

The



Rock

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Summer 2022

From the Priest's Desk

Dear People of St. Peter's,

A parish I used to serve was having a big summertime event, one they put on every year, and it was my first-time being part of it. I remember, not long after I arrived on the scene that morning, I mentioned to someone that I was about to head into the kitchen and see how things were going. A parishioner quickly and pointedly said, in all seriousness: "Well, just stay out of the way."

Pretty funny. I did my best, not least because it was quickly evident that everyone on hand knew exactly what they were doing, was "stepping up to the plate" and throwing themselves wholeheartedly into the occasion. I've often thought since then that "stay out of the way" really was good advice, because when we see the Holy Spirit moving so clearly, as I did then, no one's job (least of all the priest's!) is to get in Her way.



No, what we do when the Holy Spirit moves is let ourselves be taken along and enjoy the ride. Jesus says, in John's Gospel (3:8), "The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." This is Jesus' theological version of that good advice I got. The Spirit of God is not something we can predict or control. We know the Spirit moves, we listen for the sound and look for the signs, we let the Spirit breathe through us, and let ourselves be borne wherever we are carried. Getting in the way is counterproductive and, for that matter, futile.

I anticipate the Spirit will be moving in new ways in St. Peter's in the coming months. We have plans for some new educational offerings. We have plans for some new (or renewed) fellowship activities. And, of course, who knows what else the Spirit might have in store for us? Our Christian journey is an adventure!

As the summer continues, I urge you to look for ways to "get out of the way" of the Spirit. Maybe there are struggles you're experiencing that it's time for you to handle by, as the saying goes, "letting go and letting God." Maybe there are ministries or activities the Spirit is calling you to, or calling you from, and you've somehow been "getting in the way" of the Spirit's movement. Let the Spirit carry you where she will. Maybe you've got something that you're thinking, if I only try *harder*, it'll work out. Instead, try *easier*. Easier often works, believe it or not, because that's often how the Spirit has room to move in and get involved.

And, as the summer continues, know that you are in my prayers, and you are welcome to contact me whenever you wish. I'm ready to help in whatever way I can, hopefully by (in the best sense) getting out of the way 😊

Peace and blessings,
Fr. Dan+

DIAKONIA MUSINGS

I take my dog, Hans, for a walk on the bike path in town and watch as he runs back and forth, sniffing with excitement as we make our way down a half mile and back again. Each excursion is like the first and he doesn't lose any enthusiasm for exploring the same smells over and over. Did you know that dogs expend energy as they sniff, so they not only experience their environment through smell, they get tired too! My little guy is exhausted by the time we get home, which gives me a few hours of freedom. Otherwise, I am followed wherever I go in the house or he begs to go outside to look for snakes and chipmunks. Just a side note, if he ever catches one, I will freak out!

One of my favorite places to sit during the summer heat is my front porch. I am inspired by the nature around me and find that the warmth and colors around me jump start my imagination when I create art work, answer emails, and write.

I think I love it so much because I am in the present moment, not thinking about where I need to be or what I need to do in the house. Research says that if we can relax even for 10 minutes a day, it will improve our brain function and attitude. I for one need both, so I look at this as a win, win. I hope that you all can find a place where you can escape from the world for a few minutes; a place where you can put politics, the news, your health, family issues, and unfinished work aside for just a short time. God refreshes us through the gift of summer.

We just need to breathe and let go of expectations.
Deacon Diana



AN INVITATION to a ST. PETER'S DAY RETREAT

Along with your own personal quiet space, there is an opportunity for us to spend a day in a beautiful, Zoar Valley setting. You are invited to attend a **Day Retreat** at the property my family owns in East Otto.

There will be three organized parts to the day:

1. a "holy hike" which includes scripture, readings, and a response to the theme of creation. (What else would we do since we will be in God's country!)
2. "praying in color" as a different way to organize our intercessory prayers.
3. "creating" a piece of art. There will be plenty of time for conversations with friends and time to enjoy the surroundings.

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What: Day retreat

When: Saturday, August 20. 10:00am-3:30pm

Where: Fowler Road, East Otto (near Springville, an hour away) I will provide directions so your GPS does not take you up steep hills. (My little 4 cylinder does not do well on the slopes)

Why? To have time to reflect in a nature setting and have some fun together

Please RSVP me so I can have enough supplies on hand. Be really novel and talk to me in person!
Deacon Diane





ON BEING A “TARGET”

What does it feel like to be a “target”? It appears today, in these United States, that if you are obviously Black, Asian, Jewish, Muslim or LGBTQ or even just dark complected and/or have a “strange accent” you may very well be the target of someone’s ire. The result of this is that you may be stared at, insulted, ignored, followed, stopped while driving, assaulted and even killed. Feeling you are a “target” is not conducive to our sense of wellbeing.

This does not personally concern most straight White people* (of which I am one) in America. Have you ever heard of any of the following happening to White people?

- Having your church bombed or torched or shot and killed during a Bible study class.
- Being shot by a police officer during a traffic stop while reaching for your registration which the officer told you to retrieve.
- Being stopped by police and insulted because you were driving a nice car and were either dressed well or casually dressed
- Going to a nightclub to dance and enjoy the company of friends until an active shoot kills and wounds your friends.
- Being chased down and shot to death while you were jogging.
- Being shot and killed while you are grocery shopping in your own neighborhood.

You may recognize some of the above as they are all based on actual incidents.

Imagine yourself as a member of one the groups listed in the first paragraph.

Being married to a Black woman and attending a Black Church makes me a “race traitor” which is especially heinous to some people. That thought crosses my mind infrequently because I am largely protected by “white male privilege”,

But what can we do? I am thinking White Christian people in particular. The minorities mentioned really can do little to address the ire of white nationalists and their hate/fear mongering kin but we White people can.

- Be absolutely and openly intolerant of any expressed intolerance of the afore mentioned groups.
- Shop occasionally in minority owned businesses.
- Read a book or two by a Black authors
- Attend minority celebrations like Juneteenth
- Hang out a rainbow flag on Gay Pride Day – the last Sunday in June
- Learn how to say “as-salamu alaykum” when greeting a Muslim. It simply means “peace be upon you” in Arabic. It is a nice greeting. I think it is much better than “Hi” or “Hello.” What do those words actually mean?

Showing concern for “the other” is Biblical

- When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not wrong him. (Lev. 19:33-34)
- Elijah’s stay with the widow of Zarephath (I Kings 17). She was not a Jew!

Paul Nevergold

St. Philip’s Episcopal Church

If your religion requires you to hate someone.....

You need to find a new religion.



At St. Peter's?

Anyone who would be interested in receiving their flu shot at St. Peter's on Sunday September 11th after 10am service between 11am to 12 noon please contact me. Flu shots will be offered for children as well, the age is 3 and up. 25 people need to sign up for me to confirm the clinic. Wegman's will have staff on site. if you do not have insurance coverage, please let me know and I can consult with the vestry and/or Fr Dan. Lee McElhinny is reaching out to another local church as well.

Sue Gunn



Needlework Group

Every Sunday the needlework group is on the church calendar for Monday mornings from 9:30am - Noon. Most of you are probably not familiar with this group and what we do. First a little history. Originally, we were a sewing group that met on the West Side and moved from what was a church on Richmond and Ferry to the CEM center on Lafayette and Parkdale, which is now the Dream Center. I joined as a young mother in the 1970's. At that time, we had childcare so we could concentrate on our sewing projects.

Fast forward to 2016. By this time most of our members had moved out of the West Side and parking was becoming an issue so we moved to St. Peters. The group has morphed into a needlecraft group because we have expanded into other needle arts as well as sewing. Most of the sewn, crocheted and knitted items made are donated to charities- Threads of Hope Linen Pantry, Veterans Hospital and local nursing homes to name a few.

We invite anyone who is interested in sewing, crocheting, knitting or just socializing to join us on Monday mornings. If you would like to learn how to do any of these needle arts, we will teach you or help you finish any unfinished projects. All are welcome even if you only want to socialize, share recipes, share books etc. We are a friendly group who enjoy each other's company and baking and cooking skills. I promise you will not leave hungry!

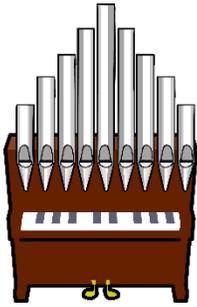
Here are some statistics of projects we have donated in the past two years, despite the fact that we were sporadically unable to meet during the pandemic:

- 90 T-shirt bags made from old tee shirts when
North Food Pantry
- 110 Fleece blanket, throws and lap quilts
baby blankets with crocheted edges
- 302 Hats (fleece, crocheted or knitted)
- 64 Scarves
- 5 Crocheted afghans

So, grab a friend or two and join us on Mondays.

Carolyn Bongji





Organ Repair

I am extremely pleased with the work that Heritage Pipe Organ performed on our instrument. As originally agreed, for a total of \$2500, they re-leathered the Reservoir Chamber, tuned the instrument, and came back a third time and performed additional adjustments.

I am able to use stops which previously had not been very pleasing to the ear to produce some new sounds. Congregation members have reported that the organ sounds "brighter" to them.

Other than a yearly tuning, there is no work that needs to be done at this point. In 5 to 10 years, the entire wind chest will need to be re-leathered. So, in a few years, we might need to discuss raising funds for that project.

Congregational Singing

It is hard to believe that 15 years ago on Good Shepherd Sunday, I accompanied St. Peter's in congregational song for the first time. Honestly, I felt a special connection on that first Sunday, and I still feel it in each service.



As early as I can remember, the sounds of hymns, whether played on the organ or heard outside as the carillons released the beautiful sounds into the summer breeze, have always had special meaning to me. Now, I am truly thankful to have been called to this music ministry at St. Peter's, where the hymns continue to move me.

Here at St. Peter's, it is NOT just the hymns that move me. It is the emotions and feelings that arise as the congregation unites in song to bring life to those hymns. In the music I can feel the strength of God, the love of Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit. We may have 20 to 30 individuals in church, but it sounds like the church is full.

Finally, sometimes other musicians will ask if we have a choir. My response is something like, "The congregation is our choir, and they are great and sing their hearts out." With that said, I offer my deepest gratitude to each of you. Thank you for being open to a wide variety of music and for singing those hymns!

Elizabeth Schascheck

Music and Spirituality

I am in the process of developing a class/retreat on music and spirituality to be offered in October. A date will be announced soon. If you are interested in participating, please see me.

Elizabeth Schascheck





Blessing Box Update

Thank you to all contributing essential items and spreading the good news about the work we are doing our small Eggertsville community. As we've said the need is great.

We want to thank all our helpers and leaders Gary Donhauser, Fran and Lee McElhinny, Lois Tripp and Alison and Jerry Mohr and Carma Miccoli who helps stock items through the Threads of Hope "side Porch". Many people leave items inside the porch or if Carma has items that would work for us, she shares.

We've all had our illnesses or vacation times, but everyone steps up to keep it

going!

With one summer behind us we know there are many kids home from school and needing a snack or lunch that just is not available at home. People have left messages requesting that we have juices and healthy snacks for the children, too.

Keep those on your donation list.

It would be great over the summer if we could provide Eggs, fresh milk, fruit or fresh vegetables, but we can't leave those inside the box. If you'd like to help any morning or afternoon to set up a table with those items, we'll help you get that organized. It would only have to be for an hour or so. Just an idea that we know would truly benefit our families.

Our staples such as Peanut butter and jelly, pet food, spaghetti and sauce, toiletries, soap products are always greatly accepted.

Shalom and Blessing to all,

Gary Donhauser, Lee and Fran McElhinny, Alison and Jerry Mohr, and Lois Tripp

Linen Pantry Update

From June 1 – June 29 the Linen Pantry filled orders from 6 different agencies for 21 families. This has been our busiest month so far.

As fast as items are donated, they are given out. As usual we need twin and queen sheets and towels. However, our wish list for this month is for air conditioners and fans. We have received several requests for these because of a sick family members or small children living in upstairs apartments. Look around and see if you or someone you know have any cooling devices in good working condition that are not needed.



Thank to those individuals who have turned in Dash's receipts. We had enough to recently submit another request to Dash's for more funds. A special thank you to Calvary Episcopal church for their generous donation of \$500 for the Linen Pantry. Money donations are used to purchase household items our families need that we

have run out of (i.e. silverware, towels, sheets).

Merrie Hill



Hearts and Hands

Do you need help getting to appointments, or with basic home chores? Don't forget about our association with Hearts and Hands!

St. Peter's Faith in Action partner-Hearts and Hands, Phone: (716) 406-831, <https://hnhcares.org>, provides free escorted transportation and basic home chores help for the elderly and/or disabled individuals)

Speak to Deacon Tom, Liaison, if you have questions or needs. Tomtripp2007@gamil.com

Thank you to.....

Ed Hill, Maya Hill, Mike Taube and Carolyn Bongi for operating the zoom camera for the 10am church services.

Trevor Lopat and Mile Taube for cleaning the church and undercroft.

Kathy Bates for trimming the rose bushes in front of the Mission House.

Carolyn Bongi and her needlecrafter for the many items given to the Linen Pantry

Sue Gunn for keeping track of the Prayers of the People weekly list.



August 20 – Day Retreat

August 21 – Backpack Sunday – collecting school supplies

September 12 – Flu Shot (if we have 25 people)

September 26 - Parish Picnic at Ellicott Creek Park.

More information to come in the weekly bulletin when we get closer to the dates.



Contact us at 716-832-9764 or stpeterseggertsvilleney@gmail.com

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 , 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, Dorothy G, Dori, Beth, Sue & Dave S, Amy D, Ron W, Gary K, Megan M, Lynda C, Father Jerre, Olivia, Dominic, Lindsey V

As it is mid-year, please let me know if any long- term names can be removed, I have not had updates in several months

Short Term: Jacob, Jason, Bill, Rich and Donna, Patty T, Jerry, Katlynn, Luana, Marian K, Annie, Christopher D, Deepak, Sue, Lenora, Billy, Jean P, David, Olive P, Giovanni M and Rachel

The underlined names will be removed at the end of the month unless requested long term

Home bound Sue W

Please contact me with any corrections, updates or Thanksgivings,

God Bless,
Sue Gunn

Birthdays

07/06 Alfred Price
07/08 Sharon Taube
07/12 Chyenne Mohr
07/14 Shawn Mohr
07/17 Talia Benning
07/18 Heather Wagner
07/18 Fran McElhenny
07/19 Emmalina Baumgarter
07/20 Joy Hardy
07/25 Maria Sanchez-Clarke
07/26 Alison Mohr
07/31 Becky Piatov



**Contact us at 716-832-9764 or
stpeterseggertsville**

Birthdays

08/01 Allie Fiutek
08/01 Emily Fiutak
08/01 Nicholas Campas
08/03 Wendy Palmer
08/04 Alissa Gordon
08/09 Brian Tripp
08/10 Katia Sanchez
08/10 Michelle Horey
08/13 Tariq Benning
08/15 Robert Rezanek
08/15 Suzanne Smith
08/16 Maya Hill
08/18 Barbara Price
08/21 Lee McElhinny
08/22 Iain Gunn
08/25 Elaine Miller
08/25 Della Harris
08/27 The Rev. Terry Bull
08/28 Bradley Taube

Anniversaries

07/11 Wendy and Gregg Palmer
07/20 Gary and Marty Donhauser
07/25 Nicholas and Mary Jane Campas



Anniversaries

08/19 Carolyn and Ron Bonghi
08/19 Merry Jeffers and Michael Kankiewicz
08/21 Susan and James Gunn
08/27 Fr. Dan and Maria Pinti