering) and in place we will have an instructed Eucharist with narration of the major parts of the service. The “why” will be explained while we are in the midst of worship.

**Bishop Smylie’s Annual Visitation Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>** – We will have the Bishop’s annual visitation on Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup>. By request of the Bishop there will be one service at 9am. The Bishop will meet with the Vestry on Saturday December 12<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting. More on details of the Bishop’s visit next month.



## St. Peter’s Ministry Schedule

SEPTEMBER’S GREETER ~ *Paul Haworth*

PENTECOST	September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
<b>LEMS</b>	A: J. Smith B: J. McKnight C: J. Smith D: D. Kuehne	A: None B: J. McKnight C: J. Smith D: P. Sorvik	A: None B: P. Sorvik C: J. Smith D: D. Kuehne	A: None B: P. Dorsch C: J. Smith D: D. Kuehne
<b>LAY READERS</b>	<b>7:30</b> Asmus’s <b>10:00</b> I. Wallop L. Helvey	<b>7:30</b> L. Galloway <b>10:00</b> P. Haworth P. Dorsch	<b>7:30</b> Asmus’s <b>10:00</b> S. & S. Peddicord	<b>7:30</b> P. & C. Clark <b>10:00</b> L. Outland I. Wallop
<b>ACOLYTES</b>	B. St. John J. Eisenach N. Alsup	J. Eisenach L. Alsup K. Alsup	J. Eisenach M. Fritz N. Haworth	J. Eisenach Q. Heyneman A. Heyneman
<b>USHERS</b>	S. Mentock K. Ferguson S. & S. Peddicord	F. & G. Boley C. Haworth S. Wheelock	F. Smedley J. & B. Benepe D. Goodwin	R. & J. Prusak R. & L. Rossa
<b>GREETERS</b>	<b>7:30</b> L. Hall <b>10:00</b> P. Haworth	<b>7:30</b> B. & E. St. John <b>10:00</b> P. Haworth	<b>7:30</b> B. Courtney <b>10:00</b> P. Haworth	<b>7:30</b> G. & P. Gligorea <b>10:00</b> P. Haworth

**For any questions or changes for the ministry schedule contact ~ Juanita Smith at 673-4928**



# Calendar Of Events for September 2015

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00 HS 1:00 SRS	2 Women of St. Peters 9:00 am	3 Red Door 10-3 <b>Choir Practice 6:30</b>	4	5
6 7:30 HE 10:00 HE <i>15 Pentecost</i>	7 <b>Labor Day</b> Offices Closed	8 10:00 HS 1:00 SRS	9 St. Nick's Crafters 9:00 AM	10 Red Door 10-3 <b>Choir Practice 6:30</b>	11	12
13 7:30 HE 10:00 HE <i>16 Pentecost</i>	14 <b>Handbell Practice Begins 6:30</b>	15 10:00 HS 1:00 SRS	16 St. Nick's Crafters 9:00 AM <b>Vestry-6pm</b>	17 Red Door 10-3 <b>Choir Practice 6:30</b>	18	19 <i>Details on page 4</i>
20 7:30 HE 10:00 HE <i>17 Pentecost</i>	21 <b>Handbell Practice Begins 6:30</b>	22 10:00 HS 1:00 SRS	23 St. Nick's Crafters 9:00 AM	24 Red Door 10-3 <b>Choir Practice 6:30</b> <b>QPR Training</b>	25	26 <b>QPR Training</b>
27 <b>Altar Guild</b> 7:30 HE 10:00 HE <i>18 Pentecost</i>	28 <b>Handbell Practice Begins 6:30</b>	29 10:00 HS 1:00 SRS	30 St. Nick's Crafters 9:00 AM	<i>Details on page 4</i>		

## Happy Birthday!



**September Birthdays!!**

**9/03** Whitney Board  
 JT Gibbons  
**9/04** Bunny Connell  
**9/05** Virginia Patton  
**9/09** Theo Powers  
**9/12** Rochelle Fox  
 Linda Kiester  
 Jonathan Atkinson  
**9/13** Noemi Langhorne  
**9/14** David Nicholarsen

**9/15** Deborah King  
 Bill Rader, Jr  
 Gretchen Schmaus  
**9/17** Kelli Campbell  
 Cristine Calkins  
**9/18** Aaron Odum  
**9/19** Joan Bentzen  
**9/20** Katlin Rideout  
**9/22** Nicholas Gill  
**9/23** Austin Woodward

**9/23** James Craft  
 Jovie Treide  
**9/25** Linda Ernst  
**9/26** Sandra Tharaldson  
**9/26** Joseph Eisenach  
**9/27** Grace Gustafson  
**9/28** Noah Milliken  
**9/30** Bobby St. John  
 Dave Duprey

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



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

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

**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>*

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**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