



# 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

Fr. "Skip" Reeves  
Rector

www.stpeterscheyyenne.org  
635-6868

June 2006

## Apologetics: What is it?

### From the Rector:



In sitting in on Jim Jensen's video class on the **Early Church** I have noticed a great amount of interest in those sections dealing with questions about why we believe some aspect of our Christian faith. This was no surprise. When we were working on a mission and vision statement for St. Peter's we heard people asking to be "equipped" to meet the challenges they face in the world. Apologetics is the discipline of "... defending the Christian faith on intellectual grounds." Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church Some people make this their life's work, but each of us is expected to do our part -- **"... if you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it."** 1 Peter 3:15 New Living Bible

Apologetics originally dealt with denials of Christianity from atheists and other religions. Today these challenges are joined by distortions from cults and heresy within professing Christian groups themselves. It is our job to do the best we can to answer all challenges to the orthodox, biblical Christian faith – no matter who the challengers are. Are you up to it?

I doubt that any of us think of ourselves as apologists, and while I have helped a number of people find faith over the years I'm not sure that I ever changed the mind of an atheist by something I said. No, but I have tried. That is all that is asked of any of us – that we try. That we give an account for the faith that we have.

When our current adult class on the **Early Church** ends I intend to begin a class on **Apologetics**. There are some classical questions that are still raised against us: the existence of God, the creation of the universe, the resurrection of Jesus, etc., and we will deal

with them. I have a hunch that the truly hard questions will come from the group. What are some of the challenges you have encountered? What are the questions you hope no one ever asks you about your faith?

I'll come prepared to present a defense to some of the classic questions, but may fall short on questions from the floor. St. Peter's is a blessed congregation. We have a number of people who are well trained in theology, and others who have walked this path for a long, long time. I am confident that together, in the presence of the Holy Spirit, we can do the work of an apologist, and equip our people to meet the challenges they face in the world.

I have no idea of just how long this class will run, and I am not at all sure that anyone is interested in the subject. So, please let me know if you think I'm way off track on this and I will strike off in a new direction.

God bless you  
Fr. Skip

### ATTENTION

The college will be repairing the parking lot from June 12 – July 7. They have asked us to park in front of the Administration Building during this period.

### FROM THE SR WARDEN

#### A Vision For The Future Of St. Peters



After six months of shared effort, numerous inputs by members of the parish, two facilitated parish meetings, several vestry discussions both at regular meetings and during a retreat, we are finally ready to share with you a vision for the future of St. Peters. We undertook this task to help us

focus on what God is calling us to do and to be. It is important that this vision be shared by all of us, and shared in a way that we not just accept it, but more than that, act on it. Our vision for the future of St. Peters isn't just a set of words that the church leadership puts down on paper. It is a pattern for the ministry of our church that each of us is called to make alive where we live, work and play.

As we spent time working on this vision, we used information from many sources.

- We looked at the early statements of purpose from when St. Peters was founded
- We looked at inputs from the American Anglican Council and the Anglican Communion Network
- We looked at statements from the Anglican Mission in America (which soon will be providing us oversight)
- We also considered seriously inputs that we received from you in a series of questionnaires and discussions

Based on all these inputs, here is how we characterize ourselves and how we envision the future.

**Who we are:** We are a vibrant Christian community founded on a rock solid belief in the Bible, led by the Holy Spirit and strongly supported by prayer. We worship in the Anglican tradition and are committed to discipleship and mission.

**Our vision for the future:** God will use our gifts of commitment to Scripture, spirit led decisions, active prayer ministry and liturgical worship to reach and serve our members and all of God's people both here in Cheyenne and around the world.

**Our mission:** To equip ourselves and others who God calls to join us so that together we can share the Good News to make more disciples for our Lord.

**Our emphasis areas:** Our special gifts include acceptance of and service to those with special needs, prayer and healing, and Christian education for spiritual formation, discipleship and mission.

**Now some amplification:** One thing that became clear as we went through this process is that our parish family comes from many places. Individuals among us have significantly different views of what an ideal church should be like. One of the reasons that we worked so hard and so long on this process is that we wanted to find common themes among our diverse members that we all could agree with

and hopefully live into. Members of our vestry feel the above statements successfully accomplish that objective. We truly see these statements as what we are to be about – our Father's business.

I am especially excited about the mission piece of this work. That is where I think our vision for the future turns into action. The near term action is the equipping part. The long-term action is our individual ministries in the places where we live, work and play. In our recent adult education classes we have been looking at life in the early church. One thing that struck me in the class material and discussions is how the early church spread – by personal example and word of mouth. A group of everyday people shared the Good News and the people they shared with were transformed into disciples. When I apply that model into modern times, I see each of us with the opportunity and responsibility to share God's Word with those we encounter in our everyday lives. More on this later.

For now, I entreat you to ponder the statements above. Study them and think about how they apply to your personal lives. If you have questions about them, talk to others in our parish to see how they deal with such questions. Attend our adult education classes to further equip yourself to share the Good News. Help us turn our vision into actions that further God's kingdom. I believe this is what he calls us to do. I also believe you will be blessed by sharing with us in this vision.

IHS,  
Dan

**VESTRY NOTES** May's Vestry Meeting was held at the home of Shari Henney and was opened by prayer. Following a short bible study, informal sharing included conversation of how God has been working in the lives of people in the parish and others we know, along with recounting blessings for some new folks driving over to St. Peter's from Laramie.

**TREASURER'S REPORT.** Ken Flack informed us that our bank balance remains healthy and all operating accounts are in the black.

**JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT.** Jim Krouch reported. Now that we have contracted for both large rooms at LCCC, Father Skip will present them with a seating plan for the Christian Education Room. We will request narrow tables, theater style, to accommodate papers, coffee,

etc. The upcoming program will feature videos on the early church presented by Jim Jensen.

**SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT.** Dan Clark related we continue to be in contact with the Lutherans about possible church use there. We expect a decision within a month. We are considering an option of leasing the church for services. Dan noted a target date to transition by September. We will all pray about that and will pass it to the Prayer Chain.

**RECTOR'S REPORT.** Father Skip gave an update on the status of our affiliation with AMiA. No significant changes have occurred. The process is slow, given that those on the staff are also rectors of churches, so their time is spread thin. Father Skip is also waiting for the interview with the theological examiner.

We are extending some financial aid to the AMiA church in Riverton which is just getting started. We are going to provide funding for them to run some major ads to announce their services and encourage attendance.

**OLD BUSINESS. Bishop Anderson Gift.** As a small show of appreciation to Bishop Anderson in Canada for his support over the last two years, we are sending him \$750 for his discretionary fund, along with a \$250 gift certificate at Amazon.com. This will be accompanied by a letter thanking him for all he has done for us during our formative years.

**Visioning / Mission Statement.** Dan and Roger reported that all information has been collected and they are looking now for serious involvement by Vestry members and by parishioners, as this is paramount for the development of our church. We have to own it. We don't want it to just be something on paper. We need to insure we are focusing on the right things so we take ownership and act on the objectives we set forth. Comments were made this is the first time we have been in a church where so much congregational input is being sought to set the course of the church. Explaining our direction frequently and with clarity will be an important component. One aspect that stimulated discussion was the contrast between what we have known as the 8 o'clock service and the 10 o'clock service. We will always worship in the Anglican tradition, which means we use a prescribed prayer book, we are a sacramental body, and we emphasize the essentials of the faith. While we recognize there are those who prefer Rite 1 or Rite 2, at the current time we do not have the numbers to hold two services. It is our expectation that we

will be able to expand in the future so that both can be scheduled. With regard to our services at the present time, the observation was made that we have both formal and informal portions. We are more informal as we do our Prayers of the People, though quite formal as we progress to the Eucharist. We need to assess if this is where we want it to be. We need to be open to where God is leading us. Father Skip remarked that there is no intentional move in any direction other than where we are currently. Dan focused on the presentation of our vision / mission to the parish. He conveyed it should be repeated often and with a sense of passion. It should be reflected in all we do, from preaching to teaching to social functions and beyond. Father Skip added that once we are attached to AMiA, that will have some impact on how we do things. One of their focal points is disciple-making and church-planting. Throughout this process, now and ongoing, we want to stress the teaching aspects, do it all with a loving nature, listen and respond to likes along with discomforts, and be affirming to all wherever they may be.

**Audit Committee.** The report and recommendations were presented by Jim Krouch. All accounting was found to be in order. Some procedural changes may be in order at such time that Ken passes the reins of the Treasurer's position to someone else. We will look at how that could and should evolve when the time comes. In the meantime, we feel comfortable with the annual audit which insures fiscal responsibility is in place.

**NEW BUSINESS.** Vestry Member Selection. Donna Burgess' position will remain vacant for the time being. We will actively seek a replacement to fill that slot in the very near future.

**Public Smoking Ban.** We received communication from Grace United Methodist Church to join in sending a petition to the City Council to promote the enactment of an ordinance to prohibit smoking in public places. While we concur with the action, we do not feel that is the place of our church, as it does not emphasize the essentials of faith, which is what we feel should be our focus.

**Next Meeting.** Dan Clark has graciously offered to host on June 13, 2006.

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

**JOIN US SUNDAY, JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup>**  
 Father Skip will be commissioning  
 the Healing Prayer Team

those who gave them to new owners. This ministry has brought blessings to me and many others that I could not have imagined. God is very good!

The next consecration of shawls will be June 11<sup>th</sup>. If you think you might have a shawl ready to be blessed, please try to let me know ahead of time so I can have bags and enclosures ready.

Lu Hart

***SHAWLS: On Wings Of Prayer***

Since April of 2005 we have disbursed 63 Prayer Shawls. Thank you to all who helped in this endeavor-those who made shawls and

**ROTA SCHEDULE WITH PRAYER TEAM**

**June 2006**

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.

	OT LESSON	PSALM	NT LESSON	PRAYERS	CHALICE	PRAYER TEAM
<b>June 4</b>	Marjie Klebe	Linda Kidwell (CN)	Marge Marcewicz	Roger Ludwig	Roger Ludwig Marge Marcewicz Susan Oyler	Gaye Flack Caryl Marion Matty Ludwig-LEM
<b>June 11</b>	Matty Ludwig	Dan Clark (CN)	Jim Jensen	Susan Oyler	Dan Clark Stephanie R. Roger Ludwig	Lu Hart Marge Marcewicz Lamar Gordon-LEM
<b>June 18</b>	Roger Ludwig	Dan Clark (CN)	Marjie Klebe	Barb Clark	Dan Clark Marge Marcewicz Susan Oyler	Matty Ludwig Stephanie R. Marge Marcewicz LEM
<b>June 25</b>	Susan Oyler	Marjie Klebe	Matty Ludwig	Stephanie Reeves	Lu Hart Stephanie R. Roger Ludwig	Marge Marcewicz Gaye Flack Dan Clark-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, Matty Ludwig know, 775-0675 leave a message, or at [mattyludwig@bresnan.net](mailto:mattyludwig@bresnan.net)