



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

**AUGUST 2005**

## The Mission of St. Peter's The Mission of the Church

### From the Rector:



If asked, could you tell anyone about the mission of St. Peter's? Oh, you could tell them what we do, but could you tell them anything about our mission? Most couldn't, and I blame myself for that. As important as it is – I haven't taught it. Please forgive me. I intend to do better.

As most of you know, I own a townhouse in Westgate. I also serve on its board of directors. If you were to ask any of the board members about the mission of the board they could probably explain it in a sentence – "The mission of the board is to serve the members of the Westgate Association by caring for the common property in accordance with our bylaws."

I have been thinking a lot about "mission" lately, especially the mission of the Church, and it dawned on me that the vast majority of the people in all the congregations I have served over the years think of the Church as something like the Westgate Association – "The mission of the Church is to minister to me." Oh, they wouldn't say that, but watch their actions ... our actions. Well, let me say it plainly, that is not the mission of St. Peter's, nor the mission of the Church.

We print the mission of St. Peter's on almost everything we hand out, and it also just happens to be the mission of the entire Christian Church. If you have drawn a total blank – look for it inside the back cover of your service booklet next Sunday. The mission of the

Church is, according to Jesus' Great Commission, to **"go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you"** (Matthew 28:19-20).

Did you notice that Jesus doesn't say a word about your comfort, your preferences, your likes and dislikes? No, he assumes that you are a disciple and find joy in being one. Our role is to seek the lost whose souls have been entrusted to our care. And, reaching them is not easy. St. Paul found that he couldn't do it by staying at home, or by asking people outside the faith to be like him. Instead he said that, **"... I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible."** (1 Cor. 9:19) Archbishop William Temple said it this way **"The Church is the only institution that exists for the benefit of those not its members."**

We live in a "me" society. If we don't like the channel, we change it. If we don't like the food, we go to another restaurant. In church, if they talk about money, play the organ too loud, sing the wrong hymns, let the kids get out of hand, or ask too much of me – we leave.

When I was in seminary a couple of my professors worshipped at the Church of the Saviour, an ecumenical Christian church founded in 1947 by Gordon Cosby. Sunday attendance there would run in the thousands; however, they only had 130 registered members. Their mission was to reach out to the un-churched, the lost, and they pledged their time, their money, and their comfort to this one goal. Only 130 people out of the thousands that worshipped there in 1966 were willing to do it.

We are officially on record as saying the mission of St. Peter's is to **"...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey**

***everything that I have commanded you"***  
(Matthew 28:19-20).

Do we want to stand by that statement, or is it time to change it to something we really believe?

In September Roger Ludwig is planning to teach a section on The Mission of the Church. I hope you will plan to attend. This is not a subject that was given much attention in the churches that most of us grew up in, and it is at the very core of what it means to be a Christian. Don't let this opportunity to deepen your faith pass you by.

**God bless you,  
Skip**

#### **FROM THE SR WARDEN**



Here we are in the midst of summer. Frontier Days has again challenged our ability to maintain a balance in our activities and travel opportunities continue to offer variety in our lives. In this state of flux, I find myself looking toward fall as a time when we at St. Peter's will refocus on our mission and service to God.

The first thing I envision for the fall is the reinforcement and building up of several new small group activities among our church family. We have always had a variety of such activities to nourish our minds and spirits – they are a key part of our ministry. As a follow on to our Faith Alive weekend, we found many among us wanting to expand such activities.

One new program, which we have agreed to begin, is a men's Saturday morning breakfast gathering to be held on the second Saturday of each month at the Westgate Community Center. This activity will include food for both the body and the spirit. Beginning on September 10, we will gather at about 7AM to prepare food, plan to eat by 8 and finish our prayer and sharing by 9. All men in the parish are invited to join in this activity. After we meet a few times, we will review the time and program desires of the group and adjust as needed.

We have also had several requests and offers for mid-week programs. Marjie Klebe has offered to lead a Bethel Bible series class and Fr Skip has expressed an interest in conducting a Bible Study. If there is sufficient interest, we will do both – most likely one in the evening and

the other around mid-day. There will be sign-up sheets at church during August for these gatherings and based on inputs from those sheets, the gatherings will be scheduled at the times when most people are available. We will also continue to have our existing groups function including the choir, the prayer/healing team and the Anglican Church Women activities.

Another new thing for the fall will be a parish wide visioning process that will help us focus on where we feel called to go as a church. What will our church look like in the future? What is God calling us to do and to be? This process has been initiated following discussions by the vestry related to how we incorporate music into our worship. We see this as a positive move for St. Peter's, not just related to our music program, but more importantly related to our community outreach and ministry. I am especially excited to see God working among us in this way and I am reminded that often God puts us in uncomfortable places to temper us, to make us stronger and better suited to his purpose.

In coming days the vestry will be refining a plan to include the entire parish in this process and together charting a course for our future as a church. I encourage you all to keep this matter in your prayers and plan to participate with us as we undertake this important calling. May God bless you all in your service to Him.

IHS,  
Dan

**VESTRY NOTES** July's Vestry Meeting was held at the home of Father Skip and opened by prayer. Following a short bible study, informal sharing included conversation about the introduction of contemporary / praise music and its resultant discord. Thoughts have been expressed that some of the communications surrounding this matter have created distress and should be more gently spoken. Apparently others have indicated reluctance to discuss their views for fear of reproach. It is so important we communicate about this issue and Father Skip is encouraging through his sermons and elsewhere that we engage in open discourse about where we want St. Peter's to go in this regard. The Vestry rescinded their motion from the previous month that 2 services of each of the varying music styles be presented

in the fall – 2 contemporary, 2 traditional, so that the congregation could choose what they like. With recent developments, it appeared this could turn it into a win/lose situation. We don't want anyone to feel they could come out feeling they have lost. It is now our hope to simply continue to talk about what we want and not force the issue. We wish to decide by consensus, not a vote. For the time being, no notable changes will occur so we can just work together to reach a conclusion with which we can feel comfortable. Some concern was voiced about the process bringing this about, with regard to possibly bypassing By-Laws. As it were, the service itself is not a Vestry matter coming under the purview of the By-Laws, so no established procedure was circumvented. Nevertheless, it is Father Skip's style to operate by consensus, not fiat, working together reasonably toward a mutually acceptable resolution. When this all started, none among us ever dreamed it would turn into such a brouhaha. It was an unknowing miscalculation. We now want to backpedal until we can reach a solution that can be palatable to our congregation as a whole. It is not going to be easy to undo what has been done, but we believe it can be accomplished.

To restore harmony, we are proposing a parish retreat to tentatively be held sometime in the fall. The purpose would be to examine the goals and objectives of our church. It will provide a forum for us to develop a strategy of where and how we want St. Peter's to grow. The agenda would be our church – what we want it to become. We have the opportunity to build our church the way we want it to be. We want everyone to bring their views to help us figure out where we want to go. Whatever we decide to target, we need to be comfortable with it. We shouldn't try to be something we are not. If we decide to venture in some new directions, everyone needs to be on board with it. In any case, we don't want boundaries so delineated that we push people out. We have experienced wonderful unity and trust at St. Peter's and this could be strengthened through thoughtful, considerate interaction among us. Father Skip, Dan and Roger will be putting this together.

**TREASURER'S REPORT.** Our bank balance continues to grow, though at a slower rate, perhaps due to the traditional summer trend. All operating budgets are in the black. The

opportunity to get in on a limited-time special interest rate was brought to our attention. We concluded we would transfer some money to a Certificate of Deposit for a 90-day period to take advantage of this offer. It is not anticipated our land acquisition transaction will close within that time frame so that the money would need to be accessed.

**SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT.** There has been a lot of activity within the Worldwide Anglican Communion at the global level. Those in our camp are trying to get a structure put together for orthodox churches. It is looking promising. It is hoped this will provide a framework wherein we will have a real Diocese and Bishop.

Father Tom Johnson has opened an Anglican Church in Casper. They have affiliated with Anglican Mission in America (AMiA). The upside for them is that they have a Bishop out of Denver and will get pastoral visits from him. They have a support group in place for them. The downside is that their theology encompasses both the current Prayer Book, as well as the 1928 Prayer Book, and they are opposed to the ordination of women. For us, that tends to lock out a relationship with them for now. There are other groups with which we could easily affiliate also, but we would be handicapped in one aspect or another there as well. While we don't exactly like where we are – with no Bishop able to visit us – we don't want to be tied to a group where we are not comfortable either. This may not all get resolved until the 2008 Lambeth.

**RECTOR'S REPORT.** There is an upcoming Conference on North American Anglicanism to be held in Pittsburgh this November. Information will be presented about what is happening at the global national and local levels, but Father Skip does not anticipate anything remarkable to emerge at this time, so he is not inclined to attend.

**NEW BUSINESS. Focus Prayer.** We had a request to include seeking unity in following God's plan for St. Peter's and personifying Christ's love for the members of the church and others. While the existing prayer encompasses much of those elements, Marge will "tweak" it.

**Parks & Recreation.** We have received a letter from Parks & Recreation requesting a donation for their expansion of the Skate Park at Brimmer Park. There is a \$750 fine for kids who use the downtown area on their skates or skateboards, so Parks & Rec is trying to make a

more attractive and accessible area for them. We agreed to contribute \$150 / Silver Level to this worthy project.

**Chicken For Women Project in Africa.** When a progress report was given by Barbara Clark on this project in Mozambique, Africa, one donation of \$5 came in. Rather than send such a small amount, we elected to send a total of \$100 from the Outreach Fund.

**Next Meeting.** Shari Henney graciously offered to host the August Vestry Meeting, scheduled for the second Tuesday, August 9, 2005, at 7 p.m. The meeting was closed by prayer.

If you have any questions, concerns, ideas, etc., about anything connected with St. Peter's, please do not hesitate to share them with any Vestry member or Father Skip. We would all love to hear your thoughts. Here are the folks to contact: Father Skip, Senior Warden Dan Clark, Junior Warden Jim Krouch, Jack Allis, Donna Burgess, Ken Flack, Shari Henney, Roger Ludwig, Marge Marcewicz, and Susan Oyler.

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

**SUNDAY SCHOOL IS COMING!!** We have received this coming year's curriculum for St. Peter's Children's Sunday School. We are excited about starting up this new year.

In the past, we have divided the teaching responsibilities among several teachers and this worked very well. We would like to continue that practice. If you have not been involved with our Sunday School and would like to take a few Sundays during each season, please contact me at 635-8552, or Vicky Clark at 778-0536.

Also, if you have children, or grandchildren, they are very welcome to attend Sunday School. As usual, we will have fun things to do with a corresponding teaching element.

The curriculum we have chosen is one that we used last year. It follows the liturgy so whatever the lessons are for that Sunday that are read during the service, the children are learning about some of those same lessons. This curriculum is from Canada and is biblically based.

**So highlight Sunday September 11<sup>th</sup>.** That is Rally Day and the first day of Sunday School. More information will follow in the September Vision.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** We are continuing our study of "Love", discussing God's love for us and how we are to respond. Class meets on Sundays at 9:00.

### Rota Schedule with Prayer Team August 2005

To preview the NIV readings, you may go to [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com). This site includes both the printed texts and an audio reading.

Date	OT Lesson	PS Cantor	NT Lesson	Prayers	Chalice	Prayer Team
8/7	Shirley Jones	TBA	Matty Ludwig	Marge Marcewicz	Shirley Jones Susan Oyler Stephanie Reeves	Lu Hart Marge Marcewicz Matty Ludwig-LEM
8/14	Susan Seniawski	TBA	Chuck Seniawski	Roger Ludwig	Lu Hart Roger Ludwig Bob Schrader	Stephanie Reeves Susan Oyler Lamar Gordon-LEM
8/21	June Bowser	TBA	Marlin Walter	Marge Marcewicz	Dan Clark Marge Marcewicz Marlin Walter	Sue Seniawski Matty Ludwig Dan Clark-LEM
8/28	Marjie Klebe	TBA	Tim Bowser	Stephanie Reeves	Bob Schrader Roger Ludwig Lu Hart	Gaye Flack Marge Marcewicz Marge Marcewicz-LEM

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 know. Dan Clark has taken over the Rota from this point.