

# The



# Rock

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

March 2022

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear People of God,

I write this as we are about to enter Lent, and we will be journeying through that season throughout the month of March. This is a Lent in which I feel myself especially cognizant of how much is beyond my control, whether good (like the fact that at the moment Covid cases are falling fast and it looks like we're headed toward a hopeful Spring of gathering together more frequently and safely) or bad (the escalation of war in Ukraine). The truth is we can find peace in neither the good turns nor the bad, in none of the fluctuating changes and challenges that confront us in life. The truth is also that we can, most definitely, find peace in the changeless One, in the One who loves us always and whose mercy (unlike anything in this world) endures forever.

I want to share with you here words you hear read by me on Ash Wednesday, but which I fear we may move away from too quickly as Lent moves on. You'll find them on page 264 of the *Book of Common Prayer*.

"The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation

was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word."

As much if not more so than ever, now is the time for us to accept that invitation, which is not really from me but from God: an invitation to a time of preparation and reflection, a time of returning to God and embracing the forgiveness He offers, a time of recollecting and recommitting ourselves to the Baptism which has made us one in the Lord, a time of drawing closer to God, who awaits with open arms to welcome us. Because that's where the only true peace is to be found.



I remind you again of the Lenten study that will be led on Zoom by Deacon Tom, Deacon Diana, and myself, which will begin on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and continue through the Wednesdays in Lent. Here's the link to the overview of it I included in last month's newsletter:

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/church-that-looks-and-acts-like-jesus/> A Zoom link for our gathering and handout will be forwarded before the 9<sup>th</sup>. It will be a very discussion focused series, and I look forward to it with all of you.

You remain, as always, in my prayers, and particularly during this holy season. May the Lord bless you and keep you, make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you, lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Dan+

## It's The Little Things We Do

Some of you may know that I serve as our Church's liaison to the organization, **Hearts and Hands**. I have also decided to work for them. It has been three weeks as of this writing. I have two reasons for writing this article.

Our church's membership with H&H allows our members to receive preferential treatment in receiving their services. Those services range from a volunteer performing chores for a recipient, such as snow-shoveling or fixing a door frame; to driving the client to the doctor's office, or assisting with grocery shopping.

Clients have permanent or temporary disabilities, along with advancing age, that do not allow them to carry out some of these common, everyday tasks. That is where H&H to the recipient is FREE.

The first reason, then, is to encourage any member of St. Peter's who has similar needs as those mentioned above, to consider the availability of **Hearts and Hands** to assist in fulfilling them. Your needs schedule will have priority. Contact me with any questions you may have, and I will furnish you with contact information.

The second reason is to encourage volunteerism in our church community. It's kind of a combination of "loving your neighbor", and meeting new people, regardless of need. If you

have some time to spare, you may want to give it a go.

I will admit that I joined the volunteer side due to the fact that I haven't been able to do my prison ministry at all; and the refugee ministry has suffered as well, due to circumstances beyond my control. Therefore, I decided to drive people once or twice a week, to accomplish their needs. I can't really shovel out people anymore, nor fix doorways, so driving is the area I chose. You get to pick your area in WNY to serve, and you get to pick the cases that accommodate your availability.

For examples, I have taken a wonderful 96 year old woman to her eye doctor and physical therapist appointments on separate days. I have taken another woman to her orthopedic appointment, because she cannot yet drive with her broken leg, I took another man for a haircut because he is legally blind and cannot drive. Most recently I drove a legally blind marine veteran to BJ's and helped him shop. Their collective appreciation warms my heart.

It's the little things we are able to do to help others. It feels good.

Peace and blessings,  
*Deacon Tom*



## Lenten Study

Lent has come upon us on. Join us on Wednesdays at 7pm on Zoom, as your St. Peter's clergy group is planning a Lenten program around our Lord's vision of becoming a **Beloved Community**. That is, the diverse and united community based firmly on **LOVE**, that God dreams for us. To be both diverse and united amidst the divisiveness of today's society will take some

work on our part. We are called to review and interpret scripture reflecting Jesus' attention to the marginalized, or the "others" of his time. We are also called to reflect on the times we may have been "othered" by someone in our life, or "othered" someone ourselves. In order to better know others, we must also better know ourselves.

Here are some reflective questions for you to ponder:

1. ***What did your family of origin teach you about race or ethnicity?***
2. ***What did your family of origin teach you about gender and sexuality?***
3. ***How has your understanding of racial/ethnic identity changed over time? How has it remained the same?***
4. ***How has your understanding of sexuality and gender changed over time? How has it remained the same?***
5. ***Where have you been "othered" or othered someone because of a difference of class?***
6. ***When did you first "other" someone for their race, ethnicity, gender, or sexuality?***

My fervent hope is for you to join us this Lent and grow in the Spirit.

Peace and Blessings,  
*Deacon Tom*



## **Lent is the Time for a Pilgrimage**

Do not forget your pilgrimage to Jerusalem this Lent. As we've done in years past, we're inviting everyone at St. Peter's to "take a walk" 😊. Just a mere 438 miles, which will get you to Logan Airport in Boston, where you could board an imaginary plane and head for the Holy Land!

Starting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ash Wednesday, begin keeping track of your own activity—walking, housework, cooking, stretching, exercising, whatever definitions of "activity" best works for you. (Snoring doesn't count 😊) 15 minutes of activity = 1 mile, so if you do some quick math, you'll find that's about 2.7 hours a day each of the 40 days of Lent to get you to 438 "miles." (That's not counting Sundays, but if you want to add those in, feel free!)

We're on the honor system, so keep tabs yourself. More importantly, do so *mindfully*. Remember as you engage in your activities, God is present with you, on the way with you, sustaining you, loving you, hour after hour, "mile after mile."

Special rewards are planned for all those who complete the pilgrimage! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Damon Piatov at [nomad91350@gmail.com](mailto:nomad91350@gmail.com) Enjoy the journey!



## **Our Little Roses Donation**

Our Little Roses provides a safe, secure and loving home for abandoned and neglected girls from infancy to adulthood in Honduras. OLR focuses on developing the spiritual, emotional and intellectual wholeness of each girl.

Each year Diana Frade, the founder of Our Little Roses, lets us know what her most pressing needs are for the girls. This year she has requested our **donations be used to support the educational programs needed for these girls.**

Educating these girls is one of the fastest and most effective ways to end poverty and injustice towards women in this 2<sup>nd</sup> poorest country in our hemisphere. It will give them a



**ST. PETER'S  
FRIENDSHIP-PARTNERSHIP  
BAZAAR  
GRAND RE-OPENING**

**Coffee Hour  
Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>  
Undercroft (downstairs)**

better life and economic security for a future family. Dollars sent to support this effort are used wisely as OLR has graduated many successful young women who are contributing to making the Honduran society a better place to live.

Lois and Allison Carter, one of our newer parishioners, and I can have been to Honduras and have stayed at the home many times. Lois was on their Board of Directors. We have seen firsthand the good work they are doing. This is a charity of our Diocese.

To contribute to Our Little Rose's fund raiser, make your check payable to St. Peter's, indicating Our Little Roses or OLR in the memo section.

*Merrie Hill*

### **Linen Pantry Update**

February is a very short month. You would not know it from the numbers we served. We helped 16 families from 9 different agencies. One was a new agency and when the counselor saw what we gave out for free, she was told by her supervisor to spread the word out to the other counselors in that agency.

Thank you to those who turned in Dash's Market grocery receipts. In February we received a check for \$275. Keep those receipts coming in. When we have enough, we will turn them in for another check from Dash's.

A thank you goes to Carolyn Bongi, Mike and Sharon Taube and Lee and Fran McElhinny for the donations they have brought to the Pantry. Thank you also goes to the many others who have left items on the Mission House porch when no one was there and thank you to those who included a monetary donation with their church pledge. We and our clients are forever greatly for all your support.. *Carma Miccoli*

Come one, come all! Your Bazaar merchants are sponsoring the March 6<sup>th</sup> coffee hour after the 10 am service. We invite you to enjoy a selection of sweets with an international flavor and fruit salad, coffee, tea and juice.

We are celebrating re-opening our crafts and cards market in our original but redecorated space in the Parish Hall. As always, all proceeds from sales go to support our refugee ministry at St Peter's. Our "virtual" shop also continues for the time being.

We will be open during the coffee hour. Please take time to come by and see what we have to offer. Check out our new "Creation Station" where all items for sale are made from recycled or repurposed materials.

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

Thank you to all the hard-working Blessing Box crew! Lee and Fran McElhinny joined our crew this past month as Alison Mohr had surgery. We have had some nasty weather and it hasn't been easy keeping the doors on the box, as well as the shelves filled. I was not able to get into the Blessing box area the one Friday because there was over a foot of snow. Gary,

Ed and Jerry have all repaired the box and the doors now seem to be staying put. Our plow service has been trying to keep the area shoveled out to keep our neighbors, as well as our workers, safe and able to access the area.

Our neighbors continue to help us fill the box with food and toiletry items. One neighbor has donated at least 50 or more bottles of hand gel. We do depend on our parishioners and neighbors to help keep "Just a Helping Hand" open. We thank each one of you that are donating!



We recommend items such as rice, beans, spaghetti sauce in plastic jars, pasta, cereals. Dry or boxed milk that doesn't need to be refrigeration. Tuna, chicken or salmon pouches are good protein sources. Small jars of mayo, mustard or ketchup in plastic jars or bottles are useful. Bags of dog or cat food are always needed. If you see a large bag of cat or dog food, Alison and Jerry Mohr have been breaking them up and placing them into plastic bags. Toilet paper, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, baby diapers, wipes, women's personals, dishwashing detergent as well as clothes washing detergent are all needed.

St Peter's parishioners have touched hearts, in many ways. Help us continue to love our Eggertsville and surrounding neighborhood. Our neighbors appreciate our presence and mission.

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted" -AESOP

Gary Donhauser- Coordinator, Alison and Jerry Mohr-Pet food, as well as overall volunteer, Fran and Lee McElhinny, Lois Tripp and Carma Miccoli – volunteers.

## St. Peter's Webpage

Have you looked at our St. Peter's Webpage? It looks like this when opened and has information tabs to click on (tabs are underlined)

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
EGGERTSVILLE, NY

HOME WORSHIP MINISTRIES  
COMMUNICATIONS CALENDAR  
ABOUT US GIVE CONTACT US



Several months ago, we updated our webpage, [www.stpeterseggertsville.org](http://www.stpeterseggertsville.org).

Ed Hill continues to post The "Rock" newsletter and make some changes as needed. Lee McElhinny updates the Prayers of the People weekly. I post the Lay Ministry schedule monthly. We also have a webmaster that helps us with more technical changes and postings.

If you go to the "Communication" tab, at the top of the webpage, you can find all of this information. Under "Events" we have added many pictures from our past year. We kept busy despite our shutdowns. There is a "News" tab and "Recorded services" also under Communications. Our current "News" tab features Deacon Diana. The Worship area has been updated with a picture and Bio of Deacon Diana Leiker.

Under Ministries we have deleted the Parish Nurse area but added the "Wellness program." All the ministries are outlined there. Including Threads of Hope Linen pantry, The Blessing Box with pet food and food Pantries, Refugee ministry, Prison (currently on hold), and Education. Contact us is used for new inquiries but also prayers can be sent through here.

The Calendar tab has our church calendar. It has all church services, meetings and dedicated events added. I try to add the Zoom postings there when able, too. The Calendar can be added to your phone!

<https://www.calendarwiz.com/stpeters205>.

I would like to keep the News and Event pictures (under the communication tab) updated. We would feature a church member, activity, or ministry, monthly under "News." If you have an idea for a monthly NEWS article or pictures to share, please send them to me or our church email:

[stpeterseggertsvilleney@gmail.com](mailto:stpeterseggertsvilleney@gmail.com)

Shalom,

Lois Tripp, Administrator



### An Irish Blessing

As you are aware, St. Patrick's Day is quickly approaching.

Whether you are Irish or not, there is one day a year you get an Irish Blessing – St. Patrick's Day. So here it is. It is yours for the rest of the year.

*Wishing you a rainbow.*

*For sunlight after showers.*

*Miles and Miles of Irish smiles.*

*For golden happy hours.*

*Shamrocks at your doorway.*

*For luck and laughter too.*

*And a host of friends that never ends.*

*Each day your whole life through!.*



### Prayer for the Ukraine

God of Peace and justice,

We pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear tomorrow, that your spirit of comfort will draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war and peace,

For wisdom, discernment and compassion.

Above all er pray for your precious children, at risk and in fear,

That you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, Prince of Peace.

*Archbishop Justin Welby*

*Archbishop Stephen Cottrell*



## Prayers of the People

**Long Term:** Becky P, Jim G , Marty D and Gary, Kristie P, Ann Marie, Ron B, Suzanne and family, Gino L, Alfred, Bob R , Sue and Don, Joann, Lucy, Lee & Jessica M, Judy, E, Florence K, Amy P, Ray B, Dave L, Tim M, Wayne J, Joanne U, Cathy, Paula, Rick and Kristen, Tom and Joyce, Sharon H, Marilyn and Bob S, Jim M, Dan T, Brady, Trevor, Renee B, Joe P, Bob M, Alyssa and family, Beth, Frank B, Dillon, Joe M, Jenny R, Bob S, Dorothy G, Dori, Beth, Olivia, Sue & Dave S, Amy D, Lisa S.

**Short Term:** Monika, Don N, Sherie & Dale, Jenna, Mary, Sarah M, Monica and Jane, Sister Mary Judith, Kelly and her unborn baby, Andrea W, Gary K, Dennis M, Mary, Vicki, MM, Isabelle, Alison, Louie G, Megan M, Diane, Josh & Scott, Lynda C, Father Jerre, Lynn F and family, Dominic, Betty J, Maria, Diana W, Lindsey

*I am looking for updates on the underlined names please and the need for ongoing prayers?*

**Military:** Ben H, Ben M, Aidan and Brandon G

**Home Bound:** Sue W,

**Departures:** Mark B

**Thanksgivings:** Ellen and Willow

Please contact me with any corrections, updates or Thanksgivings, thank you and God Bless,  
Sue Gunn



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



03/19 Edward and Sharon Hill III



On March 13th, Daylight Savings begins.  
Set your clocks ahead an hour