

The



Rock

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

March 2021

Rector's Desk



Dear People of God,

We just passed the anniversary of the mass shooting in Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Of course,

at this point, in this country, almost any day is the anniversary of some school shooting. What people in power typically say in the wake of gun violence is something like their “thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families.” Frankly, I don’t believe they mean it. I’m not saying they’re lying. I am saying they don’t mean “thoughts and prayers.” They mean “sympathy and good wishes.” They mean they feel bad for the victims and their families, and they wish for things to get better.

Nice enough. But the first is barely a “thought.” A genuinely “thoughtful” response to another mass murder in a public school would require analysis rather than emotion, determination rather than despair, and courage rather than cowardice. And the “thoughts and prayers” sentiment has nothing to do with genuine prayer, because *prayer is not wishful thinking*.

Prayer is conversation and communion with God. It’s not just talking to God. It’s listening to what God has to say to us. Consider Psalm 25, verses 1 and 3, which we read in worship recently: “To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; / My God, I put my trust in you. / Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.”

That’s prayer. We lift our souls to God in faith, anticipating that God has something He will show us, something He wants us to hear. It’s God and God’s will we seek in prayer, not our own. And the metaphors of “ways” and “paths”

tell us something important: in true prayer we discover paths to be walked, courses of action to be taken, all in accordance with the will of God. In short, real prayer and action go hand in hand. As the late Archbishop of Canterbury Michael Ramsey wrote, “The praying Christian is one whose prayer is part of a conversation with God that includes actions and orientations as well as words.”

We shouldn’t pursue a solution to any societal ill (not to say societal horror) without genuine prayer, and genuine prayer leads to solutions, because it shapes our hearts, our choices, our actions. In the case of persistent, even pervasive, gun violence, if we pray with God *for* its victims, *for* the families and communities torn apart by it, then in that very act of prayer we commit to seeking God’s will in the matter—not our personal preferences, not our political party’s platform, not our Founding Fathers’ real or supposed intentions in writing the Second Amendment—but *God’s* will in the matter. And we commit to *action*, to doing something about it. We commit to walking the path God shows.

In Lent we hear Jesus’ clarion call to all those who would follow him: “The kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news” (Mark 1:15). The kingdom of God—God’s reign of peace and love and justice—is near at hand, struggling to be made visible to all, and we Christians are collectively called to midwife it into our world. But for us to do so we must repent, and we must believe. Repenting means turning around toward God, so that our gaze is face-to-face with the One whose will we seek. And believing in the good news

means trusting Jesus, trusting above all that, as 1 Peter 3:22 reminds us, all powers and authorities are subject to him. That means our prayers to him are never pointless and our actions in accordance with his will are never empty.

I believe that if we followers of the Way of Jesus pray by *listening* to God's Word, *looking* for God's paths, and *laboring* for change in accordance with God's will for peace—well, the Kingdom will be more manifest in this world, and, not to put too fine a point on it, there'll be fewer dead kids.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Dan+



Deacon Doings

When it was first announced that two vaccines for the Covid-19 were ready for the world, well ahead of time, I thought that it was a miracle. I may have to take that back.

A miracle is defined as ***“a surprising and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws, and is therefore considered to be the work of a divine agency.”*** The time of vaccine availability may be a small miracle, but their developments are scientific. Those who tend to not believe or trust in science have to concede a win here.

I continue to search for miracles within this seemingly endless affair that is filled with layers of despair, panic, fear, anger, sadness, and confusion. I'm sure that people have asked their God, WHY? Yet when I search through scripture a different picture appears.

From the Book of James: ***“My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know the testing of your faith produces endurance.”*** We are asked to do nothing

these days, if not to endure.

In John's Gospel, after Jesus heals a man blind from birth, people ask him, ***“who has sinned here- the man or his parents?”*** His answer: ***“No one- he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him.”***

In Jesus' time, people could easily die from a flu, a wound, or an abscessed tooth! His humanity gave him the ability to experience all things humans. That may have been why he was so into healing. Because he was divine, he was able to bring Lazarus back from death. THAT, defied scientific laws, and therefore is a miracle.

Most of the world's religions seem to teach us that acts of compassion and self-sacrifice are more admirable than instant miracles- perhaps more miraculous than miracles themselves. I tend to agree, and have found what I was looking for.

The miracles I had been searching for were found in all the acts of compassion, kindness, and mercy in these last twelve months. Millions of people, giving and sacrificing for others-even saving lives.

The task for us is to turn those miracle events from “surprising” into the commonplace and expected.

Deacon Tom

BELIVE
*in Miracles**

Poem for Justice

Till the jails are empty and all bellies filled;
Till no one hurts or steals or lies,
And no more blood is spilled;
Till age and race and gender no longer separate;
Till pulpit, press, and politics are free of greed and hate:
God has work for us to do.



Greetings from your newest Warden!

Some of you may know me already but most of you do

not, so let me introduce myself. I am Lee McElhinny and I am a lifelong member of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church. My wife, Fran and I normally attend the 8am service and now I am your newest Warden.

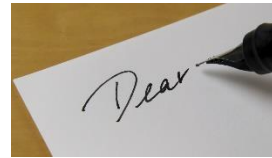
My family started coming to St. Peter's in 1955 or 1956. I remember walking to my Baptism with my mom and dad and my grandparents in September of 1959. I sang in the choir as a youngster and must have given the Choir Mother, Dorothy Talbot, a hard time because she brings that up from time to time. I attended Confirmation classes, taught by Richard Duncan, and was Confirmed in February of 1966 by Bishop Lauriston Scaife.

I attended church regularly with my mom, my older brother Mark and younger sister Jean. I used to occasionally help in the nursery watching the little ones and as I got older my brother and I would also help out as ushers.

I was a member when Richard Duncan was a Deacon and later Fr. Birdsall came to be our priest. My wife, Fran, and I were married by Fr. Birdsall in November of 1973 and we have three adult children and 2 grandchildren. After Fr. Birdsall, Fr. Jim Wheeler came to us and I was on the Vestry during that time with Vince Talbot as one of the Wardens.

Recently I decided that it was time to become more active in the church and ran for Vestry again. After two years on Vestry, I was feeling nudged in the direction of becoming a Warden and I am glad to be of service to St. Peter's church.

*Lee R. McElhinny
Jr. Warden*



Keeping in Touch

Remember when we used to write letters? Bishop

Curry spoke about this on the 3rd hour of the Today Show recently. After all these months of Zoom Meetings, making video or regular phone calls, let's try letter writing. I'll send you a stamped envelope, and a name and address of a parishioner. You write the letter!

One, two, three let's go. Check your mail box

- Include name and address of course
- How long you've been a member of St. Peter's.
- Some St. Peters Events that you remember fondly.
- How you've been doing during this difficult time. One blessing, one difficulty
- One fun fact that about your that you'd like to share. Something that people may not be aware of.

Shalom,
Lois Tripp



Pet Food Pantry

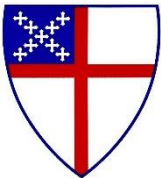
I am once again appealing to all of our animal lovers, by asking for donations to our pet food pantry. During this pandemic, the need for help has increased. People are struggling to take care of their families and that includes their pets too. Pets are a huge part of people's daily life. They offer unconditional love and are a huge comfort and companion to their family.

The most requested items are dog food and treats and cat food and litter. If you are able to donate any of these items, they would be greatly appreciated. There is a donation box inside of the enclosed porch of our Linen Pantry. Please place your items there or if you need me to pick them up, I would be glad to do so. We also accept cash donations. Monetary donations can also be given to Ed Hill marked for the pet food pantry. Once our blessing box

is built, we will also try to keep some dog and cat food in there as well. Thank you for helping with this mission in any way you are able to do so.

The Mohr family

Diocesan Warden's Conference February 20, 2021



Lee McElhinny and I both registered for the Diocesan Warden's conference on February 20th. Of course, it was held on Zoom. It was a morning well spent.

Bishop Sean led us in Worship and gave a brief address to the group. We had several presenters and topics. The topics covered were Canonical and Traditional Role of the Wardens in the Congregation, addressing conflict, Clergy perspective of Warden Relationship, Building and Grounds Maintenance, how not to burn out, and grounding everything in Faith. We also had small breakout sessions to discuss questions that were posed to us.

They encouraged us to continue networking with our fellow wardens after that day. Some were like Lee and I, fairly new with the job and others have been Wardens off and on for years. We were also given lists of the attendees and emails.

God's Blessings to St. Peters,
Lois Tripp and Lee McElhinny
Warden



**On March 14th
move clocks
1 hour head**



Just a Helping Hand" **Blessing Box Update**

I think everyone is aware that we had been awarded the \$500 grant toward the Blessing Box. We have recently received the

check. Jerry Mohr is going to start pricing materials and begin to build.

If anyone has leftover durable wood, roofing shingles or plexiglass, please let us know asap. Whatever we can save on building materials, we will put toward start up supplies for the box.

The Blessing Box is not meant to replace food pantries. But it is receiving items from those who want to donate an offering to those who need them. It will be called, "*Just a Helping Hand*" Blessing Box. Whether you're taking or giving, you can just go to the Blessing Box. There will be no lock on it- it will be open 24 hour a day, 7days a week. We are hoping that our neighbors will also donate as well as receive.

If you see a sale on any items below and would like to donate, we will announce a space for drop off and a date we will begin a collection. Gary Donhauser will be the supply chairman once we are set to go. Alison Mohr will be the go-to for pet food. If you'd rather not shop, we will certainly accept gift cards or cash.

Thank you,
Jerry Mohr (Building), 716-984-4793
Gary Donhauser (food), 716-553-9507
Alison Mohr (Pet food), 716-982-3392
Lois Tripp, (Project start-up) 716-870-2807

NON-PERISHABLE FOODS ITMES:

Peanut butter, Canned tuna, ham, chicken
Canned soups, stews, chili with pull-tops
Granola / protein bars, Canned fruit
Spaghetti, Pasta Sauce,
Shelf stable milk, Beans/Lentils

Household Items

Toilet paper, soap
Hats and gloves for cold weather

Hygiene

Feminine products, Deodorant
Toothpaste/brush/floss
Masks- Adult and children
Small/medium bottles of shampoo/conditioner
Bar soap or liquid body soap

Pet Food

Dog food, Cat Food, small bags of litter
(Alison Mohr may have other suggestions, too)

Baby items

Small packs of diapers, diaper cream, wipes, etc.)
Baby food, cereal



St. Peter's Outreach Ministries are always ongoing, because the needs of our community are ongoing. We give thanks to God for the continued generosity of our parish family! Please be aware of the following needs for outreach:

The Threads of Hope Linen Pantry

needs the following items: twin & queen sheets, blankets, bath towels, pots & pans, dish sets, silverware, kitchen utensils small appliances and Christmas mugs (which are filled with candy and given to 3 Food Pantries annually.

Dashes' Supermarket Receipts This is a source of income for the Linen Pantry.

The University Food Pantry needs non-perishable food and especially items that can't be purchased with food stamps such as toilet paper, soap, etc.

Returnable bottles and cans - Funds go to the Building Fund.

The Pet Pantry – Need- pet food (not opened), toys, bedding, cat litter *etc.*

Hearts for the Homeless -Plastic silverware

People are ordering more takeout meals and restaurants usually provide plastic silverware. Don't toss the plastic silverware out. The Linen Pantry is collecting it and will pass them on to Hearts for the Homeless who provide a nightly meal, 7 days a week for the homeless living in downtown Buffalo.

Refugee Ministry – funds are used to assist refugees currently here that are in need and help the ones who will be coming in the next couple of months.

Just a Helping Hand – funds used to purchase necessary supplies for this new ministry.

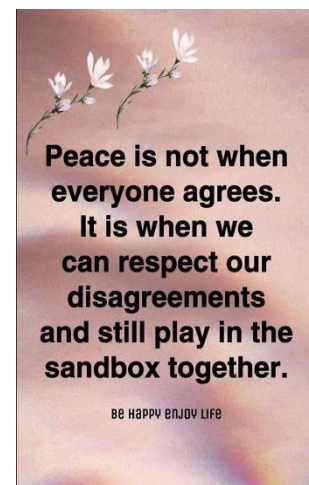
Finally, please remember, cash donations are accepted. The Linen Pantry just received one in the amount of \$200 from a stranger! Something to consider might be donating a portion of your economic stimulus payment, should you not need it for yourself.



Refugee Bazaar Update

The Valentine Day Sale of hand sanitizer/mask holders was a success. We sold 13 of them and made \$156. Now be on the lookout for information on the items we will have for sale for Easter.

Deacon Joanne



St Peter's Episcopal Church - Eggertsville NY
Balance Sheet as of February 28, 2021

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Page 1 of 1

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance
Assets			
1.100.010	*****7258 General Fund	(1,615.94)	3,894.12
1.100.020	*****8273 Money Market	1,036.82	71,553.85
1.100.030	*****7282 Threads of Hope	633.30	838.43
1.100.050	*****8759 Columbarium	0.01	1,947.92
1.100.060	*****7274 Rectors Discretionary	(2.00)	1,191.31
1.100.080	*****7316 Refugee Account	(247.63)	1,397.84
1.100.100	*****9940 John Frantz Memorial Fund - Checking	350.00	3,415.97
1.100.110	*****7308 Deacons Discretionary	0.00	45.52
1.200.010	Episcopal Church Foundation (investment)	0.00	10,903.50
1.300.001	<i>Fixed Assets</i>		
1.300.010	Building	0.00	543,000.00
1.300.020	Furnishing	0.00	175,000.00
1.300.030	Land	0.00	102,000.00
1.300.040	Mission House	0.00	92,000.00
1.300.050	Vestments and Altar Settings	0.00	50,000.00
	<i>Total Fixed Assets</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$962,000.00</i>
	Total Assets	\$154.56	\$1,057,188.46
Liabilities			
2.001.001	<i>Payroll Liabilities</i>		
2.001.013	IRS withholding	0.00	(190.48)
	<i>Total Payroll Liabilities</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>(\$190.48)</i>
2.100.010	<i>Accounts Payable/Vendors</i>	685.76	(273.32)
	Total Liabilities	\$685.76	(\$463.80)
Fund Balances			
3.001.001	General Fund Balance	(841.57)	4,203.94
3.002.020	<i>Money Market Balance</i>		
3.100.010	Meath Memorial Balance	0.00	1,878.83
3.100.020	Building Fund Balance	394.00	16,557.05
3.100.030	Parish Nurse Balance	0.00	51.40
3.100.040	Music Balance	0.00	(70.00)
3.100.050	Memorial Garden Balance	0.00	700.01
3.100.060	Order of St. Luke Balance	0.00	353.51
3.100.070	OSL Grand Island Balance	0.00	516.58
3.100.080	Theological Education Balance	55.00	555.00
3.100.090	John Frantz Bequest Balance	0.00	40,874.82
3.100.095	Holliger Fund Balance	0.00	10,000.00
3.100.100	EFM Balance	0.00	23.00
3.100.110	Flowers Balance	0.00	128.00
	<i>Total Money Market Balance</i>	<i>\$449.00</i>	<i>\$71,568.20</i>
3.009.100	Columbarium Balance	0.00	1,947.85
3.100.200	Rector's Discretionary Balance	24.00	1,265.31
3.100.210	Deacon's Discretionary Balance	(50.00)	(40.48)
3.100.220	Refugee Resettlement Balance	(112.63)	1,332.84
3.100.300	Threads of Hope Linen Pantry Balance	0.00	855.13
3.100.398	Frantz memorial checking Balance	0.00	3,615.97
3.200.010	Episcopal Church Foundation (investment) Balance	0.00	10,903.50
3.300.001	Fixed assets Balance	0.00	962,000.00
	Total Fund Balances	(\$531.20)	\$1,057,652.26
	Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$154.56	\$1,057,188.46

Prayers of the People

Long Term: Kathy and Bill, Dorothy, Becky P, Betty P, Jim G , Gary & Marty D, Deacon Joanne and Chuck, Ann Marie, Kristie P, Ron B, Suzanne and family, Gino L, Alfred, Marilyn and Karen S, Kerri and family, Bob R and Dawn, Carol, Sue and Don

Short Term: Joann, Marianne R., Robin P, Linda P, Diana's family, Florence K, Lee John, Judy E, Lillian, John M, Elaine M, Gayle, Jon, Bryan & Jeff, John & Tri, Cheryl, Jessica, Michael J, Paul, Sam S, Scott and Jason, Mark and Melissa, David P, Ellen, Erin W, Amy P, Eric, Sue, Bob and Bobby, Christine M., Iain, Gladys and Jerry H

Please note: Lucy, Amy, Jan and Pauline - if ongoing prayers needed, they can be added to long term. Just contact me

Home bound: Faith R, Sue W

Armed Forces: Richie, Brandon G, Ian F, and Ben H

Prayers of Protection: Alisha, Alison, Cheyenne, Jerry, Shawn, Alex, Carma, Chris, Fr. Dan, Maria, Rachel, Dawn R, Della, Ed and Sharon H, Elizabeth S, Florence K, Jeanette, John, Katia, Lois and Tom T., Marcia, Mary Jane, Michelle, Missie, Ruth P, Sara, Sue G, Zachary and all others selflessly working.

Please contact me with updates at sgunn@sixgunns.com, call 716-838-6156 for voicemail or text 716-481-2914. God Bless! Sue Gunn



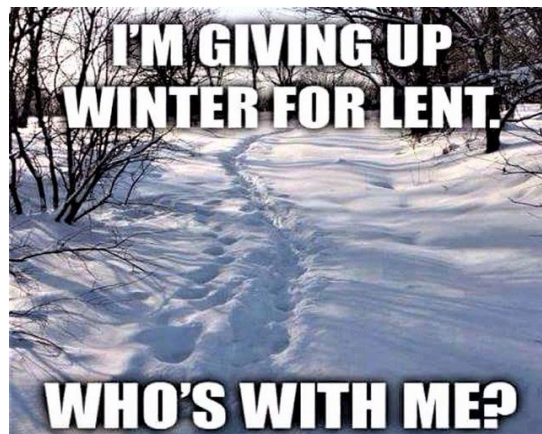
REQUESTS
— FOR —
PRAYER



3/01 Karen Miller
3/02 Rose Amato
3/02 Samuel Scime
3/03 Pauline Talbot
3/06 Annabel Paradise
3/09 Robert Miller
3/10 Michelle Hill
3/16 James Gunn
3/18 Greg Lavis
3/24 Malayiah Horey-Owens



3/19 Edward and Sharon Hill



St. Peter's Episcopal Church
205 Longmeadow Rd. Eggertsville, NY 14226-2905
(716) 832-9764

<http://stpeterseggertsville.org>

Email: stpeterseggertsvillenya@gmail.com

The Rev. Dr. Daniel J. Pinti, Priest-in-Charge
The Rev. Thomas N. Tripp, Deacon
The Rev. Joanne Coury Frake, Deacon

Generosity, Simplicity, Hospitality
Sunday Mornings at 10am on Zoom
Coffee Hour 11am on Zoom

Parish Office Hours

Phone No. 716- 832-9764

Wardens: Lois Tripp and Lee McElhinny
Vestry Members: Mike Taube, Linda Pike, Missi Lopat
Dawn Rezabek, Merrie Hill and, Katia Sanchez
Clerk of the Vestry: Sharon Hill
Parish Treasurer: Edward Hill
Organist: S. Elizabeth Ann Schascheck

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
205 Longmeadow Rd.
Eggertsville, NY 14226-2905

The Rock

LENT
Pray + Fast + Give

March 202