

January 2018



The Crossed Keys

My last month...

I want to thank each one of you for a beautiful Advent and Christmas season. I asked that it be joyous and Christ centered, and it was. Now the time has come to talk about transition. I have three Sundays left and here is what I would like to do with them.

Jan. 7 – **Now what's going to happen?** I would like to spend my time preaching this week on transition. The Gospel this week is about John the Baptist baptizing Jesus. This is one of the great transitions in the Scriptures. My hope is to speak openly about what the coming months may look like for St. Peter's and ways to be engaged.

Jan. 14 – **A priest and a parish: it's like a marriage in reverse!** I would like to spend my time preaching this week sharing some reflections from 5.5 years here on our relationship as priest and parish and how you might set up the next priest for success.

Both Jan. 7 and 14 at the 9am hour I would like to have an open forum in the parish hall. I would be happy to talk about anything concerning my decision, the parish future, my time at St Peter's, the direction of the church, the Diocese, tough issues in faith right now, etc., You name it, let's talk about it over coffee/tea.

We will have one service on Sunday Jan. 21 at 10am there will be no 7:30 service this week.

Jan 28 – This will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish. Canon Joel Dingman will be here to preach and celebrate Holy Communion and the plan on how to go forward will be discussed. The Search Committee will be commissioned, and they will begin their task. There will be elections for Vestry and Diocesan Convention Delegates as well.

Please note: For January 21 and 28, St. Peter's will depart from its regular schedule for 2 weeks. St. Peter's will return to a normal schedule on Sunday Feb. 4.

Jan 21 – **St. Peter and St. Peter's.** This is a parting gift from me to you. It's a service I put together for the Confession of St. Peter (Jan. 18). I strongly feel names are important and every church should make a big deal on the day of their namesake. I plan to preach on the similarities in the story of St. Peter the Apostle and St. Peter's in Sheridan. The great and talented Ann Lowe has written special music based on the life of St. Peter for this service.

For the Annual Meeting on Jan 28 there will be one service at 9am only with the Annual Meeting following the service.

Dr. John Milliken

"Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness." Romans 6:13 (NIV)

If we read quickly here, we can hear Paul simply saying something obvious: "Don't do bad stuff, but do good stuff." But we would miss something more subtle that Paul is pointing out about the dynamics of how we end up doing good stuff and bad stuff. He speaks of the basic choice we face as one of *to whom or to what we will offer ourselves*.

We all have various capacities for thought, emotion, and action. It is a matter of our wills to decide how we are going to try to direct them. Think of a simple but common case. You are in line at the grocery store. You are in a hurry. There are too few checkouts open. There is an opportunity here that presents itself, that knocks on your door, so to speak. "Let's get irritated," it says. It is a solicitation to offer various parts of yourself to this project. You could offer your mind, for one thing. You could focus your attention upon the old lady in the front of the line who is now, of course, getting out her checkbook and filling out the blanks with sloth-like movements. Your mind knows what to do with that to raise your irritation level. You could also reflect upon management decisions to employ too-few workers for this time of day. You could start to make self-righteous judgments about what the person in front of you has on the conveyor belt...and so forth. This is a well-worth path that invites you to take a walk. You could offer your mind, your attention, your emotions, even your body language. The end result is a poisonous state of irritation that you will carry with you for the next hour or two.

Opportunities like this are legion. You will have occasion to get judgmental, to be impatient, to indulge in being offended, to welcome fear, to stew in anxiety, to become resentful, and so forth. Circumstances come to us throughout the day with an appeal to offer ourselves to these destructive responses. We all know what it feels like to heartily give in to them. We are often able to muster a good case for why we are *justified* in giving in to them.

But Paul reminds us that we have a choice. God is also inviting us, in the midst of the very same circumstances of everyday life, to offer our minds, hearts, attention, and emotions to alternative things. In that grocery line, for instance, we might choose to dwell on how blessed we are to be able to afford what we are about to buy, or marvel at the abundance so readily available to us. We might wonder about how the clerk is doing and offer a silent prayer as he or she puts in long hours with irritable customers. We might ask ourselves, "How could I bless someone here as I wait?" Offering our minds and attention to these kinds of things will bring with it feelings of compassion and peace instead of irritation. And out of those feelings will come ways of interacting with others that are life-giving and encouraging instead of abrasive and life-stealing.

Continued page 3....

....Dr. John

Here's the amazing truth: in the midst of absolutely every circumstance God has implanted the potential for good. The key is for us to offer every part of ourselves to him. As we do so, we will become part of God's action in bringing that good to life. Of course the reverse is also true. In the midst of every circumstance, even the most beautiful, there is potential for the presence of evil to enter in and spoil it. Don't offer any part of yourself to *that* project; "***but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.***"



Ushers	Altar Guild	Acolytes	Lay Readers
January 7	January 7	January 7	January 7
7:30 Lois Hall 10:00 Stan Peddicord Mary Dailey Karen Ferguson Sarah Mentock		Syndi Bilyeu Alicia Thoney Ella Bilyeu	7:30 Forrest Asmus Sandy Asmus 10:00 Mike Evers Mary Beth Evers
January 14	January 14	January 14	January 14
7:30 Janet Holcomb 10:00 Pam Standish John Standish Rick Rossa Liz Rossa		Corey Hansford Bailee Mentock Isaac Fritz Maya Fritz	7:30 Peter Clark Carol Clark 10:00 Linen Greenough Lee Helvey
January 21	January 21	January 21	January 21
10:00 Donna Kuehne Sandy Tharaldson Cara Nicholls Frank Smedley Dorothy Goodwin		Nate Haworth Chayah Milliken Isaac Fritz	10:00 Lois Hall Holland Duell
January 28	January 28	January 28	January 28
9:00 Anne Vaughan Georgia Boley Frank Boley Frank Smedley		Nate Haworth Maya Fritz Isaac Fritz	9:00 Sharon Bedard Paul Haworth Christina Haworth



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Midweek Eucharist 12:05 PM In Chapel	3 Women's Council 9am	4 Red Door 10-3 pm Lessons & Carols 6:30	5	6
7 1st Sunday after Epiphany 7:30 HE I 9:00 Study	8	9 Midweek Eucharist 12:05 PM In Chapel	10	11 Red Door 10-3 pm Choir 6:30	12	13 Mug & Muffin 10-11:30 am
14 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 7:30 HE I 9:00 Study 10:00 HE II	15	16 Midweek Eucharist 12:05 PM In Chapel	17 VESTRY MEETING 5:15 pm	18 Red Door 10-3 pm Choir 6:30	19	20
21 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 am	22	23 Midweek Eucharist 12:05 PM In Chapel	24	25 Red Door 10-3 pm Choir 6:30	26	27
28 4th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am One service Annual Mtg following the service	29	30 Midweek Eucharist 12:05 PM In Chapel	31			

01/03 Bridgette Baker; 01/04 Betty Harrison, Parker Treide;
 01/06 Beth Shelton; 01/07 Barbara Blue, Lisa Milner;
 01/10 Kathy Eaton; 01/17 Carrie Kehrwald; 01/21 Liz Rossa;
 01/22 Riva Trott, Blake Issakson; 01/23 Ross Iverson;
 01/24 Pat Chappell; 01/25 Hayes Henderson, Ellen Triede;
 01/26 Marisa Nicholls; 01/28 Jeannene McKnight, Walt Ebia;
 01/29 Bruce Hoffman; 01/30 Karen Nicolarsen;
 01/31 Steve Carroll, Sue Heuermann



Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

Most of us don't feel that we have already received every blessing heaven has to offer. Yet according to the apostle Paul, we certainly have. When God gave us his Son, he gave us everything. There is nothing left in heaven. This means that we have to be very careful about asking for more. How could we ask for more than Jesus Christ?

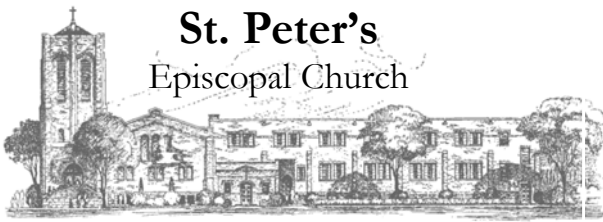
Are you looking for more love? Look instead at the love you have already received in Christ. He was so passionate about you that he was literally dying to love you. Until you have learned to receive his love, you will never be satisfied with the love of anyone else, because you will constantly be expecting him or her to be your savior.

Are you looking for more health? In Christ, you were given eternal life. This doesn't mean that Jesus is unconcerned about the diseases of life, but his healing of your body is never more than a sign of the work that he has already accomplished in healing your soul.

Are you looking for more direction? All the earth is already his, so Christ isn't nearly so concerned about where you go, or what you do, as he is about who you are. The only direction that really matters is the one that returns you to the place where you are grateful for having received more than you can see. From: An Extravagant Mercy by M. Craig Barnes

As you meditate on this reading, know that God truly wants to hear all of your prayers. We are to share with God our fears, our sorrow, our joy, and requests for healing and guidance. We are to share all that we are, including our heart's desires. And yet, we are to understand that at times, God's answer might not be what we wish to hear or we might feel that God is silent. It is during those times that we need to remember 'every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places' that we can hold on to, and in doing so, we can be grateful for 'having received more than we can see'. Our God is a mighty God and His plans for us far exceed anything we can possibly hope to imagine. There will be times when we do not understand what God has planned. This is where our faith in God's powerful love for us shall see us through the uncertainty. Let God into your life so He can strengthen you. Seek encouragement from Him. Do not forget that God often works through others to meet our needs. Receive the love your fellow Christians wish to share with you and praise God as this also comes from Him.

Blessings for the New Year, Juanita



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
patrickhenderson307@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

Phone: 307-674-7655
Email: stpeterssheridan@gmail.com
Website - www.stpeterssheridan.com

Church Office Hours

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