



Fr. "Skip" Reeves
Rector

The Vision

The Church of St. Peter, Apostle and Confessor

201 Lakeshore Dr. Cheyenne, WY 82009

Services at LCCC, Center for Conferences and Institutes, Room 130

9 AM Bible Study, Youth Program, Sunday School, Nursery

10 AM Holy Eucharist



www.stpeterscheyenne.org
635-6868

April 2009

From the Rector:



Well, the penitential season of Lent is just about over. This Sunday, April 5th, is Palm Sunday, the last Sunday in Lent. I always like Lent because each Sunday is such a stark change from our "regular" worship. I like

it, but I am always glad when it is over. I can only take some much starkness. Now if only the Wyoming winter would end and allow spring to arrive.

On another gloomy note—the college has bumped us out of our regular room on Good Friday; however, we survived this fate on Ash Wednesday at the beginning of Lent, so we should have no trouble doing it again at the end of the season.

**Our Good Friday service
will be in room 120
of the Training Center
at 7:00 p.m.**

On a really bright note – we will celebrate Easter Sunday on April 12, and enter the seven week season of Easter. Easter celebrates the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, this is first and foremost, and the implications of the resurrection go far beyond our wildest expectations. In St. Paul's letter to the Romans he wrote about how all of creation is affected by Christ's resurrection.

Romans 8¹⁹The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into

the glorious freedom of the children of God.

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

I had always liked this passage. I loved how it let your mind soar as you thought about all the implication of St. Paul's insight. Yes, I loved it, but I kept it at arm's length. It was another of those wonderful promises that I didn't fully understand, and I promised myself that I would come back to it ... some day.

And then in 2000 I did a summer session of graduate work at Oxford. One of my professors, Dr. Reed, was both a priest-theologian and a science professor. His lectures were wonderful, and always challenging. Unlike so many professors I have known, Dr. Reed challenged you to expand your faith, and when he devoted an entire lecture to this passage from Paul's letter to the Romans he blew me out of the tub.

Dr. Reed began by making a strong case for the divinity and full humanity of Jesus. So often we give this lip service, but really hold out for a more divine Jesus than a human one. The Scriptures proclaim that Jesus is fully divine and fully human. It is a thought beyond human understanding, but a truth I have come to accept. Dr. Reed went on to say that on Easter morning the human Jesus was resurrected, and with him the first fruits of all creation were resurrected. He then laid out a scientific argument to "prove" his point.

We human beings are filled with about a zillion-million "bugs." To be alive and human we need have millions of microbes living inside our bodies to help digest food and perform other functions that are far beyond my understanding; however, I know how essential

are to our health. My first funeral as newly ordained priest was of a woman who had been given antibiotics that killed all the microbes in her body. She died. To be human is to be co-dependent of all these little critters that inhabit our bodies. For Jesus to be raised, the fully human Jesus, it meant that all these "bugs" were also raised. Without the microbes, the resurrected Jesus would not be human.

Think about it. Jesus died, and all these little microbes died. Jesus was raised, and all these little microbes were also raised " ...²¹that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay." I know that a "proof" like this only works for those who believe. I doubt that this would ever convince a real skeptic, but isn't it wonderful to find from time-to-time that good religion and good science are compatible.

God Bless you.

Skip +

NOTE: there will be no Sunday School or Adult Class on Easter Sunday.

VESTRY NOTES (FEB)

The Vestry met on February 18, 2009 at the home of Father Skip Reeves. Vestry members attending were Deacon Dan Clark, Deacon Marge Marcewicz, Senior Warden & Treasurer Jim Mitchell, Junior Warden Stephanie Reeves, Secretary/Clerk Shari Henney, Becky Burney, Jim Jensen, and Marilyn Terwilleger. Informal sharing included the update about the return of Lou and Karen, visitors who came to us in 2005 and will now retire in Cheyenne. Jim Jensen expressed great appreciation for the bonding that has developed at St. Peter's while he has been absent from our congregation.

REPORTS.

Treasurer's Report—Jim Mitchell. Jim Jensen will help install a new accounting program for 2009. Jim Mitchell presented the current bank statement and the listing of all the checks that have been written on our account.

Fellowship Functions—Skip will ask Becky Burney if she would like to continue as our coordinator. Stephanie suggested we look at reserving a July 4th spot at Lions Park this year so we can see the evening fireworks display.

Junior Warden's Report—Stephanie confirmed that dead brush and seasoned wood was removed from our property free of charge.

Senior Warden's Report—ARK and Jim Mitchell propose that we terminate our agreement with this agency. Skip proposed the motion; Stephanie seconded. Dinneen Motors is still not interested in renting the former Mazda showroom to us. Vineyard Church would like us to share a large building with us but parking is limited and we would have to rotate service times with them. The Church of the Nazarene property has no contact person available to discuss whether the property will be available in the future.

Rector—no business.

OLD BUSINESS. A big thank you was expressed by all the Vestry members for the December 14th cancellation of service due to severe weather conditions that brought minus 35 degrees temperatures to our city.

NEW BUSINESS.

We will host a refreshment time for the visit of Bishop Martyn Minns at 6 PM on February 22 at the Westgate Community house.

When Jim Mitchell is unable to collect the Sunday offering, Shari Henney will be the back up.

A Vestry "mini-retreat" potluck will be held at 6 PM on March 11 at Skip and Stephanie's home. We will discuss our church goals for 2009 while eating dinner and then promptly begin our vestry meeting at 7 PM.

Dan reported that Matty Ludwig has found an outreach program that helps churches sponsor dinners for the homeless. Dan will give details later and encourage Matty to come and share her information with the Vestry.

CANA has recommended the establishment of a diocesan network, a partnership with other congregations in the United States. Deadline for this network is April 2009 and these dioceses will be recognized at the Inaugural Provincial Assembly to be held in Bedford, TX June 22-25, 2009. Skip recommends that St. Peter's concentrate on clustering with AMIA churches in Wyoming.

Respectfully submitted, Shari Henney
Secretary/Clerk of the Vestry

VESTRY NOTES (JAN)

January's Vestry Meeting was held at the home of Senior Warden Jim Mitchell. Jim presided over the meeting, due to Father Skip's continuing illness. Informal sharing included the good news about Father Skip's improved

condition and his anticipated return to church in the near future.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report. Jim Mitchell presented the 2009 Stewardship / Pledge Report. The amount is less for 2009 than 2008; however, we should still be okay as the amount pledged still exceeds what we paid out this past year, plus we will have carryover of excess monies not spent in 2008. The moving out-of-state of significant church members contributed to that change.

He also gave the monthly Budget Report, noting that our budget has served us well. We have stayed well within it and will end the year once more with surplus funds. Jim further advised he has printed annual contribution statements for distribution to parishioners. Great thanks was expressed to Jim for all the work he has put in to Treasurer and Budget duties. The task has been sizeable and time-consuming and we are very grateful for his many efforts.

OLD BUSINESS

Goals - Building. Nazarene Church. Two Nazarene churches are going to unite. Their plan is to sell both existing sites and build a new church. If they might be joining in one building during the planning and construction phases, perhaps we could lease the other building until we are able to move forward with our own building. Henney's Music School - Possibly re-locating to Shari and Bob Henney's music school is not going to work out, as other arrangements for the school are already too far advanced for us to step in at this point. Dinneen's - Consideration is being given to the Dinneen building where the Mazda dealership was situated.

Vestry Nominations. Four Vestry vacancies need to be filled. Shari Henney will fill one three-year term. Sue Wilson will fill Jim Jensen's unexpired two-year term. One three-year term and one one-year term remain vacant. Elections will take place at the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting. We will hold our Annual Meeting on January 25, 2009, at LCCC after church. There will be a potluck, along with an Ice Cream Bar from LCCC Catering.

Clergy Support. Father Eric Zolner from Colorado Springs will be traveling to Cheyenne to conduct our service on January 18. He will try to come one Sunday in February and one in

March, if we still need him. Father Skip hopes to be back in February, so no further assistance may be required. In the meantime, Deacon Dan has arranged for coverage of other Sundays.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget for 2009. The upcoming budget was put together for presentation at the Annual Meeting. Some changes and additions were proposed. Anglican Communion Network (ACN) is dissolving, so we will discontinue this contribution. Building Fund - We added this designation in its place and voted to fund it at 5% of income. Christian Education - We combined the 4 categories under this heading: Sunday School, Christian Education, Home Bible Study, and Healing Ministry, funding them with one amount. Advertising - We increased this account by \$500 due to rising rates. Accounts that were not using their full budgeted amount were reduced. Those included Rector's Auto & Travel and Music Program. Director of Christian Education - Currently there is no provision for compensation, though this is carries no small demand for service. We feel some payment is due Roger Ludwig for these considerable services, taking into account he has been preaching the sermon as well for many of the past several weeks. We chose to give him an honorarium at this time. Outreach - We decided to convert this item to a balance account that we fund each year according to need and availability of monies in our undistributed account. We will fund it substantially now, from these undistributed amounts. In further support of Roger's contributions to our parish, we will appropriate money from this account to go toward his upcoming humanitarian mission to Africa.

Lenten Bible Study. Deacon Dan conveyed that Karen Steiner has offered her home for a home bible study during Lent. He will organize it.

Organ Donation. We have been offered an organ from a church that moved from the Catholic Orthodox Church to Terry Ranch Road. Jim Mitchell and Shari Henney will look at it to see if it is anything in which we might be interested and check if LCCC would agree to let us keep it there.

Blessings to all, Susan Oyler,
Secretary / Clerk of the Vestry

VESTRY NOTES (NOV & DEC)

It looks like we have a "double dose" this month, to catch you up on November and December's Vestry Meetings. Senior Warden Jim Mitchell presided over the meetings as Father Skip was hospitalized. Thanks was given for the deacons who have been conducting services. Informal sharing included discussion about several parishioners facing family and personal health or other challenges. Pray for Father Skip, Lamar, Dot, Jim, Karen, Irma Jean, Dan's mother, Barb's mother, sister & brother-in-law, and Nick.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report. Jim Mitchell reported our continuing fortunate financial condition with incoming dollars satisfactorily funding the budget, leaving some excess to accumulate in our Undistributed account. Some outreach monies have been expended to assist parishioners.

Fellowship Report. Becky Burney reported on the Halloween Party which was well attended and particularly meaningful with the accompanying prayer and praise session for those currently experiencing medical issues. Thanks to Sue Wilson for the piano music. For the Christmas Caroling Party, church members visited the homes of some of our own parishioners and dropped in on Pointe Frontier. They all were extremely appreciative and some even joined in the singing. Participants enjoyed the warm chili supper following and express gratitude to the Reeves for offering their house for the merriment.

Our next fellowship gathering will be the Annual Meeting. We will be checking on availability at Westgate or LCCC for a meal and meeting after church. This will be Becky's last fellowship event as Chairwoman before she leaves Vestry.

Junior Warden's Report. Our website has been reviewed and renewed.

Deacon's Report. In his pastoral ministry of late, Deacon Dan let us know he has been visiting Father Skip and others in St. Peter's who are experiencing difficulties at this time. It seems an inordinate amount of folks in our sphere are suffering or facing challenges of one sort or another. Dan noted that we see historically when we go through trials, we get strengthened and this faith is an important witness to those with whom we are in contact. He noted he has also found himself reaching out to some in the wider community who have

been involved in crises such as loss of loved ones in vehicle wrecks. The opportunities to minister have been plentiful and widespread during recent times. He, Deacon Marge and Matty Ludwig have been tending to an abundance of pastoral care.

Senior Warden's Report. Building update covered in Old Business.

OLD BUSINESS

Goals - Building. Jim Mitchell continues to diligently work with ARK. As of the November meeting, they approved \$250,000 for building expenses and directed we proceed to get site development costs (sewer, water, etc.). Results of that effort revealed exceedingly high amounts and some limitations on land parcels under 5 acres. Consideration was given to possible acquisition of the adjoining 3 acres to eliminate the need for variances, as well as increase value and growth potential for the church. Though this would delay building construction, it might prove advantageous for the long run. Other possible structures might be considered, such as modular. In December Jim reported we are looking for a civil engineer who will work at a reasonable cost to assist with the negotiation of site requirements should that appear to work to our advantage. Jim also has preliminary talks scheduled with the Catholic Church regarding the 3 acres adjacent to us.

As an interim measure, Jim conveyed he has been contacted by the Vineyard Church in connection with their acquisition of a 5000-square-foot downtown warehouse inquiring if we might be interested in sharing space with them. Further information will be obtained. The viability of temporary quarters in Shari & Bob Henney's music school which is re-locating will also be explored.

Stewardship. It is "that time of year," and people are scheduled to speak at services to explain and accentuate the value of stewardship, not only for the maintenance and growth of the church, but for personal enrichment and fulfillment as well.

Altar Guild. We are grateful Sue Hume is willing to step up to serve as an alternate when the regular Altar Guild (Deacon Marge) is unavailable. Additional substitute assistance is still needed for backup, so anyone who can help is encouraged to contact Marge.

Vestry Nominations. Vestry terms will be expiring and four vacancies need to be filled, so the Nominating Committee will be seeking

candidates to serve on a new Vestry which will be incoming in January, 2009. Vestry members leaving at this time are Jim Mitchell, Becky Burney, and Susan Oyler. Two years of Jim Jensen's term will also need to be filled since he has moved to Denver. Any interested persons are encouraged to contact the three departing members.

NEW BUSINESS

Clergy Support. Due to Father Skip's illness, our deacons have been handling services and Roger Ludwig has been sharing in presenting sermons. Deacon Dan indicated they will be

able to continue in this manner for now. Senior Warden Jim Mitchell has contacted Bishop Anderson, our Suffragan Bishop at CANA, to inquire about the possibilities of bringing in a substitute priest to assist with clergy duties until Father Skip's health permits his return. Jim has gotten bread and wine consecrated by an Anglican priest in Fort Collins to carry us through several Sundays.

Blessings to all, Susan Oyler,
Secretary / Clerk of the Vestry

**ROTA SCHEDULE WITH PRAYER TEAM
October 2008**

To preview the lessons, you may go to <http://divinity.library.vanderbilt.edu/lectionary/> for the Old and New Testament Readings and to www.bcponline.org for the Psalms.

	OT LESSON	PSALM	NT LESSON	PRAYERS	CHALICE	PRAYER TEAM
April 5 Palm Sunday	Barb Clark <i>Isaiah 50:4-9a</i>	Matty Ludwig <i>Psalms 31:9-16</i>	Susan Wilson <i>Phil. 2:5-11</i>	Stephanie Reeves	Dan Clark Roger Ludwig Stephanie Reeves	Matty Ludwig LEM: Matty Ludwig
April 10 Good Friday	Lu Hart <i>Isaiah 52:13-53:12</i>	TBA <i>Psalms 22</i>	Stephanie Reeves <i>Hebrews 10:16-25</i>	Fr. Skip	Dan Clark Marge Marcewicz Stephanie Reeves	TBA
April 12 Easter	Shari Henney <i>Isaiah 25:6-9</i>	Barb Clark <i>Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24</i>	Matty Ludwig <i>Acts 10:34-43</i>	Roger Ludwig	Roger Ludwig Susan Oyler Marge Marcewicz	Lu Hart
April 19	Nick Dawson <i>Acts 4:32-35</i>	Jim Jensen <i>Psalms 133</i>	Lu Hart <i>I John 1:1-2:2</i>	Susan Oyler	Dan Clark Lu Hart Jim Jensen	Caryl Marion LEM: Dan Clark
April 26	Stephanie Reeves <i>Acts 3:12-19</i>	Susan Wilson <i>Psalms 4</i>	Susan Oyler <i>I John 3:1-7</i>	Shari Henney	Stephanie Reeves Jim Jensen Marge Marcewicz	Susan Oyler LEM: Marge M.

If you need to make a change, please try to find a substitute. If you are unable to find a substitute, please let the Rota Coordinator, Matty Ludwig, know.