

St. Peter's

# KEYYS

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

January 2012



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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.*

**The Five Rs of the Season**

*by Samuel Nsengiyumva*



The end of the year and the beginning of another is no doubt a special time. It is a time when individuals, groups, and institutions look back to the past year and look forward to the new year. Some

media outlets even go as far as rebroadcasting or reprinting parts or summaries of the stories they broadcast all year. Our own local Sheboygan Falls News paper dedicated a significant portion of the last two issues to what they termed "2011 Rewind: Key people, places, things of the year". Others dedicate significant time and space to predicting what is coming in the new year; such as Yahoo's list of 10 things that will cost less in 2012. It is my opinion that this exercise of looking back to the past year and forward to the new year is a great thing. That's why I wish to share five key words for a Christian version of this exercise – all of which begin with the letter R.

**Reflection:** According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, to reflect is "to think quietly and calmly". Following the busy and sometimes stressful Christmas shopping, parties, and family celebrations, there is real need for us to step back and think quietly and calmly about the past year and the new year. For Christians it is important to do so prayerfully so we may discern where God was in the midst of it all; and more importantly what God might be saying to us as we move forward. The great thing about this exercise is that we quickly realize that God is indeed who he says he is – a God who is faithful to his promises, a God who never abandons us, a God in whom, "we live and

move and have our being." (Acts 17:28). We also quickly realize that, despite our best intentions and efforts, we have fallen short in many aspects of our lives. These realizations should leave us both hopeful and humble and cause us to rejoice, renounce, reaffirm, and resolve.

**Rejoice:** Realizing that God is faithful even when we fall short is good cause for us to rejoice and give thanks to God. When we notice our blessings in the past year and the grace that sustained us through the hard times, we can be confident about the new year because God is always faithful. That's why St. Paul did not hesitate to tell the Philippians to "Rejoice in the Lord always. ... Let your kindness be known to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." (Philippians 4:4-6). Faced with the constant negative news and polls about our economy and the general direction of our country, it is so easy to forget the many blessings of our lives and simply despair. We need not be anxious because God is with us; Emmanuel. Because he lives, we can face tomorrow; because he lives all fear is gone; because we know he holds the future; and life is worth the living because he lives.

**Renounce:** Even with the assurance of God's mercy, the realization of not just our own but the faults and failures of our communities, nations, and humanity as a whole should lead us to renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God, the evil powers of this world

*Continued on page 2*

which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God, and all sinful desires that draw us from the love of God. This could involve such things as speaking out against or distancing ourselves from behaviors, attitudes, ideologies, thoughts, etc. that are inconsistent with our understanding of God's will for humanity.

**Reaffirm:** Renouncing the forces of evil and sinful desires is not enough nor possible without reaffirming our commitment to God as revealed in Christ Jesus; and seeking his help. A time like this is indeed a good time to reaffirm our acceptance and trust in Jesus Christ as our Savior, and our promise to follow and obey him as our Lord. It is a good time to reaffirm our commitment to continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers; to persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever we fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord; to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ; to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves; and to strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. (Baptismal Covenant). Reaffirming our loyalty to God through Christ reminds us of the importance of seeking first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness; knowing that all other things will be added to us. (Matthew 6:33).

**Resolve:** The very fact that the majority of people who make new-year resolutions never keep them beyond the first month is no cause for us not to make them. A good resolution to make for a Christian is one that helps him or her become more like Christ. The baptismal vows are a good place to begin. How about the vow to continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers? Could you improve your participation in the apostles' teachings such as joining a Bible Study group, attend our Sunday morning adult Christian formation class, read your Bible more regularly using one of the reading guides available at church, etc.? How about joining one of the ministry teams if you are not already involved? What resolution will you make this year that will help you take one step toward becoming more like Jesus?

As we begin this new year, a year certain to come with its own blessings and challenges, may we have the grace to quietly, calmly, and prayerfully reflect on God's goodness. May we rejoice in the assurance that He is with us, renounce the forces and desires that seek to draw us away from Him, reaffirm our commitment to him and his purposes for our lives, and resolve to move forward with confidence in him who gives us strength.

May 2012 be for us, individually and together, a year of refreshing - filled with joy, hope, and peace from the Lord. Amen.

## Thank You Very Much Indeed!

We, the Rector and the vestry of St. Peter's Church, extend our sincere and heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all of you who faithfully and generously responded to the stewardship campaign. Some of you decided to pledge for the first time and many of you increased your pledges significantly. With your continued support, we hope to improve the quality of our ministries and continue to be a blessing to our community and beyond.

We pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power...to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. To him who is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine according to his power that is at work within us, be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.  
(Ephesians 3:17-21).

### Birthdays

January 2 – Sarah Cromwell  
January 3 – Samantha Theis  
January 11 – Lindsay Gregoire  
January 11 – Greg Pribek  
January 12 – Katie Bartelt  
January 12 – Walter Carrothers  
January 12 – Lindy Malingowski  
January 18 – Rachel Niyonsaba  
January 22 – Melanie Schneider  
January 26 – Cheryl Marti  
January 26 – Samuel Nsengiyumva  
January 29 – Kris Willadsen



### Anniversaries

January 21 – Ray & Judy Behl



## Vestry Elections 2012

With two vestry positions becoming vacant in January 2012, we will be electing a two vestry members at our Annual Meeting in January 2012. As we prayerfully prepare for such an important exercise, the following notes may be helpful in understanding what the vestry is all about and who may be qualified to serve on the vestry.

### What is a Vestry?

A Vestry is a body of elected congregational leaders. Congregations that have been granted parish status by their diocese are governed by their rector and the vestry. Traditionally, and by canon law, the vestry, consisting of wardens and other members, is the legal representative of the parish "in all matters concerning its corporate property and the relations of the Parish to its Clergy," except as may be provided by state law or diocesan canons (Constitution & Canons of the Episcopal Church, 1.14.2.). The number of vestry members and term of office varies from parish to parish.

### Most vestries have the following officers:

The Presiding Officer is the rector.

There are usually two wardens. The senior warden traditionally chairs the vestry in the absence of the rector and leads the congregation between rectors. In many parishes the senior warden is a support person for the rector. The junior warden often has a particular responsibility for church property and buildings.

A treasurer and secretary or clerk who may or may not be vestry members, may be chosen. The treasurer deposits and disburses funds and oversees financial record keeping. The secretary keeps the minutes, gives notices of meetings to the parish and maintains vestry records.

Some vestries have an Executive Committee of the rector, wardens, treasurer and committee chairs. They oversee implementation of decisions and plan the agenda. The responsibility of the vestry, like that of the governing body of any organization, is to:

- Help define and articulate the mission of the congregation;
- Support the mission by word and deed;
- Ensure effective organization and planning;
- Ensure adequate resources in leadership and in financial stewardship;
- Manage resources effectively;

- Determine that appropriate programs, policies, and procedures have been developed and are followed;
- Assess its own performance.

Though the vestry has some similarities to a board of directors, it is important to remember that this ministry of leadership is exercised in the church. The success of a congregation is not measured in terms of numbers of members or size of the endowment, but rather in the degree to which it is working toward the fulfillment of the mission of the church.

### Responsibilities of Individual Members of the Vestry

- Regularly prepare for, attend, and participate in vestry meetings;
- Learn about the mission, goals, programs, services, activities, strengths, and needs of the congregation, diocese, and national church;
- Maintain confidentiality on sensitive topics;
- Serve the congregation as a whole rather than any specific group;
- Encourage complainants to talk directly with the person(s) involved; avoid taking sides; inform rector or senior warden of serious concerns;

From the Vestry Resource Guide by the Episcopal Church Foundation 1997

### A Candidate for vestry must be:

- A committed Christian who acknowledges Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of his or her life.
  - An active member of St. Peter's parish for at least one year.
  - One who understands the vision and mission of St. Peter's and is willing to promote it in word and action among other members and the community at large.
  - One who supports the life and mission of St. Peter's by sharing his time, talent and treasure
  - One who is involved in one or more ministry teams
  - One who is a good example in financial stewardship and generosity
  - One who is willing to commit to one or more monthly vestry meetings and training events both locally and at the diocesan level.
- One who is willing to provide leadership in every other aspect of our church life and mission.

Here is an update letter that we recently received from Ruth Anne, daughter of Dorothy Klein, regarding her mom:

*Dear St. Peter's Family,*

*An update for Dorothy Klein: since last December to this there have been improvements. Her speech is still very limited. She understands when talked to, but can not get her thoughts able to say them out loud.*

*Prior to Halloween the residents were given a 50's party. I made her a poodle skirt, saddle shoes and she really looked cute. Dec. 23rd, a Christmas program was given. It included a resident group of bell ringers. We sang and had treats, then the CNA's gave the residents gifts. Mom received a lovely fleece Packers blanket and pillow. They call her "Mama Packer".*

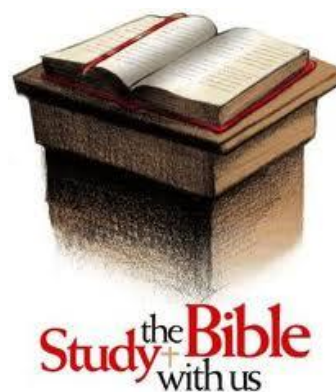
*She has improved in her swallowing, which lessens the fear of her choking.*

*Her daily therapy has strengthened her ability to walk—although a walker or assistance from CNA's is necessary. Her hands are so crippled from arthritis. No more crocheted towels.*

*Talking with mom we decided to give each staff member on her wing a towel. They were so grateful.*

*So she is happy—enjoys the staff and they enjoy her. Thank you for your picture, holiday greetings and kind thoughts.*

*Go Pack—Go Wisconsin  
Ruth Anne (Dorothy Klein's daughter)*



## Adult Christian Education at St. Peter's

Our Sunday Morning Adult Christian Education programming continues on Sunday January 15 at 9:00am. The following is the scheduled topics:

**Friends Rediscovered (Jan. 15 - Feb. 5):** This 4 session video series explore how we form authentic, Christ-centered friendships that will endure and become richer with years. They examine the power of love and encouragement, hopes and disappointments, and what to do when we fall out. The schedule is as follows:  
Jan. 15: The Power of Love  
Jan. 22: Hopes and Disappointments  
Jan. 29: Falling Out  
Feb. 5: Friendship the Builds

**Introduction to the Bible (Feb. 12 & 19):** In this two session series, we will review basic information about the Bible. We will try to answer the basic questions such as who, when, how, what, where, etc. regarding the Bible. The purpose of this course is to help us understand the scriptures better on our own but also prepare us for the Sunday Reading discussions to be started during Lent.

**Lectionary Series:** During Lent, we will be discussing the readings designated for each Sunday to dig deeper into the meanings and implications for our lives. We will have an opportunity to ask questions and share our own insights.

Please plan to join us for these life-giving educational series as we seek to honor our baptismal promise to continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeter/Usher</u>	<u>Reader/Prayers</u>	<u>Chalice</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
1/1	Marie Rose & Carol Hogue	Beth Bartelt	Joan Bruggink & Barb Schultz	Ethan Cizauskas
1/8	George & Linda Palmer	Gordie Pribek	Lynn & Brock Brownrigg	Charlie Malingowski
1/15	Roger & Sharon Dulmes	Barb Schultz	Laurel Cizauskas & George Palmer	Lindy Malingowski
1/22	Tom & Heather Schneider	Judy Goes	Linda Palmer	Heather Schneider
1/29	Char Stevens & Raylyn Krauter	Nancy Simenz	Joan Bruggink & Barb Schultz	Ethan Cizauskas
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

**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!**



The children of St. Peter's and the choir – under the direction of choir director Mary Jo Holzer and accompanied on guitar by James Trazile– performed a special Christmas concert during the 10:15 a.m. Mass on Dec. 18. Here, Mary Jo Holzer leads the children as they play the hand bells and sing “Silent Night” along with the choir.

	<b>November</b>		<b>Year-To-Date</b>		<b>Difference</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	
Income					
Contributions	\$6,919.00	\$12,794.00	\$113,999.52	\$140,734.00	-\$26,734.48
Other Income	\$179.81	\$884.00	\$7,454.27	\$10,524.00	-\$3,069.73
Total Income	\$7,098.81	\$13,678.00	\$121,453.79	\$151,258.00	-\$29,804.21
Expenses	\$12,167.81	\$14,623.49	\$143,644.50	\$157,996.79	\$14,352.29
Difference	-\$5,069.00		-\$22,190.71		

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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...

**St. Peter's The 3rd Annual St. Peter's Ministry Celebration Dinner is coming up quickly!** This year it will be on January 28th at Breaking Bread in Sheboygan, and we look forward to seeing you there. We will be celebrating who we are, and what we do as a church family. There will be no charge for the meal. Children are welcome. Invitations and Sign-up sheets will be available soon. Please respond no later than Friday Jan. 22, 2012.

**Annual Parish Meeting:** Our Annual parish meeting will be held on Sunday January 29 following the 10:15am service. We will receive written reports from the rector, the wardens, and ministry team leaders. The 2011 financial report and the budget for 2012 will also be presented. We will elect a two vestry members to succeed those whose terms are expiring, three lay delegates and three alternates to diocesan convention in October. Please come prepared to participate in this important event in the life of our parish.

**"De-greening" of the Church:** It is now time to think about taking down our Christmas decorations at the church. We will be meeting at 10am on Saturday, Jan. 14 to do just that. We would appreciate all the help we can get. Thanks!

**St. Peter's Book Club will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24** at the Church House to discuss "Radio Shangri-La" by Lisa Napoli. Please bring a dish to share. Everyone is welcome!