



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
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March 2007

From the Rector:



As most of you know by now, the primates of the 38 Anglican bodies from around the world met in Tanzania last month and gave the Episcopal Church until September 30, 2007 to return to orthodox Christianity. They are to completely end the practice of ordaining clergy living in gay and homosexual relationships and the blessing of same sex unions. They have also been asked to end litigation against congregations leaving the Episcopal Church. These actions have come as a welcome confirmation of our stance by all traditional and conservative Episcopalians and American Anglicans. As you might imagine, they have shocked the liberal leadership of the Episcopal Church. The following is an unedited article from The Washington Post. If you are like me, you tend to read the conservative publications, and closely follow their point of view. The Washington Post is sympathetic to the views of the Episcopal Church, and may be giving us a preview of where things are headed.

AP Analysis: **Episcopal Choices**
The Washington Post/Associated Press
By Rachel Zoll
February 22, 2007

NEW YORK – Three years of emergency summits, nuanced apologies and behind-the-scenes negotiating failed. Anglican leaders this week gave the U.S. Episcopal Church an ultimatum: Halt your march toward full acceptance of gays, or lose your place in the global Anglican family.

Now, Episcopalians are asking themselves whether the cost of membership has become too high.

“We made our ‘yes’ to gays and lesbians,” wrote the Rev. Ann Fontaine of the Diocese of Wyoming, in an examination of the Anglican demands. “Let it stand.”

The global Anglican Communion, represented in the United States by the Episcopal Church, has spent years debating how its 77 million members should interpret Scripture on salvation, truth and sexuality.

But for theological conservatives, the time for talk ended in 2003 when the U.S. denomination consecrated its first openly gay bishop, V. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire. To them, the confirmation was beyond the bounds of true Christianity.

Ever since, Episcopalians have had a tough lesson in what it means to be Anglican in the 21st century. The communion was once dominated by its North American and European provinces. But these days, its biggest and fastest-growing churches, by far, are in parts of the developing world where traditional Bible beliefs aren’t questioned.

As a result, Episcopalians have found themselves on the defensive.

It’s no coincidence that Archbishop Peter Akinola, head of the Anglican Church of Nigeria, is leading the charge against consecrating gays. With its 17.5 million members, the Nigerian church is more than seven times bigger than the U.S. denomination.

Episcopalians who share these conservative views of Scripture are in the minority in their own church. But by putting their time, energy and resources behind overseas traditionalists, they have helped move the communion toward the kind of demands they made this week.

Anglican leaders ended their meeting Monday in Tanzania by giving the Episcopal Church until Sept. 30 to pledge unequivocally not to consecrate another gay bishop or approve an official prayer service for blessing same-sex couples. If that promise is not given, the Episcopal Church could face a much reduced role in the Anglican world.

Many Episcopalians say they're being asked to give up what they cherish most about their denomination: its emphasis on social justice in Scripture, which led them to accept gay relationships, and its democratic policy making that gives lay people and clergy a vote in major decisions.

They look at what they've already done to mend the rifts and consider it more than enough.

The church has apologized repeatedly for failing to more fully consult with Anglican leaders before confirming Robinson, although it hasn't apologized for consecrating him. Episcopal leaders have explained themselves before Anglican panels and in countless private meetings.

If the Anglican family is forcing a choice between rejecting gays or going it alone, the liberal view says, then it may be time to say goodbye.

"If how others view us becomes our consuming concern, our mission will suffer or die," said Bishop Paul Marshall of the Diocese of Bethlehem, Pa., in a letter to his congregations Wednesday.

But the head of the Episcopal Church, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, returned from the Tanzania meeting saying the denomination should make the very concessions liberals abhor "for a season" until relationships with fellow Anglicans can be healed.

Jefferts Schori personally supports ordaining gays, and she has upset some with her willingness to agree to the Anglican leaders' demands. Yet, she is not alone in wanting to keep the U.S. affiliation with the communion.

Bishop Kirk Smith of the Diocese of Arizona told his parishioners this week that "my heart breaks" at the thought of stepping back from full inclusion of gays and lesbians.

"However, I believe that we are at a moment in our history when we must remain together," Smith said. "I am committed to a fully inclusive church, but I am also committed to remaining part of the larger Anglican Communion." It's a bond that goes back hundreds of years, with roots in the Church of England.

Anglican leaders said Monday that the Episcopalians' pledge would have to hold until "a new consensus emerges" over sexuality.

But that might never happen, considering the intense differences over sexuality.

Whatever the Episcopal House of Bishops decides over the next seven months, the church can easily survive

without the communion. The 2.3 million-member U.S. denomination may be relatively small, but it is affluent, and well situated to continue its missions with other Christians overseas.

In fact, the Anglican Communion itself may suffer more from any broken ties.

A significant chunk of its budget comes from the U.S. church.

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I find it amusing that the liberal press is making the same mistake that the liberal leadership of the Episcopal Church made. They firmly believe in the modern version of the "Golden Rule" – He who has the gold makes the rules. Well, that does seem to be the secular way of doing business, but it was never Christ's way, and I think the Episcopal Church is beginning to realize that money is of little worth in determining the core values and teachings of the Church.

*God bless you,
Skip*

EASTER EGG HUNT

We will again have the Easter Egg Hunt for the children on Easter Day, following the service. So, I am asking for plastic eggs filled with candy to be brought to the service and we get the older kids to hide them for the children. These can be bought pre-filled which really makes it easy. (I remember filling each one and then taping it to make sure it stayed closed) I will have a sack to put these in at the services. When we have enough I will cut it off. Thanks so much for your generosity! Stephanie Reeves

VESTRY NOTES. February's Vestry Meeting was held in conjunction with the Vestry Retreat at Westgate Clubhouse. Following a short bible study, the group talked about Bishop Minns challenges to double our size in a year, increase stewardship, and strive to be able to both procure a building and supply funds to be able to hire a priest whenever Father Skip retires sometime expected to be well into the future. By-Laws should be reviewed and revised as needed according to current circumstances. This will be considered at March's Vestry meeting.

Gaye Flack presented a booklet she obtained from a church in Montrose, Colorado, specifying their ministries, activities, schedules, etc. We will address the viability of producing a similar piece for St. Peter's.

Discussion centered around what St. Peter's has to offer, highlighting our Anglican tradition and teachings, liturgical style of worship, embracing the doctrine of standing on God's word, being Christ-centered, our Christian education, prayer ministry, involvement of parishioners in functions and activities, and free expression of faith and God's presence.

As a vision for our future, Father Skip articulated some objectives, which were embraced by attendees. We would like to see our attendance double, as we seek to communicate to parishioners to "think evangelistically." Having each person involved in at least one identifiable ministry would further promote our spiritual strength. Continuing to focus on building or leasing a facility of our own remains a priority.

Other visions included expanding existing ministries, doing more with the homeless, conducting bible studies, renewing ACW, engaging in more outreach to the community, initiating a program to provide Easter gifts to families in need, and equipping and mentoring folks for church planting. We could serve as a stepping stone for the "CANA of the West."

BUSINESS MEETING:

Treasurer's Report. Ken Flack sent a Treasurer's Report for the meeting, though he was not present, pending endorsement by the new Vestry. We are ahead of proposed income for 2007 and all budgetary accounts are operating in the black.

Treasurer. Ken was unanimously elected as an ex-officio member of the Vestry to hold the position of Treasurer. He conveyed he is willing to continue as Pledge Secretary as well, in the event that someone will step forward to take responsibility for the Power Point presentation for Sunday services.

Power Point Coordinator. Ken & Gaye Flack bought the computer to project our service program on the front screen each week and donated it to St. Peter's. Ken has been preparing and running it every Sunday, though due to increasing responsibilities in other areas, some easing of the loads on him are in order. Jim Jensen kindly volunteered to take over this task.

Junior Warden. It is generally the role of a new Vestry to select a Junior Warden. The function of this position is to maintain the property of the church. In our case, this duty largely entails the coordination of set-up and take-down of paraphernalia for Sunday services, including bringing in and scheduling sufficient people to accomplish this task. In that no one was readily identifiable to assume this obligation, the decision was held in abeyance until the next meeting.

Xerox Contract. Our 3-year lease is approaching expiration. We will purchase the copy machine we currently have, along with a maintenance contract, both of which are quite reasonable, until that is no longer a viable option, at which time we will enter into the lease of a new unit.

Advertising and Website. Discussion about the most advantageous ways to manage these functions was held. More ideas will be considered in March.

Property Acquisition. Jim Mitchell will continue to serve in this position to facilitate this objective.

Church Family Gatherings. We will plan to host more gatherings of this nature, such as potlucks, etc., as they build fellowship, are enjoyable for all who attend, and are comfortable for inviting new people. In that vein, a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be scheduled later this month.

Meeting Date. The second Monday of each month was established as the permanent meeting date for Vestry. Gaye Flack graciously offered to host on March 12th.

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

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

A special thanks to all who made lemonade out of lemons on Shrove Tuesday! The Clubhouse had been scheduled wrong and was in use by someone else, however, we just moved across the street to our home. The men hauled extra tables and chairs from the Clubhouse. We cooked pancakes, also served ham and various beverages. A great time was had by all! I appreciate all the help in making this event happen and making a fun, enjoyable opportunity to visit with each other.

Thanks Again! Stephanie Reeves

ROTA SCHEDULE WITH PRAYER TEAM
March 2007

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

	OT LESSON	PSALM	NT LESSON	PRAYERS	CHALICE	PRAYER TEAM
Mar 4	Barb Clark Gen. 15:1-12, 17-18	Marge Marcewicz Psa. 27	Jim Jensen Phil. 3:17-4:1	Stephanie Reeves	Dan Clark Roger Ludwig Jim Jensen	Matty Ludwig Stephanie Reeves LEM: Matty Ludwig
Mar 11	Marjie Klebe Isa. 55:1-9	Dan Clark (C) Psa. 63:1-8	Susan Oyler 1 Cor. 10:1-13	Barb Clark	Susan Oyler Lu Hart Stephanie Reeves	Marge Marcewicz Caryl Marion LEM: Lamar Gordon
Mar 18	Nick Dawson Joshua 5:9-12	Barb Clark Psa. 32	Lu Hart 2 Cor. 5:16-21	Roger Ludwig	Roger Ludwig Marge Marcewicz Dan Clark	Susan Oyler Lu Hart LEM: Marge Marcewicz
Mar 25	Roger Ludwig Isa. 43:16-21	Dan Clark (C) Psa. 126	Marjie Klebe Phil. 3:4b-14	Marge Marcewicz	Dan Clark Stephanie Reeves Jim Jensen	Matty Ludwig Gaye Flack 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