

# The



# Rock

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

April 2022

## From the Priest's Desk

Dear People of God,

As we near the end of Lent, we begin to see, feel, and even *yearn for* Easter on the horizon. It is now that I'm reminded how great a temptation it is to try to pass over that which we must pass through. That's never more apparent than how we choose to experience (or avoid) Holy Week. The theologian Jeremy S. Begbie reminds us, "If we bound over to Easter Sunday too quickly in an attempt to seize the music of resolution without tension, we risk losing the very core of the good news that God's love reaches its ultimate intensity *in* the worst of places—the Cross."

Begbie writes as both a theologian and a musician, and the quote is from his book, *Resounding Truth: Christian Wisdom in the World of Music*. It's about how much music can reveal to us about the nature of God, Christ, and creation. As he writes, "more than any other art form, music teaches us how not to rush over tension, how to find joy and fulfillment through time that includes struggle, clashes, and fractures." Music is built on tension and resolution, and the latter can't really be experienced without the former. The same is true of Holy Week and Easter.

Music has always been integral to Christian worship, not least because it was integral to

ancient Jewish worship. The Book of Psalms is a songbook, of course. St. Paul in Colossians writes, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God." Music and worship just plain go together.

One of the things I've loved about St. Peter's—and missed most during our long "Covid exile" and inability to gather for worship—was our music. I look forward to playing guitar in church more as we get back into the "swing of things" with in-person worship. I look forward to hearing more percussion instruments, more piano, more voices, and more "joyful noise" in the congregation. And, of course, I always love hearing our organ.

The organ, if you think about it, makes *the building* of St. Peter's a musical instrument to the glory of God. The keyboard mounted in the loft, the air passing through the walls to pipes behind our altar, the sound resonating off the ceiling: the organ says this whole place is one big musical instrument. And it should remind us that *each and every one of us is a musical instrument made to play to the glory of God*. I don't mean we're all musicians, or that we can all sing well (if you've heard me sing in church, you KNOW that's not true!). I mean our lives were meant to make God's music, to play the peace of Christ to and for others.



I encourage you to read closely the article in this *Rock* from our musical director, organist, and co-warden, Elizabeth Ann Schascheck, about the current state of our organ and its needed repairs. You'll be hearing more about it in the coming months.

And I encourage you to hear and experience all of the difficult, sometimes beautiful, sometimes terrifying "music" of Holy Week—I mean our services on Wednesday (Stations of the Cross), Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday—so that the great song of resolution, reconciliation, and triumph that is Easter can ring in your hearts and your lives as brightly as possible.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Dan+



## Our Church Organ Needs Repairs

Instead of a typical Junior Warden's Report, in this article I will inform you about repairs that need to be made to our organ. I will keep it very general, but please do reach out to me if you would like a more detailed, technical

explanation of the repairs that need to be done.

Our organ is about 70 years old and has served us well. Very little money has been invested into the instrument throughout the years. But now the instrument is in need of repairs.

Ed Hill and I have thoroughly researched and talked with numerous professionals. Two highly recommended organ repair companies examined our instrument and provided estimates as to what repairs need to be done to improve the organ's performance. We

chose to utilize the services of Heritage, a company widely-used by local churches, and who gave us a more reasonable estimate.

A few parishioners have commented about the loud, hissing sound that can be heard throughout the church. That sound has definitely become even louder throughout the year. That is a result of severely deteriorating leather on the reservoir. (Leather generally only lasts about 70 years or so). The reservoir serves as a storage place for organ wind. It regulates the pressure of wind as it enters the wind chest. Because of the deteriorating leather and the holes in the leather, that wind is leaking, and decreasing the performance of the instrument. While the organ is currently functional, it does not hold its pitch when a larger number of notes are played because of the lack of wind pressure.

In addition to the loss of wind pressure due to the deteriorating leather, there are a few notes which are delayed. When the key is depressed, the note does not sound immediately. That is an issue that is also being addressed.

After much discussion at the March vestry meeting, the vestry approved \$2500.00 to be taken out of Building/Grounds to cover the cost of re-leathering the reservoir. Since Heritage provided the most affordable estimate, we decided to use the services of Heritage. They will remove the reservoir on Monday, May 2, make the repairs at their shop, and replace the reservoir the week of May 9. The organ will be inoperable on Sunday, May 8.

There is more to this story. Previously, I mentioned that leather lasts about 70 years. The next component of the organ is the wind chest that contains 280 pneumatic pouches that control valves to make pipes play. Heritage believes that the leather in the wind



chest will also need to be replaced. When they open up the wind chest as they remove the reservoir, they will be able to identify the exact condition of the leather in the wind chest. If all of the leather needs to be replaced, the cost would be \$18,000. If such repairs are needed, and if we decide to do them, a capital campaign would be needed to help raise money for such a project.

We will have more information in May, and we will keep everyone in the parish up-to-date on the situation as we move forward. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please reach out to me or Father Dan.

*Elizabeth Ann Schachack*

## What Does It Take to Become Beloved Community?

Lent is nearing its end, and we have been exploring what it takes to act like Jesus Christ, to **BE** Jesus Christ out in our world. You will find some reminders below of the manner that Jesus carried himself during his time on earth, serving as the incarnate God and Messiah. Think about how **YOU** could serve in His Beloved Community.

- Jesus lived simply and encouraged people to look into their bags, share their possessions, and feed one another....and there was plenty.
- Jesus incurred the wrath of the domination system because he stood with the oppressed.
- Jesus disobeyed unjust rules and honored “the least of these” in order to bring things into right relationships (justice).
- All around Galilee, Jesus walked with people and offered his listening ear and heart.

- Jesus released control of his path so God could lead instead.
- Jesus loved extravagantly: his friends, his enemies, and God.

The ball is in your court. The score is Love to Love. How can you serve?

Peace and Blessings,

*Deacon Tom*

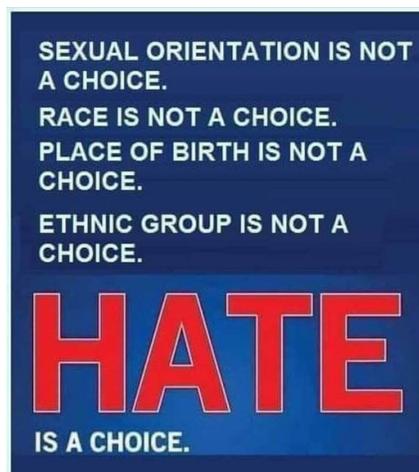
**YOU'RE  
INVITED!**

I've just made up a list of lay readers (reading the lessons), crucifers (carrying the cross), and ushers. It occurred to me that there may be people in the pews that would enjoy participating in a “Lay Ministry.” If you haven't done any of these things, we'll teach you and partner you with someone to help.

Another wonderful way to serve is to join the Altar Guild. Members of the Altar guild volunteer to care for the altar, vessels, and altar linens. Altar Guild members prepare the sanctuary for services and clean up afterwards. Instructions will be provided.

Please contact me if you have interest in any of these “Ministries” and I will connect you with the right person.

Shalom,  
Lois Tripp, Parish Administrator



## Simple Rule of Life

During our recent Lenten series on Wednesday evenings, I shared a simple **Rule of Life**, modeled after Benedictine Spirituality. I believe I have shared its basic premise before in sermons and in Rock articles, but I thought it might be of value to those who were unable to attend these past Wednesdays, or who are unfamiliar with one.

**J As a Christian, how will you establish a loving relationship with GOD (JESUS) through a prayer life?**

When? Where? What kind of prayer? How long? What assistance will you use or need? In silence, or in spoken word? Be specific!

**O As a Christian, how will you love OTHERS as Jesus implored us to do?**

Who can you help? How often? How much time can you spend? Which tasks are you able to perform? Set aside what best fits your schedule and try to be regular in your service.

**Y As a loving, serving Christian, how will you love YOURSELF? How do you plan to take care of yourself physically, mentally, and spiritually?**

What is your will you plan to attend to your needs, in order to function as well as possible in the areas above? Who can you talk to? Do you need help? How will you become fit in these areas and establish maintenance in them?

Yes, the acronym **JOY** is appropriate here for a Rule of Life. If we want joy out of life, there is a way to achieve it. And it can be very fulfilling. Works for me!

*Deacon Tom*

## Just a Helping Hand



We're looking forward to Spring and some warmer weather. Thank you again this month to our wonderful volunteers Gary Donhauser, Alison and Jerry Mohr, Lee and Fran McElhinny who have kept us going through snowstorms and freezing weather!

A special Thank you to Ed Hill who has kept our Blessing Box repaired. The door has flown open and come off a few times. Thank you to Carma Miccoli, and Marcia Scime for letting us use the front porch of the Linen Pantry for off day collections and for helping to put items out. They have also helped to keep a watchful eye on the box.

There are many good neighbors that stop by and help us keep the Blessing Box full. Thank you all for your donations, too. We are collecting canned fruit, vegetables, soups, canned pastas, dry pasta, spaghetti sauce, rice, beans, cereals, baby food, baby cereal and powdered or packaged milk that doesn't need refrigeration. Toiletries, toilet paper, soap, dish liquid, diapers, shampoo, and laundry detergent are also well used.

Pet food - we also are always in need of Dog and Cat food. If you see a large bag on sale of either type, we will repackage it to help it go further. Alison Mohr tracks the food donations and just since January, we have put out 11 cans of cat food, 94 lb of dry cat food, 3 cat treats, 4 cat toys, 6 cat food dishes, 20 cans of dog food, 1 dog toy, 13 dog treats, 59.8 lb of dry dog food and 4 dog dishes!

The Blessing Box has been a tremendous success. It has been a learning experience, and we look forward to gathering with Deacon Diana Leiker, after Easter, to explore and discuss some ways to help sustain the food

collections. We realize St. Peters can't do it all! Look for the date, and all are welcome!

With food and gas prices rising, it is only getting worse. We are trying to educate our neighbors about local food pantries, free meals and other social service assistance. I've put some information on the door and inside for them to take, with the food pantry locations, Snap applications (food stamp), etc. Anyone who has ever been on food stamps, knows the food doesn't last the month. That's why the food pantries and Just a Helping Hand Blessing Box are so important!

Shalom,  
*Lois Tripp*

### **Linen Pantry Update**

The Linen Pantry was busy in March (When are we not busy?) We served 14 families for 5 different agencies. We found several large donations this month on the front porch which contained many items we were in need of.

On Sunday we put out a call for Dash's receipts. We needed \$200 more in receipts. Thanks to Al Price, Ed Hill and Carolyn Bongi we received more than \$2,000 worth of receipts. In the next couple of weeks Dash's will be sending the Linen Pantry a check for \$200. So keep those receipts coming in for the next time.

So far, we have not gotten any requests to assist the Afghan evacuees or any other refugees, I believe that is because of a severe shortage in low-income housing. Some of these families are here but are currently being housed in motels and college dorms. As you can see our agencies keep us busy.

*Carna Miccoli*



### **Our Little Roses Home for Girls**

I would like to thank those who made donations totaling \$400 towards the education of the 65 girls who live in Our Little Roses Home in San Paulo Sula, Honduras. In the Holy Family School, run by Our Little Roses, the girls become fluent in English as well as Spanish. One of their students will graduate from college this year as an Engineer. Others have graduated from college as teachers, a dentist, and in various areas of business. The girls who choose not to attend college get good paying jobs because of their language skills. The education of these girls is of great benefit to their country. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

*Merrie Hill*

### **Treasurer's Update**

I would like to thank everyone for keeping their pledge offerings current. During the Pandemic we have been able to maintain our fiscal stability. All the bills are being paid and we are able to continue our support of our outreach programs. The Threads of Hope continues to operate with your generous donations along with the Refugee Resettlement program and the Blessing Box.



As we have all seen the price of many items has gone up considerably. The cost of food, gasoline, housing cost and heat have all increased. The heating cost has affected the church the most. The Church/Mission house gas bill for the heating season from September 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022 has increased 87%. Some of this increase is due to the increased use of the building in the last several months. The majority of the increase is due to the cost of gas. I have talked to a National Fuel representative and the cost of a single unit of gas

has gone up 63%. This increase is only the cost of gas, it does not include delivery cost. This increase will not hinder our ability to pay our bills but it will definitely be a larger portion of our budget going forward. Thank you again,

*Ed Hill, Treasurer*

## Buildings and Grounds

Spring is here officially, not only by the Spring Equinox occurring, but I have seen several Robins flying around. As I am writing this it is 19 degrees and snowing, maybe it's not Spring. It will get warmer and we have to get ready for our **spring outdoor cleanup**. So save the date, **May 22, 2022** barring rain, will be our annual Garden Party **after the 10 AM service**. Come to church ready to prepare the gardens for the summer and plant any annuals you want to bring to beautify the grounds. Ed Hill and Mike Taube will be coordinating the work. If you have any questions or thoughts on the outside of the buildings feel free to contact Ed or Mike.

*Ed Hill*

## Diakonia Musings

I am so happy to be back, even if it is only part time! Thank you for the warmest of welcomes and the wonderful coffee hour to celebrate my return. I pray that I can serve you well as we move forwards as followers of Jesus, always striving to be the beloved community God calls us to be. I cherish the joy you all carry in your hearts and the willingness to take care of each other and reach out when the spirit calls. I will be worshipping with you on Good Friday and look forwards to it.

After Easter, you can help me navigate the ministries you have in place and let me know what I can do to assist. Have a blessed Holy Week, as God makes all things new if we are open to listening.

*Deacon Diana*



## Something to Think About

One Sunday morning at a small southern church, the new pastor called upon his older deacon to lead in the opening prayer. The deacon stood up, bowed his head and said, "Lord, I hate buttermilk."

The pastor opened on eye and wondered where this was going. The deacon continued, "Lord, I hate lard. Now the pastor was totally perplexed.

The deacon continued, "Lord, I ain't too crazy about plain flour. But after you mix'em all together and bake 'em in a hot oven, I love biscuits.

"Lord, help us to realize when life gets hard, when things come up that we don't like, whenever we don't understand what You are doing, that we need to wait and see what You are making. After you get through mixing and baking, it'll probably be something even better than biscuits."

Amen.



## Thought for Today

Woke up warm and safe in my bed.  
While someone else heard bombs over their head.  
I jumped into a nice hot shower,  
While someone else has lost all power.  
I hugged my family, we were all together,  
While others said goodbye, possibly forever.  
While I fear the money that I will spend,  
Others worry of losing the country they defend.  
In the time it took for me to write this post,  
Many have lost the things they love most.  
So, when I start to bitch and want to complain,  
I will stop myself and pray for Ukraine.

-Art Smith

## Prayers of the People



**Short Term:** Mary, Monica and Jane, Sister Mary Judith, Kelly and her unborn baby, Andrea W, Sarah M, Gary K, Dennis M, Mary, 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 V, Jacob, Jason, Bill, Rich and Donna

**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

**Home bound:** Sue

**Armed Forces:** Ben H, Ben M and Brandon G

Please contact me with requests, updates, departures and thanksgivings. Short term names remain for 3 months, then are removed unless requested long term. There is no limit to the other categories if renewed every 6 months.



04/01 Mary Reed  
04/04 Michael Gale  
04/06 Joanne Frake  
04/06 Sue Horey  
04/12 Tina Passariella  
04/21 Scott Miller  
04/22 Thomas Halterman  
04/22 Kirsten Reitan

**Wed., April 13<sup>th</sup>**, 7pm *Stations of the Cross*-  
Zoom only

**Maundy Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>** 7 pm In-person  
and Zoom

**Good Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>** 7pm In-person and  
Zoom

**Holy Saturday service, April 16<sup>th</sup>** 10am In-  
person only-No Eucharist or Hymns

**Easter Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>** 8am In- Person and  
10am In- person and  
Zoom



**Holy Week Schedule**