



St. Peter's

KEYYS

The monthly newsletter of the Episcopal Church in Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin.

February 2012



Editor

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OUR VISION

*To be a vibrant,
Christ-centered
community,
actively reaching
out to help and
to bring others to
Christ.*

OUR MISSION

*To provide
opportunities for
all people to grow
in Faith, Hope,
and Love.*

Next Steps

by Samuel Nsengiyumva



As noted at both our 3rd Annual Ministry Celebration Dinner on Saturday January 28, and our Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday January 29, many good things are happening at St. Peter's. Our worship, our stewardship, our hospitality and fellowship, our outreach, and to a lesser extent our Christian Education, all show signs of a lively and healthy congregation. For this and for all God has in store for us, we are grateful.

On the other hand, we are all aware of certain areas of our shared life and mission that need improvement. Some of them are reflected in the priorities we identified as needing special attention following our discernment process last year. These priorities included:

- (1) making necessary changes to attract families with children and youth,
- (2) developing and implementing a comprehensive strategy to reach new people, and
- (3) moving decisively to provide high quality education for every age and stage of life.

Since the end of the discernment process in June last year, much has been done. The Adult Education task force, and the Young Families task force are doing a great job and deserve our full support in their several initiatives. So far, not much has been done regarding our need to **develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people**. After some time of reflection and prayer, I believe this is the time to begin laying a foundation for such a strategy. In my opinion, an effective strategy to reach new people

will have to be Christ-centered, community based, and creative.

Christ-Centered: A comprehensive strategy to reach new people will have to be Christ-centered in its motive, its method, and its message. The motive or purpose will have to be about restoring all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. (BCP p.855). The method will have to include both word and deed (Matthew 10:7-8); while the message will have to be about Jesus Christ who loved us even unto death. (John 15:3). The strategy should be in obedience to Christ's command to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything he has commanded us; (Matthew 28:19-20); which is wrapped up in the great commandment to love one another just as he loved us (John 13:34). Our primary motivation should not be based on our need to fill the pews or get more people to help us with the work of the church; even though there is nothing wrong with these.

Community-Based: In order to succeed, the strategy we develop to reach new people will have to be community based. By this, I mean that no one person, however trained and gifted he or she may be, will accomplish the goal of reaching even the basic target of 38-90 who would naturally be attending St. Peter's but are not. All of us will have to play our part. A Community-based strategy also refers to the nature and quality of our relationships. The early church was able to grow only because people were attracted by the nature and quality of their shared life. We read from the book of Acts that the early Christians "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the

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fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer

... Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:42-47).

In his book, *Reclaiming the Great Commission*, Bishop Claude Payne argues that “Because it takes a disciple to make a disciple, evangelism encourages congregational discipleship, which builds community and leads to individual spiritual development.” He goes on to say that “First-century Christianity was exciting and contagious because in community it transformed the lives of the disciples and the lives of those whom the disciples touched.” He urges congregations to become communities of “miraculous expectation and glorious transformation” because “in this kind of community, miracles occur and are recognized, lives are changed, and the joy of transformation is spread from disciple to disciple and from disciples to the spiritually hungry and unchurched.” This simply means that any strategy to reach new people will require our own commitment to ongoing discipleship and spiritual transformation. Fortunately, we have enough resources to make that happen.

Creative Communication: While our message remains the same, our communication methods will have to be relevant to the modern culture. This means that if we are to effectively proclaim the good news of God in Christ to this generation, we will need to use language and methods that they understand. It will mean using such modern communication tools as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Skype, Vimeo, etc. In fact, I am already contemplating the possibility of offering a weekly Bible Study or Prayer Meeting by conference call or Skype. This would allow many to participate from the comfort of their homes without having to worry about the weather or babysitters for those with young children. The challenge with modern communication tools is that some require some level of technical abilities that some may not have. This is where we may have to pay someone to train us or handle the technical aspects of this new way. In any case, any strategy to reach new people will require significant creativity because the old methods, may not be as effective today as they used to be.

Next Steps: There is no doubt that St. Peter’s is a great congregation. But, as John the Baptist told his disciples about another baptism which Jesus would bring without undermining the significance of the kind he himself had administered, we too are being called to embrace the possibility of becoming an even greater congregation – a more vibrant, Christ-centered community, actively reaching out to help and bring others to Christ. Perhaps the first step as we begin the process of developing a comprehensive strategy to reach new people is to, according to the Cursillo method, “be a friend, make a friend, and bring your friend to Christ”. And remember, “talk to God about your friend, before you talk to your friend about God.”

May the Lord bless our efforts as we seek to reach others with the message of his love in obedience to his command. Amen.

Birthdays

- February 2 – Ed Garczynski
- February 9 – Linda Palmer
- February 10 – Stephen Cameron
- February 11 – Katie Williams
- February 14 – Linda Gregoire
- February 17 – Beth Bartelt
- February 23 – Gordie Pribek



St. Peter's Altar Guild Looking for New Members

The group currently consists of 4 members that set up the altar, plus Dona Heinig who is the head of the guild and takes care of the linens. They serve on a rotation that has each member setting up the altar once every 4 weeks. An extra person or two would be very much appreciated. It is an easy task and does not take much time (approximately 15-30 minutes on regular weeks with a little more time needed on special days). No monthly meetings! The group usually gets together twice a year to clean the silver as well. If you are interested, you may contact Dona Heinig, Heather Schneider, Lindy Malinowski, Kris Willadsen or Cheryl Dobrzynski. Thank you!



Sheboygan Falls Kiwanis club is running a special food drive for the community.

Please help us collect a "Ton of Food" for the Sheboygan Falls food pantry. It will run from February 1 to March 13. Non-perishable food items may be dropped off at Blatter's Piggly Wiggly, Q Marts, Woodlake Market, and the Chamber-Main Street office. Cash donations will also be accepted. A door-to-door campaign will be made in early March. Any questions, ask a Kiwanis member or call Chris Tempas (467-4257). Fr. Samuel and Charlie Malingowski are members of Kiwanis.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeter/Usher</u>	<u>Reader/Prayers</u>	<u>Chalice</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
2/5	Laurel & Mike Cizauskas	Louise Robson	George & Linda Palmer	Charlie Malingowski
2/12	Judy Goes & Joanne Strassburger	Paul Bartelt	Lynn & Brock Brownrigg	Lindy Malingowski
2/19	Gordie Pribek & Helen Seubert	Roger Dulmes	Linda Palmer	Heather Schneider
2/26	Paul & Beth Bartelt	Barb Schultz	Joan Bruggink & Barb Schultz	Ethan Cizauskas
3/4	Marie Rose & Carol Hogue	Amanda Zimmerman	Laurel Cizauskas & George Palmer	Kirk Heinig
3/11	George & Linda Palmer	Brock Brownrigg	Linda Palmer	Becky Schultz
3/18	Roger & Sharon Dulmes	Beth Bartelt	Lynn & Brock Brownrigg	Charlie Malingowski
3/25	Tom & Heather Schneider	Judy Goes	Joan Bruggink & Barb Schultz	Sarah Cromwell

If you are interested in serving on or being removed from the liturgical schedule, please see our Senior Warden, Linda Palmer. If you are ever unable to serve in your scheduled position on a given date, please switch with someone else on the schedule. Thank you!



Flower "lady" needed! The flower ministry is in need of a new leader. The person or personas leading this ministry are in charge of preparing the sign-up sheet for weekly altar flowers, ordering flowers, and coordinating the decorating of the church for holidays. If interested please contact Fr. Samuel or Lindy Malingowski. Thanks for helping!

St. Peter's Book Club has chosen its selection for February: Picking Cotton by Jennifer Thompson Cannino and Ronald Cotton. This non-fiction account of a crime victim who inadvertently put the wrong man behind bars will be discussed starting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23 at the Church House. Everyone is welcome!



One Dollar Lenten Campaign

Last year, we initiated what we called the One Dollar Campaign as part of our Lenten observance. The idea was that each one of us would set aside one dollar or more for each one of the 40 days of Lent to be given to local food pantries and homeless shelters. This was our way of responding to the Lord's revelation that the fasting he desires is the kind where we share our food with the hungry, provide the poor wanderer with shelter, and clothe the naked (Isaiah 58:7). As a result, we were able to raise \$900 which was divided among the Falls Food Pantry, Safe Harbor Women's Shelter, and the Salvation Army Homeless Shelter.

This year, we are encouraging even more people to participate in this Lenten spiritual discipline by setting aside one dollar or more per day. Children can be encouraged to set aside a dime or more. The point of the campaign is to remember the less privileged by sharing with them as a spiritual practice.

	December		Year-To-Date		Difference
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Income					
Contributions	\$33,612.00	\$12,794.00	\$147,611.52	\$153,528.00	-\$5,916.48
Other Income	\$3,286.75	\$1,784.00	\$10,741.02	\$12,308.00	-\$1,566.98
Total Income	\$36,898.75	\$14,578.00	\$158,352.54	\$165,836.00	-\$7,483.46
Expenses	\$13,550.02	\$12,678.61	\$157,194.52	\$170,675.40	\$13,480.88
Difference	\$23,348.73		\$1,158.02		



3rd Annual Ministry Celebration Dinner

On Saturday January 28, members of St. Peter's along with guests gathered at Breaking Bread Banquet Hall to celebrate our shared life and mission. This annual celebration of ministries is an opportunity to recognize the contribution of everyone in our church family. It is a time to thank each one of us for their part in making St. Peter's the vibrant, Christ-centered community actively reaching out to help and bring others to Christ. It is also an opportunity to encourage one another on this journey together.

The evening began with a social hour giving people the opportunity to meet those from different services and guests. Among the guests were members of the tating group that meets at our church house. The group was started by Jane Lynch, a member of our church, but is open to anyone in the community who is interested. Another group of guests were members of the Red Hat group also started by members of our church but includes some who are not members. The main guests for the evening were David & Rachel Annis from St. Anne's DePere. Dave was our guest speaker and spoke about his Christian journey and how his faith inspires him to serve others both in the church context of the church and beyond.

All present were treated to a delicious meal with background music by James Trazile and his friend Leo. Following the meal, the Senior Warden, Mrs. Linda Palmer, recognized the clergy spouses, Mrs. Barb Schultz and Rose Nsengiyumva, and thanked them for their ministry to the church in their soft and reserved way, and their unending support of their husbands. After recognizing all the ministry teams, it was time for the highlight of the evening: Distinguished Recognition and The Rector's Cross!

Deacon Greg was recognized for his many years of ministry at St. Peter's and presented with a Deacon's Cross and a gift certificate to CM Almy, a company specializing in clergy vestments. Char Stevens, Louise Bennin, and Dollie Cromwell were recognized for their exemplary service and dedication to the life and ministry of St. Peter's and were honored with the Rector's Cross. Since 2005, the Rector's Cross is awarded to those who demonstrate good example in what it means to love and serve the Lord in the church and community. The evening ended with beautiful music and an opportunity to dance.

We are very grateful to Linda Palmer, our Senior Warden, for organizing and hosting this memorable event. Once again, many thanks to all who joined us for this annual celebration and all who are involved in the various ministries at St. Peter's, always sharing our Vision and Mission.

"So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless." (1 Corinthians 15:58 NLT).

"So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up." (Galatians 6:9 NLT).

"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works." (Hebrews 10:24 NLT).



Fr. Samuel introduces Tom Cromwell (who attends 10:15 service) to Joe Richardson II (who attends 8:am service) as Rose looks on.



The Tatting Group Display Table. Beautiful items.



L-R: Betty Richardson, Char Stevens, Linda Palmer (senior warden) and Joe Richardson II pose for a picture.



Helen Seubert with Francine Cameron



Dave and Rachel Annis chat with Barb Schultz as her daughter looks on.



Cheryl Dobrzynski, Betty Dobrzynski, and Louise Robson enjoy a conversation as they wait for their meal.



Deacon Greg is recognized for his ministry by Linda Palmer as Barb looks on.



The Red Hat ladies enjoy a conversation. (l-r) Neva, Carolyn, Jeanette, and Joan.



Judy Behl chats with Kirk Heinig.



Rick LeMahieu (Junior Warden), and Brock Brownrigg (Treasurer) look at the brochure containing the list of the various ministries at St. Peter's.



The cake and other dessert items. Very delicious.

Rector's Cross Recipients: Char Stevens (top left), Dollie Cromwell (top right), and Louise Bennin (left).



Annual Meeting Highlights

Sunday January 29 was the day designated for St. Peter's Annual Parish Meeting. In his address to the congregation during both services, Fr. Samuel reminded the parish that there was so much to celebrate in the life and ministry of St. Peter's. He referenced the many ministries that were celebrated the previous night and encouraged people to read the written reports. He invited the congregation to be open and willing to grow in our faith and service, not because we are doing a poor job but because there is more to be done, more blessing to receive, and more joy to experience. He reminded us of the results from the discernment process completed last year which identified among others, the need for a comprehensive strategy to reach new people as a high priority. He argued that any such strategy will have to be Christ-centered, Community-Based, and Creative in regard to Communication if it is to have a chance. He said that such a strategy is important and urgent to reach our basic target average Sunday attendance of 104. Our current average Sunday attendance is 66; way below the target.

Following the worship service the congregation gathered for a brunch before the official the actual Annual Meeting. During the annual meeting, Linda Palmer was re-elected for a second one-year term as Senior Warden, while Rick LeMahieu was re-elected for a third one-year term as Junior Warden. Roger Dulmes and Dollie Cromwell were elected for a three-year vestry term each. Linda Palmer, Mike & Laurel Cizauskas were elected as delegates to Diocesan Convention while George Palmer, Richard and Louise Bennin were elected as alternates.

The financial report for 2011 was presented by the treasurer, Brock Brownrigg showing an annual income of \$158,353 and expenses of \$157, 195. He thanked members of St. Peter's for their continued generous support of the church's mission. The treasurer also presented the 2012 budget as approved by the vestry. The budget shows a projected operating income of \$168,592 and operating expenses of \$176,181. He expressed confidence that the deficit in the budget will be absorbed in through careful spending or non-pledged giving as has been the case through the recent past. Both the 2011 financial report and the 2012 budget were unanimously received. The treasurer was thanked for his leadership in ensuring proper stewardship of the financial resources God has made available to us.

The meeting was marked by a sense of gratitude for all the Lord is doing in and through St. Peter's, and a readiness to move forward in faith, hope, and love. There is no doubt that the God who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion on the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:6). Indeed, we can do everything through Christ who gives us strength (Philippians 4:13).

New Vestry Members



Dollie Cromwell



Roger Dulmes

Re-elected Senior & Junior Wardens



Linda Palmer



Rick LeMahieu

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CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday

Holy Eucharist
8AM and 10:15AM
Adult Christian Education 9-10AM
(Child care available from 9AM
through end of the 10:15 service)

Wednesday

Holy Eucharist
9AM

UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION...

Tuesday February 21 - **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**

Wednesday February 22 – **Ash Wednesday services** at 9:00am and 7:00pm

February 17-19, 2012 - "**Circles of Faith**" **Women's Winter Retreat:** at the Norbertine Center for Spirituality in De Pere.

Saturday, February 25th, 10am-12noon - **Discerning Our Future Meeting** at St. Paul's Cathedral, Fond du Lac

Saturday, March 3rd, 2012 - **Vestry School** at the Best Western Midway, Wausau, 9am-3pm.

Adult Christian Education: During Lent, we will be discussing the Sunday Readings based on the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL). In order to get the most of these discussions, we will be having a brief introduction to the Bible on Sunday Feb. 12, and 19. Feb. 12 will cover the context in which the Bible was written while on Feb. 19, we will cover the Content of the Bible.

February is St. Peter's month to help with the food pantry. Food donations can be put in the basket at the back of church. Tuna, macaroni and cheese and peanut butter are particular favorites. You can also give a monetary gift by putting a check in the offering plate with the memo line marked Food Pantry. The food pantry will likely be in need of volunteers in the month of February as well, so please see Joan Bruggink if you are able to help in this way. Thank you for your support of this important outreach.