



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](http://www.stpeterscheyenne.org)  
635-6868

## JULY 2005

### From the Rector:



I sent the following article to some of you by e-mail last week. It is such a good article that I am printing it for all of you who don't receive e-mail.

I like two things about this article. First, it identifies the Episcopal Church's flawed view of the authority of Holy Scripture, and its lack of hope in God's power to lift people out of sin. Second, it also clarifies the reason so many conservative bishops and clergy have chosen to remain in ECUSA as long as they have. When ECUSA is "thrown out" of the Anglican Communion there is a very real possibility that conservative congregations will be able to join the emerging Anglican Church and retain their property.

At the present time most congregations lose the battle for property in court; however, if ECUSA is no longer Anglican it becomes just another new sect, and faithful congregations that desire to continue in the Anglican Communion have legal grounds to do so. This will also pose a dilemma for many Episcopal clergy. The thought of their Church losing its historic and apostolic authority is something none of them have been prepared to accept. No one ever anticipated that the Episcopal Church would stray so far from the basic tenets of the faith that it would be rejected by the vast majority of its own Communion, much less Christendom worldwide.

**God bless you,  
Skip**

**We're Getting Thrown Out – *The Living Church***  
6/22/2005

By Peter T. Manzo

It is a night to remember. We celebrate ours as the most advanced of cultures. We speed across time as through uncharted waters. But it

is dark, and the air of the Anglican Communion is chilled. We are the Titanic. Only 100 feet ahead is the twin-peaked iceberg — General Convention 2006 and Lambeth 2008.

In charity, may I tell you why we're getting thrown out of the Anglican Communion, so long our home? The framework of love and truth that is that Communion requires our expulsion. In America, someone experiences a same-gender attraction. The cultural elite of our society would make that a defining characteristic of that person, attaching the label gay or lesbian. Dare we, as Christians, think outside that box? Could it be that that feeling of same-sex attraction is not the revelation of one's identity, but a symptom of something deeper, something that needs healing?

The word of God written enables us to think outside the box of our culture. The word of God tells us that people can be healed in Christ. We are getting thrown out of the Anglican Communion because we leave people with same-sex attractions in the box in which this culture has placed them. And worse, by same-gender union blessing, we are nailing a lid on that box, cutting them off from the good news that God heals sexual brokenness. Could exclusion get any worse than that? How can priests bless what the word of God condemns? Of these ceremonies, the Windsor Report, on Page 56, Paragraph 143, says they are not a "legitimate application of the Christian faith as the churches of the Anglican Communion have received it." Did you note that? It's not the Christian faith. That's why we're getting thrown out of the Anglican Communion.

When will our pastoral care be based on both love and truth? Scripture and science agree. Sexual orientation is a changeable condition. Have you heard about the Columbia University professor's study published two years ago? Robert L. Spitzer, himself a gay rights activist (he led the fight to remove homosexuality from DSM-IV in the early 1970s) thought that sexual

orientation could not be changed. His study changed his mind. When will our pastoral care reflect that fact?

Did you know that Masters & Johnson, the famed sex researchers of the '60s and '70s, developed a two-week therapy (seven days a week for two weeks) that changes sexual orientation permanently in two of three cases? When will our pastoral care reflect that fact? Instead, we abandon gays and lesbians to the prison of homosexual feelings. That's why we're getting thrown out of the Anglican Communion.

What happens when we do get thrown out? That is just the beginning. There will ensue the greatest legal battle in American church history. Lawyers salivate over this stuff. The Episcopal Church's constitution states that we are "constituent members" of the Anglican Communion. "Constituent" means necessary.

It's necessary for us to be members of the Anglican Communion. If you get nothing else, get this point: If we're not Anglican, we're not Episcopalian. Anglicanism is not a self-made philosophy. It's a Communion. If you're not in the Communion, you're not Anglican. And, by our constitution, if you're not Anglican, you're not Episcopalian. It's like when you're vacuuming. If you reach too far, you pull the plug out of the wall, and the whole operation comes to a halt. We've gone too far. The whole operation is about to end.

Who will have authority in this Church after the break? The faithful remnant. Just as in the days of Elijah and Jezebel, a faithful remnant remains. The faithful remnant is those dioceses, parishes, and clergy in the Anglican Communion Network. They alone will be the legitimate Episcopalians who meet the constitutional requirement for communion with Canterbury. When that link breaks, we hit the iceberg that will sink this ship.

Finally, I want to let you in on a secret. Our problem is not homosexuality. It's only the precipitating issue. We owe a deep apology to homosexual persons for the pain they feel right now.

It's yet another victimization. To every person with same-sex attractions, let me say this: I humbly apologize, and ask your forgiveness. You're not the problem. The underlying problem, the real issue that is tearing us apart is this — the primacy and reliability of scripture. "I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God." That is part

of the ordination oath required in writing from every bishop, priest and deacon. The dirty little secret of our Church is this: Too many clergy really believe that the Bible is the written word of man — and not the word of God written. At bottom, that's why we're getting thrown out of the Anglican Communion.

To every person with same-gender attraction, I say: Jesus loves you. He sees your gifts, and they are abundant. Just one thing is lacking. Place your sexuality under the lordship of Christ. That command may make you sad, because you're carrying a lot of sexual baggage. We all have baggage. Please, don't turn away. Rely on the promise of the Word of God. In 1 John 1:9 it is written that God will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. That's the message of Jesus to gay persons. It ought to be the message of our Church.

*The Rev. Peter T. Manzo is the rector of St. Bartholomew's Church, Cherry Hill, N.J. This article is based on an address to the Windsor Report Workshop of the Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey on March 5.*

#### FROM THE SR WARDEN



There are so many things rattling around in my head that I'm having a hard time figuring out where to start. Maybe for this month I'll go from global to local. Those of you who keep up with the Anglican Communion Network on the internet already know that there has been considerable activity by the Anglican Primates and that the North American Churches (both in the United States and Canada) have not fared well. The following was reported by the Anglican Consultative Council on June 22, 2005.

"The Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) today passed a resolution that both affirmed the traditional position of the Communion as expressed in Lambeth 1.10 and endorsed the Primates' request that "in order to recognize the integrity of all parties, the Episcopal Church (USA) and the Anglican Church of Canada voluntarily withdraw their members" from the ACC before the next Lambeth Conference in 2008."

While there remain many trials and struggles before us, the momentum remains with orthodox theology and the primacy of scripture in

the Anglican Communion. We can take heart that we are in the majority camp and things are moving forward in a positive way. It is significant to note that a formal process to assign bishops to churches such as ours is now in place. It remains to be seen how and when that process will come to fruition for us. I will share with you that our Bishop, Bill Anderson from the Diocese of New Caledonia in British Columbia is continuing with his plans to visit us when the way becomes clear to do so.

At the national level, there is also much movement and in my opinion reason to be hopeful. While there are many different parishes responding to this crisis of faith, we are all keeping the same vision for our future, a Biblically based church with a traditional Anglican style of worship and a mission orientation to spread God's word. The Anglican Communion Network continues to add members all around the country and our Mid-Continental Convocation is positioned to provide support to all churches in the central U.S. which desire association with the Anglican Communion outside of the Episcopal Church structure. In this regard, I should also mention that a new sister church has now been formed in Casper under the leadership of Fr Tom Johnson (former Curate at St Mark's, Casper) and they are positioning themselves to build a new church in East Casper to serve the people in that region.

Now to the local level, MY GOODNESS! While our summer numbers are not especially strong, I see a tremendous amount of energy at St Peter's and a lot of good being done in God's name. I continue to see people serving in a myriad ways as they are led and am heartened by the enthusiastic feedback we are getting from our Faith Alive Weekend. We are now in the midst of planning a variety of small group activities to build on our renewed spirit and further God's kingdom right here in Cheyenne. We will plan, obtain materials and work schedules to start up these groups as people return from their summer travels. I should also add that I am especially pleased to hear the healthy discussion that has been generated around our music program. While I know that some have viewed this issue as a conflict, I don't. Rather, I view it as a maturing process in which we are more clearly defining how we will worship and how music will enrich our church family. To me this is good news. I encourage all who read this to participate in discussions on the subject in coming weeks. I am

confident that we will find the right style and mix of music to fit our congregation and add to our ministry in the community.

Take heart that we are doing God's work and he will bless us in that endeavor. Building up the church through outreach and mission is a noble calling and we are all serving in that vineyard. Thanks be to God.

IHS,  
Dan

**VESTRY NOTES** May's Vestry Meeting was held at the home of Shari Henney and opened by prayer. Following a short bible study, informal sharing included conversation about property ownership. Our experience has taught us that as we seek to align with a larger Anglican church body, we will never affiliate with an entity where the Bishop owns the property. Our Vestry will own our own parish. Visitors from Scotland will be coming to Cheyenne as an exchange through the Twinning Committee at St. Mark's. Because some of St. Peter's people have become acquainted with Moira and Sandy over the years, the folks who will be visiting from Scotland, we will share some time with them during periods when they are not scheduled with St. Mark's official activities. Shari will make the arrangements. A recent paper about love as a new doctrine of the Episcopal Church has recently been published. Roger will use this premise as a springboard for biblical teachings on love, as we begin a new Christian Education topic.

**TREASURER'S REPORT.** Our bank balance continues to grow, even with all the things we have been doing of late. We still have limited giving to the Building Fund. Though we considered transferring some funds into an interest-bearing account, we opted against such a move at this time, as interest rates are so low and would require a time commitment before being able to access the funds. We want to maintain liquidity of the money for our possible impending land purchase at this time.

**JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT.** Jim again expressed our thanks to those who set up and tear down equipment and paraphernalia for our church services, chiefly Ken & Gaye Flack. We do notice and are indeed appreciative. They will be gone later this summer, so Roger Ludwig will help train those who will take on this task.

**SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT.** None, as Dan Clark was out of town.

**RECTOR'S REPORT.** Covered under Old Business (Land Acquisition and Music.)

**OLD BUSINESS. Land Acquisition.** Discussions are continuing with property owners and are looking favorable. Some details remain to be worked out. We have enough money at the present time for a solid down payment.

**Music.** A lengthy and diverse discussion took place in connection with the style of music preferred for St. Peter's. The importance of treating everyone with kindness, love, and patience as we carry out this process was emphasized. There are some who prefer a traditional, contemplative approach, while others enjoy praise music of a contemporary nature. We will continue with the standard music to which we have been accustomed throughout the summer. In September, we will have two services of each type presented for the consideration of the parish. Some outside assistance for the contemporary music will be sought to bring in the musicianship that is not readily available within our membership, so that a true representation of that form of music can be heard. Continuing growth often hinges on how a church reaches out to connect with new people. That can frequently involve some changes to relate to younger, unchurched, non-liturgical folks. We are bound by our theology and liturgy, which we count as a blessing, but the churches which are growing are transforming in other ways to bring in new members, which generally involves a more contemporary approach. If we want to grow, we have to be willing to do what it takes to do that. We are asking for the participation of all parishioners in the fall to attend services of both kinds, not just the ones that most closely fit one particular preference, so we can make a valid determination. One way is not right or wrong, liberal or conservative – they are simply different. We truly want input from everyone so we can direct the path of this church as desired by its members, taking into consideration all aspects of our decision.

**Faith Alive.** How wonderfully done was our weekend experience! It was so meaningful to those who attended. The neighborhood coffees seemed to particularly touch people's lives. Dan Clark is working on developing small groups as an outgrowth of the renewal event. He will also put together a list of people who are willing to go to other churches to participate as team members and do witnessing.

**Focus Prayer.** Marge will write a new prayer, then circulate it to the rest of the Vestry for input.

**NEW BUSINESS. City Wide Vacation Bible School.** The Vestry voted to contribute \$150 to cover the costs of our children who will attend. Vicky Clark is coordinating the effort from St. Peter's. We expect 3 of our families to take part.

**Next Meeting.** Father Skip graciously offered to host the July Vestry Meeting, scheduled for the second Tuesday, July 12, 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, Tim Bowser, Donna Burgess, Ken Flack, Shari Henney, Roger Ludwig, Marge Marcewicz, Susan Oyler, and Chuck Seniawski.

Blessings to all ~

Susan Oyler,

Secretary/Clerk of the Vestry

**ACW** A special standing invitation goes out to all the Women of our Church for our regular monthly ACW (Anglican Christian Women) meeting. As mentioned before, this shall always take place on the 2nd Sunday of each month, directly after our Church service and coffee hour. This is the time when it is asked for all our faithful Women of the Church, to bring a paper plate of baked goods or any canned goods, such as jellies, sauces, or goodies in general for our ACW monthly fundraiser. Each plate or goodie is \$5.00 with all proceeds going toward our Church activities and causes. We shall also have on display our Church Cookbooks for sale as wonderful gifts at a mere \$15.00 per book. Looking forward to seeing all the wonderful treats and all of you!

Warmly, Molly A. Feemster, ACW Chair.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** There will be no Christian Ed class on July 3rd. Sleep well!

On July 10th we'll begin a new series on perhaps the most important subject for living out the Christian life: LOVE. Our focus will be on scripture, of course, covering both doctrinal and practical aspects of love as a way of life.

God is love. When we let him love us we find that fear is banished. When we take in his love we find that we have plenty to give, to our

mates and children and people we meet, even to the natural world around us.

This series will continue throughout the summer.

### **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

St. Peter's now has a Prayer Shawl Ministry (PSM). Anyone who would like to knit a stole/shawl is welcome to do so. PSM has no meetings or officers, just knitters/crocheters. If you would like to participate or would like to know more, please contact Lu Hart, 778-3993, [BoulderNPine@aol.com](mailto:BoulderNPine@aol.com).

**Yarns needed!** The Prayer Shawl Ministry (PSM) would welcome donations of yarn. Did you knit/crochet a project and have yarn left over? Did Aunt Tillie begin a project and give it to you to finish (a project you would not mind being UN-knitted)? We cannot use bits and pieces of yarn, but half or whole or multiple skeins would be appreciated. The PSM will put them to good use. Please contact Lu Hart, 778-3993, [BoulderNPine@aol.com](mailto:BoulderNPine@aol.com).

**MUSIC FOR THE WORSHIP SERVICE** Over the last month, there has been discussion over what music should be included in the worship service, in particular the contemporary music. I encourage that to continue over the next few weeks. To those who may be confused as to why we are having this discussion at all, here is a little background.

Why did we include contemporary music to the worship format? Many of us remember the use of 'Cry Hosanna', or praise, music somewhere in the service over the years. There were several people at St. Peter's who commented that praise (contemporary) music was a form of worship for them, that they found such joy in being able to praise God and Jesus with song, and that they missed being able to have that available at St. Peter's.

On January 1, 2005, Skip and I attended church (conservative Episcopal) in Denver. They used a combination of contemporary music and traditional, but all with guitar and keyboard. The congregation, and in particular the children, were

actively engaged in the music to worship God. It was a combination of joyful and contemplative. The congregation was comprised of all generations, but in particular families with children. It was an uplifting experience to see all in attendance worshipping God.

Afterwards, there were several people who expressed their desire to have that same experience at St. Peter's. It was decided that we would form a small group to sing praise music before the service started, not as gathering music, but as worship music, leading into the traditional hymnal music that was already in place.

Nothing was said to the music team, until after Mother's Day when we did not have the benefit of the 'coffee room' where those who may not like the contemporary music could go. Since then, there have been emails sent regarding the contemporary music, discussion at vestry meetings, Skip has put this in his sermon, and the issue is on the back of our weekly bulletins for us to discuss.

In reflecting about all this, I recalled why we started doing contemporary music. And that was to have a venue for those who want to praise God with praise music and to introduce it to others who may not have had the opportunity to worship in this way. The intent was not meant to replace anything, just to enhance. The intent was not meant to offend.

I know that there are some people on the vestry who do not like contemporary music, or at least the music the St Peter's group is doing, and a few have said that it is not professional enough and they do not like the 'unstructured' way it is presented. On-the-other-hand I also have been told by many that they like the music. Do we get rid of something many may want for the comfort of a few? I would hope not.

So, my question is, since there are those who would like to worship God with praise in song, where in the service can we do this? Can we do it at all?

Stephanie Reeves

## Rota Schedule with Prayer Team

July 2005


Each Sunday's readings will be in the blue binder at the Lectern. 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
7/3	Chuck Seniawski	TBA	Marjie Klebe	June Bowser	Dan Clark Lu Hart Shirley Jones	TBA
7/10	Matty Ludwig	TBA	Barb Clark	Roger Ludwig	Roger Ludwig Marge Marcewicz Susan Oyler	TBA
7/17	Susan Seniawski	TBA	Bob Schrader	Stephanie Reeves	Shirley Jones Stephanie Reeves Bob Schrader	TBA
7/24	Dan Clark	TBA	June Bowser	Barb Clark	Roger Ludwig Marge Marcewicz Susan Oyler	TBA
7/31	Lu Hart	TBA	Stephanie Reeves	Susan Oyler	Dan Clark Lu Hart Roger Ludwig	TBA

If you need to make a change, please try to find a substitute. If you are unable to find a substitute, please let me know. --Tim Bowser (307) 634-8545 [tbowser@wyoming.com](mailto:tbowser@wyoming.com)

# Women of St. Peter's

## A conference just for women



Living Proof Live featuring **BETH MOORE**

If you're in need of divine refreshment, want to delve deeper into the Word of God, or you're just looking for a fun and uplifting getaway with the "the girls," Beth Moore's Living Proof Live is the place for you!

As she explores the Bible and how it applies to real life, you'll be amazed by her own experiences as a believer, and you'll be inspired to magnify and strengthen your own relationship with God.

The First Baptist Church of Cheyenne will be hosting the simulcast of Living Proof Live from New York, N. Y. Tickets are on sale now! Seats are limited so don't delay. Also, one hundred tickets must be sold by July 29<sup>th</sup> in order for First Baptist to host this event. **Give your checks to Fr. Skip and make them payable to St. Peter's. Also, mark it Beth Moore Event.** Each lady will receive a listening guide to take notes throughout the event.

**Dates: October 7-8**  
**Friday: 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.**  
**Saturday: 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**Cost: \$25<sup>00</sup>**

*Child Care Available*

This powerful Bible Study, teaching, and authentic worship  
is sure to minister to your mind, soul, and spirit!