



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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MAY 2005

Good news – bad news – good news

From the Rector:



Guess Perhaps you heard the same "Good News – Bad News – Good News" that I heard this week. On Tuesday morning I received a phone call from a man who had been listening to NPR (National Public Radio), and wanted to let me know how proud he was of St. Peter's. He had just heard that the Anglican Church was the fastest growing denomination in the United States. It seems that new Anglican churches are opening all across the nation that never make the evening news. They are popping up all over the place. Well, that is indeed "Good News."

The "Bad News" is that most of that growth is coming at the expense of the Episcopal Church. Last year the Episcopal Church was still talking about growth, and reported a membership of a bit over two million members. NPR estimates that they will soon be down to one million or less.

For most of my life the American church was the largest and strongest of all the Anglican bodies. ECUSA got used to having its way because of its money and membership. Also, it got used to the resentment this caused among the other bodies and stopped listening to them. Today these other bodies are larger and stronger – and they are unwilling to be bullied by ECUSA. In the judgment of seventy million Anglicans ECUSA has strayed so far off the path that it is no longer allowed to participate in the meeting of the Anglican Communion. If they do not mend their ways they will soon be expelled.

This is sad. There is nothing good about this. I never thought that I would live to see this once great Church reduced to the status of an

insignificant independent sect that follows the trends and teachings of the American culture. No wonder so many people are jumping ship.

Well, I started this by saying there was Good News – Bad News – Good News, and there is still more good news out there. The last bit of Good News is that not all of the growth in the new Anglican Churches is coming at the expense of the Episcopal Church. One of the most exciting things that I see happening is the emerging Anglican Church's focus on "the lost." The early church certainly believed that the way to God the Father was through Jesus Christ. The idea that *all of us are on different paths, and all lead to God* would have been appalling to them. No – people do need to hear the Gospel, and they do need to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Yes, the emerging Anglican Church in America is finding that it has a Gospel to preach and that "the lost" are being saved. This is indeed Good News.

God bless you

Fr. Skip

PS: Immediately after finishing this column the mailman delivered a copy of the Episcopal-Life newspaper. In it a former member of the Executive Council of ECUSA, Judge James Bradberry, wrote, "**A colleague asks what smooth word we would use while the rest of the world calls our departure from the Anglican fellowship 'excommunication.'** That is easy to answer. **ECUSA would not be excommunicated; it would be liberated.**" ... "**What we face, in the event of separation, is not failure; it is sacred opportunity.**" I personally felt that there was little hope for ECUSA to change its position, but I had not expected to see the spin doctors at work so early. It looks like they are poised to throw in the towel at the very highest levels.

FAITH ALIVE IS COMING MAY 20-22

PLEASE CONTINUE
TO PRAY
FOR
ST. PETER'S
AND
ALL OF THE
FAITH ALIVE VISITORS

FROM THE SR WARDEN



This has been a most active month for those in our corner and there is generous evidence that God is moving among us in many ways. There have been numerous message postings about what is going on in the global Anglican communion and I am heartened by both those things and by what I see happening in the life of St Peter's.

I want to focus on a few of those St Peter's things here. First, I am most excited by the provisions I see being made for our upcoming Faith Alive weekend. The team developing plans for this event are both full of the spirit and being most effective in putting in place the elements needed for a wonderful uplifting experience for all St Peter's members and others in this community in need of such contact with God's grace. It is my fervent prayer that this weekend will be a significant event in the building of God's church.

Second, I am also encouraged by recent actions by the vestry and others in researching potential property acquisition for an eventual church building of our own. There has been considerable work done by several different people on this project and a piece of property has been identified which has great potential as the future permanent home for our church. I urge you all to keep this issue in your prayers that we will be guided to the right choices for the church.

Third, I am delighted by the continued active support I see for outreach and evangelism which for me are key elements in the life of a vibrant church. The work Lamar Gordon has initiated to support the local coalition for the homeless, the support Mark Lambert has received for his Wycliffe work in Cameroon and the recent support for Dana Coufal's chicken project in Mozambique all show that we are sharing God's love all around the world. We are truly blessed by

the opportunities He puts in our path to live out His Gospel in the world.

I call on all members of St Peter's to rejoice in the good things God is doing among us and to both pray and act in accord with God's call to us. If you haven't figured out yet what God is calling you to do, remember the song "Have you seen Jesus my Lord? He's here in plain view. Take a look open your eyes, he'll show love to you." Keep your eyes open to the opportunities God is offering you and step forth boldly to do his bidding. In His service is perfect freedom and great joy.

IHS,
Dan

VESTRY NOTES April's Vestry Meeting was held at the home of Dan Clark and opened by prayer. Following a short bible study, informal sharing included comments from Marge about the learning experience of the Prayer / Healing Team as an outgrowth of the recent video study they just completed. Dan informed us about his upcoming EFM Graduation scheduled to take place in Jackson the end of May. He remarked it may provide a good opportunity for him to share and educate about the current state of affairs within the larger church and how it all relates to traditional biblical teaching. Many do not know or understand the full ramifications of what is going on, as the topic is not being widely discussed, if at all, within the rank and file of the Episcopal Church. Should ECUSA continue on the path they seem bent to travel, it is quite conceivable they could end up as an insignificant small sect in America with no ties to anyone but themselves. Further evidencing their stance were recent scathing writings written by liberal churchmen about the Pope, as posted on the House of Bishops List Serve.

ACW / PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE. Nancy Klotz presented a very interesting and enjoyable program on Russia at the April meeting. She recounted their experiences while stationed there with the Air Force, brought many original items from the country, prepared some traditional food, and dressed in native costume. Upcoming later in the month, April 22-23, is a women's retreat at the Abbey of St. Walburga at Virginia Dale, Colorado.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Treasurer Ken Flack reported all is well. Our bank balance continues to grow. He is going to start providing two additional reports quarterly which will help us to see patterns in our economic picture. Accolades were given to Ken for his exceptional work with the financial

reporting and managing of the Church's budgetary matters.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT. Junior Warden Jim Krouch related LCCC will adjust our charges for the Sunday they did not do the setup and we had to complete it all ourselves.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT. Senior Warden Dan Clark expressed appreciation for the innovative and inspired work he sees being done by Lamar Gordon as a Greeter, ramrodding the food collection project for the homeless, and working on the early development stages of a Visitation Ministry.

RECTOR'S REPORT. Father Skip advised he will be gone two upcoming Sundays. Morning Prayer with Eucharist from Reserved Sacrament will be scheduled. Also, he is having a 5th surgical procedure on his eye in another week.

Adult Christian Education. Roger may be absent from us one week out of the month, especially in good weather months, for some personal refreshment / vacation time. We are going to order some material that is lectionary-based to be available as back-up instruction, particularly for June, July, and August. It is designed so anyone could step in and conduct the Adult Education class, or Roger can use it for selected Sundays if he would so choose.

New Church. We have received news of a new church plant in Atlanta, Georgia. They have broken away from the Episcopal Church, as we did. We will write them a letter of support on behalf of the Rector and Vestry.

OLD BUSINESS. Faith Alive. The Committee has been meeting and we are looking forward to our Weekend on May 20-22, 2005. For the Saturday afternoon when team and parish members designate time to visit Shut-ins, we discussed who we would like to call on. If anyone has any thoughts about this outreach on Saturday afternoon, be sure to bring to our attention whom we might include.

Land Acquisition. Roger has done some investigating of vacant land in desirable locations at the County offices. We are contacting owners and gathering information on possible financing.

Focus Prayer. Marge shared the Prayer / Healing Team prayer that she developed, emphasizing growth in the power of the Spirit and wondered if there might not be some elements of it that could be used for our Focus Prayer. Dan extracted from it that there was a concentration on evangelism and growth – that we want God to lead us to people with whom we can share our passion for the church. We want people to come to us

because we are so filled with awe and the Spirit that it becomes a force to draw people in. He reflected that he sees such a prayer relating to the first and last portions of our Bible Study in Acts for this evening . . . praising God leads to adding numbers daily. We think the Faith Alive Prayer is enough along those lines and is particularly pertinent to our current thrust that we will use it until the Faith Alive Weekend. There was full consensus for this choice.

NEW BUSINESS. Outreach to Mozambique, Africa. Dan has received communication from a young lady, Dana Coufal, who is in the Peace Corps working in Mozambique and asked that we consider contributing to the work she is doing. He has known her since she was 4 years old, so can vouch for the validity of her undertaking. Her job is to teach teachers. The needs among the women are many. The project she is introducing is to raise chickens cooperatively, and they will all benefit from the fruits of their labor. Additionally, when the women come to participate, she will teach them about such matters as health care, AIDS, nutrition, and work with Doctors Without Borders. It will take \$250 to purchase the necessary machines. We voted to donate to her program. Tim put forth the idea that we open it up to the congregation so those who wish to personally supply some money to this endeavor could be given the opportunity as well. Money can be put in the offering plate on upcoming Sundays.

AAC (American Anglican Council) Publication. Lamar has brought to our attention a new piece put out by the AAC, titled "Walking Together or Walking Apart," very effectively and clearly setting forth the AAC position and the ECUSA position. We agreed to purchase 50 of these items for distribution around our church and around the state.

Vision. Bob Henney has been receiving notice from a variety of parishioners that they do not need to have a copy of the Vision mailed to them when they are getting it by e-mail. We will let people know in the next Vision and will announce it at church that those who do not want this duplication can notify us so we may eliminate them from the Vision mailing list.

Eucharist at ACW Retreat. Donna has asked that extra sacrament be consecrated the Sunday before the ACW Retreat so Marge can bring it with her to the Abbey of St. Walburga to enable the women gathered there to participate in Holy Communion.

Next Meeting. Chuck graciously offered to host the May Vestry Meeting, scheduled for the second

Tuesday, May 9, 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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We are continuing with our series on the Holy Spirit. Our focus is now on Spiritual Gifts, understanding what they are and what they enable us, as a church, to do. We'll be using a "Spritual Gifts Inventory" to help each person identify the gifts they have been give. Perhaps the greatest satisfaction in life comes from living out the gifts that we have been given.

ACW HAPPENINGS: It is time for the May ACW (Anglican Christian Women) gathering. A slight change for this one. Since the 15 women who attended the May Retreat 2 weeks ago would like to get together, we are combining ACW with that, and will hold this meeting as an evening meeting for those who work. Therefore the meeting this month will be as follows:

Thursday evening, May 5th, 7:00 P.M. At the home of Donna Burgess (211 Cascade in Westgate) and refreshments will be served. Just bring yourselves.

We will be planning the Faith Alive carry-in dinner and talking about our Retreat experience.

For those of you who missed this past retreat, you may be able to find out if it is something you might like to do next time. Our next retreat will be a ONE-DAY-ONLY on Saturday September 24, 2005. Following that, next year we are planning another overnight on May 5-6, 2006.

Finally -- I would also invite planning for a new person to step forward to lead ACW into the next level. I am planning to step-down from being the Coordinator on June 1, 2005. As many of you know, I have done this now for the past 6+ years (starting at St. Mark's) and feel adamant that it is time for me to be an active "follower" in ACW.

-- Donna Burgess

Rota Schedule with Prayer Team April 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. This site includes both the printed texts and an audio reading.

Date	OT Lesson	PS Cantor	NT Lesson	Prayers	Chalice	Prayer Team/LEM
5/1	Tim Bowser	Tim Bowser	Marlin Walter	Barb Clark	Tim Bowser Marlin Walter Roger Ludwig	Lu Hart Gaye Flack Matty Ludwig (LEM)
5/8	Stephanie Reeves	Dan Clark	Shirley Jones	Susan Oyler	Dan Clark Shirley Jones Susan Oyler	Sue Seniawski Marge Marcewicz Lamar Gordon (LEM)
5/15	Susan Seniawski	June Bowser	Chuck Seniawski	Marge Marcewicz	Marge Marcewicz Stephanie Reeves Bob Schrader	Susan Oyler Matty Ludwig Dan Clark (LEM)
5/22	Dan Clark	Dan Clark	Marjie Klebe	Roger Ludwig	Roger Ludwig Susan Oyler Marlin Walter	Stephanie Reeves Gaye Flack Marge Marcewicz (LEM)
5/29	June Bowser	Tim Bowser	Matty Ludwig	Stephanie Reeves	Shirley Jones Stephanie Reeves Bob Schrader	Sue Seniawski Matty Ludwig Marge Marcewicz (LEM)

Psalms will be chanted from the Portland Psalter. First Lesson Readers do not need to read the Psalm unless we have no cantor for a Sunday.

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