

# The

# Rock



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

October 2021

Dear People of God,



Fall is here, and with it the changing of the seasons. Around these parts, we look forward to the beauty of Fall foliage and enjoy “sweater weather.” And we at St. Peter’s are again participating in the changing season with a liturgical change. For the five Sundays in October, we will be offering our Creation liturgies to the glory of God, and refocusing ourselves on the goodness of God’s creation. We will give thanks for it, reflect on our relationship with it, and, indeed, repent of our sins against it.

Can we “sin against nature”? Absolutely. Climate change is nothing other than the accumulated effects of decades and decades of collective human hostility to the environment, and we’ve all participated in varying degrees, sometimes knowingly, sometimes unwittingly. I won’t make a science-based argument for that because the science is in, and the argument already settled. But a faith-based argument is warranted, and I’ll keep it brief.



Jesus taught, “love your neighbor as yourself.” The word “neighbor” comes from two words that go back to the beginning of the English language: *neah*, meaning “nearby,” and *gebur*, meaning “dweller.” A “neighbor” is simply one living (at any moment) near me. Why should our neighbors not include the life that teems around us all the time, trees,

grasses, animals great and small? Or for that matter the air and soil and rocks and waters, the very existence of which God’s love sustains, moment to moment? Why should we not show them the same love—that love we know in New Testament Greek as *agape*, the self-giving love that acts out of the conviction that my neighbor in no way matters less than I, so I will treat that neighbor as myself?

Now, if that sounds a little “tree-huggy” to you, I understand. Once I would have reacted the same way. My own ideas and commitments have been evolving on this matter for many reasons, but here’s just one. As one creation theologian reminds us, “Serving God’s creation and doing justice for the poor are inseparable missions.... To hurt the earth is to hurt the poor; to serve the earth is to serve the poor.” Yes, some expensive homes in California are lost to wildfires, but far, far more poor people are affected by the devastation wrought by increasingly frequent and increasingly violent hurricanes, catastrophic floods, and persistent droughts. And it’s not just the poor who are with us now who are affected, but those in the future, too, the more we leave a legacy of destruction.

This all really goes back to the very



beginning, the Scriptural rock that testifies to God’s will long before the Israelites were a

people, or Jesus was born, or Judaism or Christianity came to be. God gave Adam and Eve a garden to tend, and one another to take care of—both. It's just not "either/or." As at the beginning, however, we humans seem to always tend toward power and greed, power and greed now concentrated at a political and corporate level that we must resist, in Jesus' name, in every way we can.

I encourage you to participate in our creation-themed Bible Study in October (10/4, 10/18, 10/25), at 6:30 p.m., and I hope you will find yourself fed by the Creation liturgies and the beauty of the Fall season. And I pray we will all come to a deeper connection with *all of our neighbors*, human and otherwise.

Peace and blessings,  
Fr. Dan+



## Green Themes in Scripture

As an Adult Education offering to complement our Creation Season liturgies in October, I will be leading a three-part Bible Study on "Green Themes in Scripture." I have a wonderful edition of the Bible called *the Green Bible* (HarperCollins 2008), which includes the New Revised Standard translation of the Old and New Testaments with all passages related to creation and the environment printed in green letters (sort of like those "words of Christ in: red" Bibles you may have seen). It also has some extra editorial essays and materials, one of which is the "Green Bible Trail Guide," from which the plan below is adapted. We will meet via Zoom on Mondays at 6:30 p.m., following this reading schedule:

Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup> Genesis, Chapters 1 and 2; Job, Chapters 38 and 39, Psalms 104

Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup> John 1:1-5; Colossians 1:15-20; Exodus 23:10-17; Leviticus 26:3-26; Psalm 65

Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup> Luke 10:25-37; Isaiah 11:1-9; Isaiah 65:17-25; Revelation 21:1-5; Revelation 22:1-5

Let me emphasize, you don't need *The Green Bible* to participate. Just read these passages in whatever Bible you typically use.

I do hope you can join me for these conversations! I think they will help us deepen our sense of how present and participative God is in the natural world, and how the "green themes" of Scripture intersect with other important biblical themes.

Blessings,  
Fr. Dan+



You have probably heard or read about the approximately 330 Afghan evacuees that are slated to come into the Buffalo region for resettlement. This presents us at St. Peter's with a unique opportunity to rejuvenate our refugee ministry that has been severely hampered by the pandemic and the previous governmental administration.

A consortium of four refugee resettlement agencies in WNY has answered the call to "**welcome these strangers**" who have assisted the American efforts in the long, drawn-out war. Over 100,000 of these evacuees are currently being vetted for both health and security concerns in various U.S. military installations around the world. They will be arriving here in due time.

Our local consortium was formed to handle the massive influx that lies before us, and their primary need is for monetary

donations. The U.S. governmental pledge of \$1200 per family unit is a one-time subsidy, which would barely cover one month's rent and food expenses. They need much help.

The consortium agencies include the International Institute, Catholic Charities, Jericho Road, and the agency we have mostly partnered with- Journey's End. The group's name is Buffalo United for Afghan Evacuees. Your monetary donation may be given online at **WNYRAC.org**. I would encourage all of our parishioners to donate to this cause, at what ever amount you can comfortably afford.

This humanitarian situation has also provided St. Peter's with another opportunity to help. In time, the secondary need for these evacuees will be finding apartments, furniture, household items, etc. We are currently in talks with Calvary Episcopal Church in Williamsville to form a collaborative effort along these lines. Our aim is to revive either the "Home Again" or "Community Sponsorship" programs, that both parishes have previously done. More details to follow.

The Holy Spirit presents itself in many and various manners. Are we ready to once again answer the call?

Peace and Blessings,  
Deacon Tom



## Refugee Bazaar

Deacon Joanne wants everyone to know the Refugee Bazaar will reopen sometime in the future. Right now, she has many personal things she must take care of first.



## Church Calendar and Web Page

Our church calendar is on the Web Page at the top, under the drop-down

"Calendar": <http://stpeterseggertsville.org/>. You can find information on times, events even the upcoming Adult Book Study. Check it out!

If you would like to place the calendar on your cell phone as an app or you can enter this on your tablet on home computer: <https://www.calendarwiz.com/stpeters205>

The Prayers of the People are updated on the web page frequently by Lee McElhinny, I post the Lay Minister schedule monthly and Ed Hill posts the Rock as well as the recorded Sunday Service and other additions. We are in the process of making some updates on the ministry pages.

If you have any news to share, or Pictures, please forward them to: [stpeterseggertsvillen@ gmail.com](mailto:stpeterseggertsvillen@ gmail.com).

Shalom,  
Lois Tripp

## Vestry and Warden Openings for 2022

We will have two opening for Vestry this coming year. Thank you to outgoing vestry members Mike Taube and Linda Pike for your time and efforts. Vestry now meets monthly on Monday evenings, beginning at 6:30pm. We have been meeting on Zoom and had our first in person vestry meeting this past month. Some Vestry members still participated via Zoom. Meetings during incimate weather will meet via Zoom. Please consider serving on Vestry, I think you'd enjoy it!

Time has flown by; my 2-year term as Warden will be complete, after elections this January. It has been my pleasure to serve first with Ed Hill, and secondly with

Lee McElhinny, this year. I began my term in January of 2020, little did I know the changes to come! It has never been a burden, as the Vestry and Father Dan were always there to support and help guide. I hope that you will consider running for Warden.

Please speak to Lee or myself about our experiences and duties as Warden. Ed Hill has served several terms as Warden; I'm sure he would share his experiences also. Reach out to Vestry members: Mike Taube, Linda Pike, Missi Lopat, Dawn Rezabeck, Merrie Hill and Katia Sanchez about what it's like to serve on Vestry.

I'm praying that you will open your heart and mind, and agree to serve.

Shalom,  
Lois Tripp  
Warden



### Linen Pantry Update



The Linen Pantry was busy again in September. We provided for 17 families from 7 different agencies.

Thanks to Lee McElhinny and a friend of Marcia Scime's, we received 2 very large donations that took us several days to go thru, mark and put away. At this moment we are well supplied. However, requests from several large families or assisting some of the Afghan evacuees coming to this area will quickly wipe us out.

Do not forget to save your Dashes' Market receipts. If you know a friend or relative that shops there, ask them to save receipts for you. Put them in the box marked "Linen Pantry" in the back of the church.

The money we receive from Dashes' and other monetary donations goes toward plastic bags, masking tape as well as, towels bedding, pots and pans from Goodwill, Savers or Salvation Army when we run out. We look for sales and discounts wherever we shop.

Thank you for your support of this Ministry.

Carma Miccoli

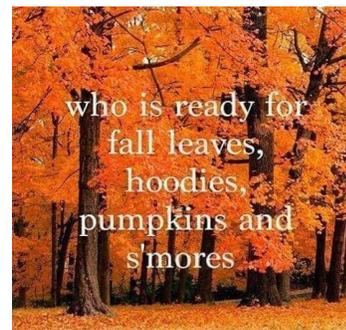


### Buildings and Ground

St. Peter's building is in pretty good shape. We have had a few issues with a roof leak that is still occasionally giving us some problems. During the Pandemic shutdown the building did not get a lot of use and general wear and tear has not been an issue. We had the downstairs floor stripped and finished last spring. The heating system is old but still functioning well. I hope I didn't put a jinx on it.

The parking lot was sealed and relined with some patchwork near the shed. The outside gardens are another issue. The grass mowing and snow removal are handled by a vendor and they do a fairly good job. The gardens lack proper attention. We do some work in the spring and fall with volunteer help. The general maintenance during the summer does not happen and needs to be addressed. I will be talking to the vestry about this and possibly hiring a landscaping company to take care of the gardens next year.

Ed Hill



## Prayers of the People

**Long Term:** Becky P, Jim G, Gary & Marty D, Kristie P, Ann Marie, Ron B, Suzanne and family, Gino L, Kerri and family, Bob R and Dawn, Sue and Don, Carol, Joann, Lucy, Lee & Jessica M, Judy E, Jeff, Florence K, Ellen, Amy P, Ray B, Dave L, Tim M, Wayne J, Cheryl, Joanne U, Cathy, Paula, Rick and Kristen, Tom and Joyce, Patti T, Sharon H, Jim and Michelle, Marilyn and Karen S



**Short Term:** June M, Joe P, Bob M, Alyssa Chris and, Jenny R, Frank B, Marie, Bob S, Dillon, Joe M, John P, Peter, Gayle, Lucas, Dori, Monica, Julia, Harry, Sue & Dave S, Amy D, Arthur P, Michelle, Dusty, Alissa, Carlene B, Jamie H, Kathy B, Deacon, Alfred, Chris and Alisha

**Home bound:** Faith R and Sue W

**Military:** Richie, Brandon G, Ian F, Ben H, Ben M and Aiden

Please alert me to any changes, updates or corrections. As the new year approaches, I will also need updates on long term and military names so if you know already, they should stay on the list into 2022. let me know no hurry plenty of time.

Thanks and God Bless,  
Sue Gunn



10/02 John Pinti  
10/02 Rachel Pinti  
10/02 Elizabeth Schasckeck  
10/05 Steve Hardy  
10/06 Fr. Dan Pinti  
10/08 Arlene Frey  
10/09 Dillon Lopat  
10/14 Amy Heineman  
10/14 Sara Gunn  
10/15 Scott Frake  
10/17 Natalie Campas  
10/20 Marty Donhauser  
10/23 Daniel Thibodeau  
10/30 Donovan Benning



10/05 Marcia and Sam Scime

