



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.stpeterscheyyenne.org
635-6868

December 2006

From the Rector:



This Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent, the beginning of a new Christian Year. As I thought about this I found myself reflecting upon our brief history, and our hope for the future. We are just six weeks away from finishing our third year in existence. As I thought about that, a lot of little pieces that had been puzzling me over the past year began to fall into place.

Since 1977, one of the tasks I have taken on has been the mentoring and training of new clergy – especially those serving small churches. In Texas and Washington State I used to lead conferences and work with some clergy individually. Here in Wyoming I was the chairman of the Commission on Ministry for a number of years and had the opportunity to work with every newly ordained deacon and priest, as well as experienced clergy moving to this diocese. I especially liked to talk to them about what to expect during their first three years in a parish.

I often cautioned them to move slowly during their first year. It generally isn't wise to introduce too many innovations until you have earned the trust of the congregation. I would also tell them that a piece of paper may prove to the state that you are a "priest," but you're not really a priest until a congregation accepts you as a priest.

The second year is generally an exciting time for clergy. During your second year you can get away with murder. This is a time when new programs can be introduced, and a lot of exciting things seem to happen. These first two years are referred to as the "honeymoon" years – and then comes the third year.

The third year is usually grim. In small parishes especially, the third year is the year

that young ministers begin look around for larger congregations that can afford a greater salary to support their growing family. Also, by the third year a new minister has had time to make his/her mark in the diocese, and larger churches will begin to seek them out if they seem to have the "right stuff." Congregations know this intuitively. During this third year some people have become burned out by the new programs introduced in the second year, many become reluctant to commit to new programs, volunteers are hard to find, stewardship might slump, personal attacks are sometimes launched against the minister or his/her family, and everyone expects the priest to leave.

If the priest and his/her family make it past this third year things tend to go well, with a few bumps, until the end of the seventh year. At the end of that year the priest and the parish need a fresh vision, and in some ways the cycle is repeated. Most of the prominent church consultants have found that the most effective work of a priest and a parish tends to happen at the end of the second cycle. Yes, after living together for about fourteen years.

Well, we are just finishing our third year. During this past year some people burned out. Others found that we weren't the church they thought we were. Some just faded away and we may never know why. However, the good news is that WE ARE MAKING IT PAST THE THIRD YEAR. I am excited about that. Dan Clark has done an excellent job of helping us formulate an identity and a vision. I like who we are, and I like the church we are becoming. I look forward to meeting our new bishop, Martyn Minns, and finding our place in CANA.

We will be beginning 2007 a bit smaller than last year, but a bit tougher, and a bit more committed. Shari led us through a wonderful stewardship campaign this past month, and you

stepped up to the plate. You went on record saying with your checkbook that you want this church to succeed. St. Peter's is a church that I am proud of, and a place where I can bring a friend. I find that "... *the Father (is) with us.*" *That "... Christ (is) among us.*" *That "... the Spirit (is) here.*" *"Let us give thanks to the Lord our God."*

**God bless you
Skip**

December events

Wednesday (every)	
Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 9 th	
Men's Breakfast	8:00 a.m.
Saturday, Dec. 16 th	
Caroling & Chili Supper with St. Andrew's	4:00 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 24 th	
NO MORNING WORSHIP	
CHRISTMAS EVE	6:00 p.m.

FROM THE SR WARDEN



As we enter into the Advent Season I am reminded of the role preparation plays in our spiritual lives. In my experience, things don't just happen by accident. Rather we are called to prepare to do the Lord's work and once prepared, to do it with enthusiasm and joy - of course with due consideration for course adjustments when prompted by the Holy Spirit. With this in mind, a few thoughts come to me that warrant our attention.

First, a reminder to the men in our group, we will have our regular Saturday morning breakfast and prayer/study time on Saturday, Dec 9 beginning at 8AM. Please plan to join us for this time of fellowship and sharing. Better yet, bring a friend along to share in this activity.

Second, we are planning a joint chili feed and caroling party with the St. Andrew's Parish folks. This event is scheduled on Saturday, Dec 16th. We will meet at the church located at 3325 McCann Avenue at 4PM, and then travel to selected nursing homes, retirement complexes and shut-ins, returning to the church around 6PM for a chili supper. We'll put together a few maps prior to the function for any who may need them. This event is open to all and promises to

be a fun time for us all as well as bringing some Christmas cheer to those who can't easily get out to experience the joys of the season on their own.

Third, as we ready ourselves to transition to another year of operation, its time to identify some new vestry members. We will have 5 positions to fill so there are lots of opportunities here to serve. Several outgoing members of the vestry will be preparing a slate of prospective nominees and we would welcome inputs from you - both on your willingness to serve and for the names of those whom you would suggest for this important function. The new members will be formally elected at our parish meeting early next year. If you have questions or recommendations for us, feel free to discuss them with Roger Ludwig, Jim Krouch or myself.

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord!
Dan

VESTRY NOTES: November's Vestry Meeting was held at the home of Becky Burney and was opened by prayer. Following a short Bible study, informal sharing included conversation about prayer needs within the parish and church growth.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Ken Flack reported that our financial situation is sound and recommended that distribution of moneys we have been collecting for outside ecclesiastic bodies be disbursed to CANA (Convocation of Anglicans in North America) and ACN (Anglican Communion Network). All concurred.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT. No current developments.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT. Dan Clark talked about upcoming Christian Education he will be directing dealing with preparing ourselves to talk about who we are and what we're doing as a parish. Also discussed was a witness program through AAC (American Anglican Communion) that trains people to go to other churches, often Episcopal churches, to relate what is going on in the Church and help folks who are upset but reluctant to leave buildings, family, friends, etc., to move away from congregations which are espousing positions they cannot support. The issues are not being discussed in many churches so are not well understood by a significant segment of their populations. AAC representatives will come at no charge to present this lay program if desired. We may consider bringing them in and inviting

participation of the Casper Anglican church as well.

RECTOR'S REPORT. We are officially accepted as members of CANA. CANA's development is showing real promise as they embrace new parishes and begin functioning like a real diocese. They are very pastoral in their approach, as evidenced by the willingness of Bishop Minns to visit St. Peter's so quickly.

OLD BUSINESS. 2007 Budget. It was covered and everything looks to be falling into place for successful operation in the coming year.

Stewardship. The last Sunday of the fall campaign is coming up. Pledge cards will be passed out and returned for presentation on the altar. Father Skip complimented Chairwoman Shari on her guidance of the effort, along with the folks who kindly shared their thoughts with us on Sunday mornings. Cake will be served at a reception following the service.

Property Acquisition. The committee is ready to meet again. They have gathered information about financing from organizations that assist churches who are just starting up. We just meet the specifications to qualify for their program.

NEW BUSINESS. Fellowship. Senior Warden Dan has been exploring potential opportunities to interact with St. Andrew's on selected activities, beginning with a social function to join with them at their annual Christmas Caroling Party at Nursing Homes, followed by a chili supper on December 17th. There are areas where we are the same, and those where we are different, so this would be a chance to get together for certain events, though intending no expectation of joining churches. We may also be able to share some service projects, such as WorkDays, with thoughts of targeting handicapped organizations in upcoming sessions. There were no objections from anyone, so we will schedule the Christmas Party and announce it in the next Vision.

Annual Parish Meeting. Scheduled for January, a major part of this gathering is the selection of new Vestry members. Due to term expirations and resignations, we are losing Senior Warden Dan Clark, Junior Warden Jim Krouch, Treasurer Ken Flack, Roger Ludwig, Pete Marion, along with one vacant seat to fill. These persons agreed to comprise the committee, with Dan acting as Chair. Father Skip will nominate the Senior Warden. The Junior Warden can be chosen from the Vestry. The Treasurer can continue to serve in that position as an ex-officio member, if desired.

Our new Bishop will be in attendance at this meeting. Confirmations and baptisms will be conducted. We will also schedule social events, beginning with a potluck dinner at Westgate Clubhouse on Friday night, January 19th. That morning he will be engaged in radio and other news interviews. It is being arranged for him to attend the symphony on Saturday evening. He will lead Christian Education on Sunday morning.

Vestry Retreat. Following selection of a new Vestry, a Retreat will be held to bring the group together. All nominees should be reminded of this get together for team building.

Outreach. There are some children's organizations where we may participate. Special Olympics is holding a fund-raising auction on February 24th and needs 6-8 people to help with accounting, marking and carrying bid items back and forth, etc. Magic City is planning a Saturday Bingo morning where assistance could be given by buying prizes (such as at Dollar Tree) and helping people with Bingo cards.

Blessings to all,

Susan Oyler,

Secretary / Clerk of the Vestry

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Our three advent lessons will be on "Being a Genuine Community". We'll study and discuss some important passages on how we, who have received such grace through Jesus Christ, are to behave to be the church. We long to be a part of a real community, a new "Camelot". Creating such a brotherhood takes purposeful action on our parts. These lessons include some introspection, for it is to the repentant that Christ will come.

Sunday mornings at 9:00, December 3^d, 10th and 17th.

Roger

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: Thank you, Shari, for running our first stewardship campaign. The campaign was outstanding talking about our talents, time and treasure.

On Sunday November 19th & 26th, we have received 20 Gift Cards with a total of \$65,784.00 for next year.

Nine giving units are new for the upcoming year

Seven giving units from last year increased their pledge and one pledge was reduced.

Three giving units remains the same.

If anyone would like to make a pledge for next year, you can e-mail me at kdfmack@juno.com, complete a card on Sunday, or send a note to me at 3916 Dey Ave.

Ken Flack
Church Treasurer

CLASSIFIEDS: We need assistance with arranging the flowers for the Sunday services.

We need assistance also with the poinsettias, which we traditionally have for our Christmas Eve service. If interested, please speak with Gaye Flack for the details. The phone is 632-2661.

COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS – How We Can Help

Many of you are aware that Lamar Gordon is involved with the Coalition for the Homeless. He has put out a list of food items that can be used by the homeless and many of you have been so generous. Items that he has requested are those that can be put in pockets or backpacks.

Not long ago, I found the ‘stash’ of toiletries that I had accumulated from my travels. These included small bottles of shampoo, conditioner, lotion, mouthwash, as well as small bars of soap. These items are provided by hotels (they are already included in the price of the room). I do not always use all of these items when I travel, so I bring them home and put them in a sack. I asked Lamar if these items could also be used by the homeless. He agreed that they would. This last Sunday he mentioned that the Coalition for the Homeless was very pleased with the inclusion of these items and that they go fast. Needless to say they could use more. So, whenever you travel, pick up those amenities that are provided for you and bring the unused ones to Lamar. They will be most welcome.

This is just another way we can minister to others.

Stephanie Reeves

ROTA SCHEDULE WITH PRAYER TEAM

December 2006

To preview the lessons, you may go to www.biblegateway.com.

	OT LESSON	PSALM	NT LESSON	PRAYERS	CHALICE	PRAYER TEAM
Dec 3 1st Sunday of Advent	Susan Oyler Jer. 33:14-16	Marge Marcewicz Psalm 25:1-10	Roger Ludwig I Thess.3:9-13	Marge Marcewicz	Roger Ludwig Marge Marcewicz Jim Jensen	Matty Ludwig Stephanie Reeves LEM: Marge M.
Dec 10	Stephanie Reeves Malachi 3:1-4	Dan Clark Luke 1:68-79	Jim Jensen Phil. 1:3-11	Barb Clark	Stephanie Reeve Dan Clark Susan Oyler	Gaye Flack Caryl Marion LEM:Lamar Gordon
Dec 17	Marjie Klebe Zeph. 3:14-20	Jim Jensen Isaiah 12:2-6	Barb Clark Phil. 4:4-7	Stephanie Reeves	Stephanie Reeve Jim Jensen Dan Clark	Gaye Flack Caryl Marion LEM: Matty L.
Dec 24 Nativity	Matty Ludwig Isaiah 9:2-7	Susan Oyler Psa. 96	Stephanie Reeves Titus 2:11-14	Roger Ludwig	Susan Oyler Roger Ludwig Jim Jensen	Stephanie Reeves Matty Ludwig LEM:
Dec 31	Barb Clark I Sam.2:18-20,26	Dan Clark (C) Psa. 148	Marjie Klebe Col. 3:12-17	Stephanie Reeves	Susan Oyler Dan Clark Roger Ludwig	Stephanie Reeves Matty Ludwig LEM: Dan Clark

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, 775-0675 leave a message, or at mattyludwig@bresnan.net