

St. Peter's Episcopal

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August 2015 The Crossed Keys

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



General Convention Report

I have tried my best to relate the events of General Convention to the parish during forums over the past two Sundays between services. Most of that discussion was about marriage and the debates about it at General Convention. Much goes on at General Convention, and it is hard to relate each thing, since hundreds of the resolutions are passed. And quite honestly, most have little effect on parish life. Here is a short recap of some less noted things for those of you who could not attend.

The Episcopal Church is very conservative when it comes to institutions and structure. There was a tremendous amount of energy and discussion about making the Episcopal Church leaner, less top heavy and more efficient. To be frank, those talks went nowhere. Most of the people in leadership resisted any change in the structure and staffing of the church, and many of the proposals were killed or amended to death.

The Episcopal Church wants to focus on growth and evangelism, but the movement is from the bottom up. Many clergy and Bishops want the sole focus of the church to be growth and evangelism, but despite the continuous decline of the Episcopal Church (down 25% since 2003) many on the top did not spend much time (if any) discussing this. Many clergy (45 and under) were adamant that change is needed and the church should focus on programs to start new congregations and revitalize old ones. Five million dollars was included in the budget to focus solely on this despite objections from many who said it would disrupt the budget.

The Episcopal Church wants to consider its unhealthy relationship with alcohol. This old joke is well known, where three or four Episcopalians are gathered there is always a fifth, but this group no longer found it funny. In light of former Bishop Heather Cook's drunk driving accident that killed a father of two young children in Maryland earlier this year, the Episcopal Church passed some resolutions to adapt a standard policy on alcohol. This does not affect St. Peter's since this church's long standing policy on alcohol is that it is not allowed on the church grounds. This policy may seem severe but in today's world of liability and litigation, it protects St. Peter's.

The Episcopal Church does not want to abandon the mandatory denominational health plan. This item has the biggest effect on St. Peter's budget. Currently all employees of the church have to use the Denominational Health Plan. I have found this plan to be less than cost effective.

...Fr. John Inserra continued from page 1

We use it at St. Peter's because we have to. Many clergy (myself included) argued for the parish to have the option to use local plans that can be more competitively priced, and passed a resolution to this end. The Bishops defeated this and sent it to Committee.

The Episcopal Church wants to set a timeline for a new prayer book. I would say within 10 years we will see complete prayer book revision. The next prayer book most likely will not be a book, but an electronic resource with much more content than our current prayer book. Flexibility and options seemed to be motivating forces. I will keep you posted as more information on this becomes available.

Surely there are other things that happened that may come up over the next 3 years, and I will speak to them as they arise (honestly I am not recalling anything that would affect the parish). The next Convention is in 2018 in Austin, Texas. I have already decided I am planning a family vacation for that time.

Your Priest,



John

Dr. John Milliken-Family Minister • email: drjohn@stpeterssheridan.com • Cell: 461-1924



"For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless." Psalm 84:11

This verse from the Psalms contains a theme we see over and over in scripture: if we follow God's ways, we will experience blessing (and if we don't, we will experience heartache). This is because God has made us and the world around us and knows how we need to live in order to flourish. What he asks of us is for our good and because of his love.

It isn't easy, however. Among the various obstacles that stand in the way of obedience there are two of particular power and pervasiveness. In fact, they are the two basic strategies the serpent uses way back in the garden to lead Adam and Eve into turning away from God's way. The serpent tried (and succeeded) to get them to doubt two things: *what God had said* and *whether he knew what he was talking about*.

Here's how the first part went:

"He [the serpent] said to the woman, "Is it really true that God said, 'You must not eat from any tree of the orchard?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit from the trees of the orchard; but concerning the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the orchard God said, 'You must not eat from it, and you must not touch it, or else you will die.'"

.... Dr. John, continued

The serpent begins by stating God's command but changing it a bit by making it more stringent than the original. Eve corrects the serpent in part but ends up by adding a little bit of her own to the command--that they must not touch the tree. It's a compact interchange, but the intent of the serpent is clear. He wants to introduce confusion about what God had actually said.

Now for the second part:

"The serpent said to the woman, "Surely you will not die, for God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will open and you will be like divine beings who know good and evil." When the woman saw that the tree produced fruit that was good for food, was attractive to the eye, and was desirable for making one wise, she took some of its fruit and ate it."

Here the serpent calls into question God's understanding and his motives. "I know God said bad things would happen if you eat the fruit," he says, "But that's not so. Good things will come of it--and God knows it." The serpent here attacks the central theme with which I began. He wants the woman to think that there are some very good things one can only get by going against what God has said.

I think each of us, upon reflection, can see the insidious operation of these two strategies of Satan in our own lives and in the world around us. How do we defend ourselves against them? To meet the first we need to know what God has said. That only comes by the consistent and careful study of his Word. Note the example of Jesus who, when tempted by Satan, was able to counter his words by quoting scripture. If we don't know what God has said we are hopelessly vulnerable to confusion about what is the right path. The key to meeting the second attack is trust. We have a choice to make: do we accept that God knows what is best and wants what is good for us? If so, then we can follow the path he marks out for us, even when it is hard. On the other hand, if we don't think God knows or perhaps that he isn't good, we will constantly attempt to grab hold of our good in places he has told us not to go. Alas, just as Adam and Eve, we will discover that Satan is a liar. When he tells us some good is to be had apart from God he is always deceiving us. *"No good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless."*



WHY I GO TO CHURCH
(not 'why I SHOULD go to church')
 By Suzie Schatz-Benson

There are lots of articles on the internet about why you SHOULD go to church. (I SHOULD do a lot of things.....but often don't). Put simply, I go to church because it is something I personally NEED and WANT to do.

First, some background information:

I confess that for most of my life I was NOT a consistent churchgoer. Growing up, I went to Sunday school regularly at the First Congregational Church in my hometown, but my family was the proverbial 'Christmas and Easter only' attendees at church.

Continued....

.....*Vestry continued*

After a year of confirmation classes in the 8th grade, our teacher decided we were a knucklehead bunch of goof-offs, and should undergo a second year of confirmation classes. I was not partial to that assessment, and instead, decided to trot across the street to check out the Lutherans. I couldn't seem to make it through confirmation there either, but still attend there when I go back to my hometown. After spending four years at a Presbyterian affiliated college, my 20's and 30's were spent doing everything BUT going to church, (except for Christmas and Easter naturally). When my husband Gary and I were married, I sent him off to St. Peter's every Sunday on his own. After all, I was 'vaguely' Lutheran (or Congregational, or Presbyterian), not an Episcopalian (gasp!...that was almost like being Catholic!) When our son, Adam, was born, I assumed Gary would start taking Adam to Sunday school and church with him. He didn't. As ambivalent as I was about going to church, I felt it was important for Adam to have a church foundation, but assumed someone else would shoulder that responsibility for me. They didn't. Thus began GOD'S plan to get me going to church on a regular basis, AND finally get confirmed in the Episcopal Church at the age of 54. It's never too late!

I have slowly come to realize that going to church each Sunday IS important to me, so I asked myself "Why?" Here are some of the answers in no particular order:

I NEED the direction and moral guidance church gives me for the rest of the week. I NEED to hear God's message week after week, over and over, again and again. Drip.....drip.....drip.

I NEED this solid, trustworthy, reliable place of serenity, order, purpose, and respite in our crazy world. My life seems slightly 'off' or 'lacking' when I miss a Sunday at church.

I WANT to enhance my relationship with God at home and elsewhere. I NEED to keep Him in my head.

I go, not because I am a 'strong' Christian, but because I am a 'weak' Christian who WANTS to be better, stronger Christian.

I WANT the 'goodness' of Sunday to rub off on me for the rest of the week.

If I WANT to be good, I NEED to feed my soul 'good' food. In our world today, it's so easy to take in a steady diet of 'bad' food (trashy movies, TV, bad behavior, etc.), and they say you are 'what you eat'. Church is 'nutritional' food for your soul.

I enjoy and WANT to learn something new every Sunday through the sermon, such as historical facts, new ideas, or an explanation of that Sunday's scripture. I am amazed how often the sermon seems to speak to me personally.

I NEED and WANT to keep connected with other good role models of Christian faith and action.

I WANT and like to sing the hymns and communion songs! I like to harmonize with others.

Each of us has our own personal reasons for attending church. In the past, my SHOULD GO TO CHURCH list came with a lot of guilt. My NEED and WANT TO GO TO CHURCH list brings me peace.

Respectfully,
Suzie Schatz-Benson

St. Peter's Information Page

Vestry

2015

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

Vestry Meeting:
August 19th—6:00 P.M.

In **August**, we will be receiving Ivory Soap, wash clothes, tooth brushes, and toothpaste, combs, small hair brushes & hair accessories. Place your items in the blue bucket in the parish hall.

Thank you!



ECHO forms are available in the church office and placed as an insert in the church bulletin once a month.



If you are interested in having your contact information in the new On-Line Church Directory contact...
 Sandy Tharaldson at

stharaldson@yahoo.com or the church office at stpetersheridan.com.

Thank you!

ECHO

Episcopalians Connect by Helping Others Prayers

Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Mission Statement:

A group of St. Peter's Prayer Warriors have prayerfully come together to offer intercessory prayers for members of St. Peter's as needs arise and when requested.

The purpose of **ECHO Prayers** is to offer prayers for parishioners as needed or requested; to include emergency, long-term, published weekly (bulletin) prayers and other prayers including those of thanksgiving or joy for individuals and others in our St. Peter's Family Community.

ECHO

Episcopalians Connect by Helping Others Service

1 Peter 4:10

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

Mission Statement:

A group of St. Peter's volunteers have prayerfully come together to assist other members of St. Peter's with occasional needs.

The purpose of **ECHO Service** is to offer 'handyman' services to members of the congregation which could include anything from changing a light bulb to small carpenter projects, running errands or grocery shopping. This could also include needed meals due to illness or unusual circumstances.

Please contact the church office for information 674-7655. You may also sign-up as a volunteer.

Adult Education for the month of August

I enjoyed greatly the time we spent studying the Story this past year and truly appreciate how dedicated many of you were for the whole 31 week course. Coming out of that the desire of a great many was to look deeper at Paul, which we will in the fall. For the month of August, since many of us travel and are scattered, we will have a little fun with some of the short, rarely preached letters of the New Testament.

Here's the schedule

August 2 – Dr. John – Christian Ethics part 2

August 9 – No study, newcomers breakfast between services

August 16 – Letter of Paul to Philemon

August 23 – Letter of Jude

August 30 – Second and Third letter of John



Ministry Schedule ~ August Greeter ~ *Suzie Schatz-Benson*

PENTECOST	August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
LEMS	A: J. Smith B: J. McKnight C: J. Smith D: D. Kuehne	A: None B: J. McKnight C: J. Smith D: D. Kuehne	A: None B: J. Smith C: J. Smith D: J. Smith	A: None B: P. Sorvik C: J. Smith D: D. Kuehne	A: None B: P. Sorvik C: J. Smith D: D. Kuehne
LAY READERS	7:30 Asmus 10:00 Evers	7:30 L. Galloway 10:00 L. Greenough L. Outland	7:30 Bedard 10:00 Peddicords	7:30 L. Greenough 10:00 P. Haworth I. Wallop	7:30 Bedard 10:00 I. Wallop L. Helvey
Greeters	7:30 V. Gale 10:00 S. Schatz-Benson	7:30 D. Kuehne 10:00 S. Schatz-Benson	7:30 Asmus 10:00 S. Schatz-Benson	7:30 R. Darnell 10:00 S. Schatz-Benson	7:30 J. Holcomb 10:00 S. Schatz-Benson
ACOLYTES	B. St. John J. Eisenach K. Alsup	B. St. John J. Eisenach M. Fritz	N. Haworth J. Eisenach M. Fritz	N. Haworth J. Eisenach K. Alsup	J. Eisenach A. Heyneman Q. Heyneman
USHERS	S. Wheelock K. Ferguson S. Mentock M. Dailey	Boleys Benepes	C. Nicholls Galloways M. Stopka	C. Haworth Smedleys D. Goodwin	Outlands Prusaks

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



Calendar Of Events for August 2015

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 7:30 HE 10:00 HE <i>10 Pentecost</i>	3	4 10:00 HS 1:00 SRS	5 St. Nick's Crafters 9:00 AM	6 Red Door 10-3	7	8
9 7:30 HE 10:00 HE <i>11 Pentecost</i>	10	11 10:00 HS 1:00 SRS	12 St. Nick's Crafters 9:00 AM	13 Red Door 10-3	14	15
16 7:30 HE 10:00 HE <i>12 Pentecost</i>	17	18 10:00 HS 1:00 SRS	19 Vestry-6pm St. Nick's Crafters 9:00 AM	20 Red Door 10-3	21	22
23 7:30 HE 10:00 HE <i>13 Pentecost</i>	24	25 10:00 HS 1:00 SRS	26 St. Nick's Crafters 9:00 AM	27 Red Door 10-3	28	29
30 7:30 HE 10:00 HE 14 Pentecost	31					

August Birthdays!!!

8/01 Charles Bassett
 Jack Fritz
8/03 William Patton
8/04 Tina Mediate
 James Buchanan
8/08 Jim Bedard
8/09 Donna Landon
8/10 Corey Hansford
8/13 Kathy McNickle

8/13 Bob Lafferty
 Zhoe Calkins
8/14 Nate Haworth
8/16 Forrest Mars, Jr.
 Janet Holcomb
8/17 Suzie Schatz-
 Benson
 Rick Rossa
 Steven Waddell
8/19 Ryan King
8/20 Kelly Buchanan

8/21 Bradley Holloway
8/22 Jerry Gardner
8/23 George Gilgorea
8/24 Mary Daily
 Edward Pilch
8/25 Mary Lee Stopka
 Elise Crosby
8/26 Paul Wallop
8/27 Rob Obermiller
 Michele Fritz



8/29 Dorothy Lafferty
 Dawn Sopron
8/30 Beau Chamberlain

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



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

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

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>

Crossed Keys Index

Father John Inserra-Rector	1, 2
Dr. John Milliken-Family Minister	2, 3
Vestry-Suzie Schatz-Benson	3,4
Parish Information	5
Sunday Adult Education / Ministry Schedule	6
Monthly Calendar / Parish Birthday List	7
Office Information	8

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