



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

December 2005

From the Rector:



In order to keep this article from running too long I am going to jump right in and share some thoughts that I find both hopeful and troubling.

Two years ago, when we founded St. Peter's, I was very careful to align us with a conservative bishop in a denomination that was fully recognized by the Anglican Communion around the world. To this end some conservative bishops in the Episcopal Church led us to Bishop Bill Anderson in Canada. Bishop Anderson was willing to do what the American bishops would not do, give us oversight. Initially this was wonderful; however, he soon began to experience more pressure than anyone expected, and found that he could not visit us without jeopardizing his ministry. In reality he could offer us little more than moral support; however, this allowed us to get started, continue to function, and is something to be thankful for. He stuck his neck out for us when no one else would do it.

St. Peter's is now at a crossroads. Do we continue as we are, or do we seek to align ourselves with a bishop and a denomination that will allow us to function as a "full service" church? We have people who have been with us from the beginning that desire to be confirmed as well as new people who have just discovered St. Peter's. Also, when I fully retire we will need the help of a bishop and a denomination to locate a new priest. These are not small matters.

Next week the vestry will meet with Bishop "Sandy" Green of Littleton, Colorado, a bishop in the Anglican Mission in America (AMiA), to explore the possibility of stepping under their umbrella. The AMiA is a missionary

outreach of the Province of the Episcopal Church of Rwanda, and is under the oversight of the Archbishops of Rwanda and Malaysia. As a missionary outreach, AMiA's purpose was to establish a traditional Anglican presence in America that would someday be able to stand independently.

When St. Peter's was founded we rejected this option for two reasons:

1. The Archbishop of Canterbury and all Anglicans did not recognize the AMiA as a member of the Anglican Communion.
2. They will allow the ordination of women to the diaconate but not to the priesthood.

Over the past couple of years a number of developments have taken place that make it worth our while to take a second look.

1. The realignment of the conservative Anglicans in America is taking longer than initially expected. The liberal bishops are expected to try and force the conservatives out after their General Convention this summer, and this could hasten the process, but I have stopped trying to predict when any of this will actually take place.
2. The conservative bishops in the American Episcopal Church are working closely with AMiA, and expect them to become part of the new Anglican province in America when the long expected realignment is realized.
3. While AMiA does not ordain women most of the bishops participating the realignment do. This is not expected to be a major obstacle in the realignment.

I know that some people are more concerned about our theological stance, and are not at all interested in our denominational affiliation. For me it is important. I do not trust independent congregational churches to remain true to the historic doctrines and

traditions of the Church. At least when ECUSA went astray there was a significant group that stood firm and said – NO! If you would like to find out more about AMiA and have access to the Internet, please go on line at <http://anglicanmissioninamerica.org/>.

I never cease to marvel at the genius of the Christian Year and our church calendar. We are now entering the second week of Advent – the beginning of a new year within the Church – a wonderful season of hope and expectation. In Advent we look back and celebrate God's redeeming love in the birth and life of Jesus Christ. We also look forward to his return in power and glory to judge and rule the world.

As you can tell I have been giving a lot of thought to St. Peter's, where we have been and where we are going. These thoughts seem especially appropriate in this season of Advent.

God bless you
Fr. Skip

FROM THE SR WARDEN



As we near the end of our second year as a parish, I find myself reflecting on the various ministries so evident among us. I am heartened by all the good work we are doing and continue to be encouraged by the energy and initiative which are so characteristic among our family. I feel blessed to be part of this experience with you all.

At the same time, I recognize that there are many other opportunities that face us in coming days, not the least of which is the possibility of transitioning to a church building of our own. I know that there are many of us who look forward to such a transition with great expectancy. In the past year, we have made a tentative offer for a piece of property off Converse north of Del Range as well as a firm offer on an existing church building on Ridge Road south of Del Range. As things stand now, we don't have acceptable responses on either of these two options. We are also aware of another existing church building which may soon be on the market and plan to look at that option as well.

As we evaluate such options, it occurs to me that we haven't spent much time as a parish considering the benefits and costs of making

such a move. I encourage you all to spend some time thinking about both the good things that would come with a more permanent facility and what it would mean in terms of increased operating costs and time commitments. Know that your vestry is seriously considering the issue as well and that there will be opportunities for all of us to share our thoughts on the subject before any final decisions are made.

Related to this, I want to commend to you the ongoing visioning process we have initiated for our church family. We had an initial session the first Sunday in November and will be holding a follow up session on the first Sunday in December. It will be held at the Westgate Community House beginning with a potluck at 1PM and then continuing with a facilitated discussion about the future of our church.

In our first session, we spent time looking at the strengths of our church, things that we do well and for which we have a passion. In our next session we will be looking at the needs we see in our community, looking for areas of need that match well with our strengths and passions. The plan is to identify those areas and then together make decisions on how to focus our efforts to best meet the needs of our community with our predominant strengths and passions. I consider this process to be the optimum way for us to grow our ministry in Cheyenne and our support of mission efforts on a larger scale. Please plan to join in this effort to help us make the right decisions for our future of our church.

One added thought that comes to me is that there is a reinforced need for help with greeting and ushering at our Sunday services. Our stalwart Lamar Gordon is experiencing increased health problems and will not likely be able to continue his previous pattern of covering these tasks each week. We can use men, women or young people in this role and I would encourage any interested individuals to volunteer to help with this part of our ministry. While not a difficult task, it is important in how we welcome parishioners and provide information to visitors about our church. We could also use a few new volunteers to help with our weekly food contributions to the Coalition for the Homeless which Lamar has previously covered by himself. Please consider these

opportunities to expand your service to God's work at St. Peter's.

IHS,
Dan

VESTRY NOTES November's Vestry Meeting was held at the home of Donna Burgess and opened by prayer. Following a short bible study, informal sharing included conversation about a Christmas Pageant to be put on by the children either Christmas Eve or the Sunday before Christmas. The Prayer Shawl Ministry is really touching people in a very meaningful way.

TREASURER'S REPORT. The money in our CD has been moved to a Money Market account to gain accessibility, should we need it for property acquisition. We earned \$252.05 interest from the time it was held in the CD. Overall, our financial picture is healthy.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT. Dan Clark reported on the Church Growth Conference he and Father Skip attended in Colorado. This was a very positive experience and they gathered much useful information. Dan is working with Lamar Gordon on the Usher / Greeting Ministry to improve the process and incorporate new people into this service for the church family. Appreciation and support was expressed for the work done by Lamar.

RECTOR'S REPORT. All included in Old and New Business.

OLD BUSINESS. Strategic Planning / Visioning. Positive feedback is being reported. These sessions led by a facilitator from Colorado will help us chart the course of St. Peter's. The next gathering is planned for Sunday afternoon, December 4th at the Westgate Clubhouse following a potluck lunch. You don't want to miss it!

Property Acquisition. We made an offer to purchase the American Cancer Society building; however, their counter offer was not what we felt was within our means to accept. We are considering a couple of additional properties that have come to our attention, which are existing churches at this time.

2006 Budget. There was some discussion about changing the budget to begin on December 1 instead of January 1 in order to accommodate the possible purchase of the Cancer Society building. Since that prospect no longer seems imminent, we will remain on the current schedule running from January 1 to January 1.

It was noted that over half of those who turned in pledge cards to increase their giving to facilitate the acquisition of property are already giving as they said they would should building purchase occur. Three units are now giving directly to the building fund. It's happening. Many are not waiting until January 1 to give.

NEW BUSINESS. Alignment with Anglican Bodies and Access to Bishop. Frustration was noted in the slow action surrounding the restructuring of the American church and our ongoing inability to be connected to that larger body, along with the difficulty at arranging a visit from our Bishop to for pastoral care and to conduct confirmations. A date when that may occur remains uncertain. A major milestone will occur in June of 2006 when ECUSA holds its convention, but unless the Archbishop of Canterbury takes decisive action, and that cannot be predicted, there may still be no definitive progress. If the Episcopal Church is invited to Lambeth in 2008, it could drag out even further. If it is a long way off, do we continue to wait?

AMiA (Anglican Mission in America) is an already established organization with a support structure and Bishops in place throughout the country. Father Skip will invite Bishop Sandy Greene of Denver to meet with us to tell us about AMiA and possible affiliation with them. AMiA was started through Primates (Archbishops) in Rwanda and Singapore. One of our considerations will be the likelihood of their connection to the restructured body that comes out of ECUSA through AAC and ACN when it is finally established. If, after meeting with Bishop Greene, we are inclined to affiliate with AMiA, this will be a decision to be made by the whole parish, as this is really a big step. In the meantime, information could be gathered online for anyone who is disposed to check it out there.

Christmas Outreach. We are going to set up our "Giving Tree" to provide gifts to the children of Reserve Military families again this year. We will also contribute monetarily to families in need if Sue Hume is able to identify suitable folks for us to help.

Air Force Association. This group is undertaking a project to give cookies to the 672 airmen who are living in the dormitories at Warren Air Force Base. They're just not quite sure where they are going to get all those cookies however. We want to check with our

congregation to see if we would be willing to bake some cookies for this worthy cause.

Avian Flu. From information presented at the Church Growth Conference attended by Father Skip and Dan Clark, it seems prudent to consider developing contingency plans should we be faced with a pandemic of the avian flu. What would we do to take care of and minister to our parishioners, should this become an issue? Perhaps such a plan should be expanded to encompass other emergencies as well. We will begin gathering information to look into such action.

Schedules. Christmas Eve services will be held at 6 p.m. in our usual location at LCCC. There will be no services on Christmas Day. Shari has arranged for our new substitute Musician to be with us on November 27th when she and Bob will be in California. January 18th is the 2nd Anniversary of our founding. We will plan a Parish Dinner to celebrate this momentous event. We will use this occasion to award the Rock of St. Peter to someone who has contributed significantly to our church. We will actually schedule the dinner for Sunday, January 22nd, in conjunction with the Annual Parish Meeting.

Sunday School Commendation. The Vestry wishes to recognize the outstanding work being done by our Sunday School planners and teachers. We have a substantial increase in the number of children in attendance and the teachers are nurturing them admirably. We commend you all!

The meeting was closed by prayer.

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION The Advent of Jesus Christ. During this season we will study scripture presenting the return of Jesus Christ in glory. We will cover a few Old Testament prophecies, the prophecies of Jesus and the New Testament writers, leading up to a study of the book of Revelation. The historic Anglican way of understanding the book will be explained in contrast to the recent perspectives of the "Left Behind" series. You will discover a wonderful message of hope, of glory and eternal peace.

We will meet at 9:00 am each Sunday in December (except for December 25th) and January. You're welcome to join us!

**Rota Schedule with Prayer Team
December 2005**

To preview the NIV readings, you may go to www.biblegateway.com. This site includes both the printed texts and an audio reading.

DATE	OT LESSON	CANTOR	NT LESSON	PRAYERS	CHALICE	PRAYER TEAM
Dec 4	Marge Marcewicz	Dan Clark	Chuck Seniawski	Marge Marcewicz	Dan Clark Shirley Jones Marge Marcewicz	Gaye Flack Matty Ludwig Marge Marcewicz - LEM
Dec 11	Marlin Walter	Dan Clark	Marge Marcewicz	June Bowser	Dan Clark Marlin Walter Roger Ludwig	Marge Marcewicz Stephanie Reeves Dan Clark - LEM
Dec 18	Marjie Klebe	June Bowser	Roger Ludwig	Roger Ludwig	Marlin Walter Roger Ludwig Stephanie Reeves	Sue Seniawski Gaye Flack Matty Ludwig - LEM
Dec 24	Shirley Jones	June Bowser	June Bowser	Stephanie Reeves	Stephanie Reeves Shirley Jones Marlin Walter	

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, Marlin Walter, know.