

The



Rock

St Peter's Episcopal Church

November 2022

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear People of St. Peter's,



During the third week of October, I traveled to an academic conference held in Santa Fe, New Mexico. (One of the perks of 30-plus years as a professor is being able to be choosy where I attend conferences to present papers, and I wasn't about to pass up a chance to head to the southwest in October!) Anyway, after three days at the conference, I took some time one day to drive out to the Monastery of Christ in the Desert, a Benedictine community that is one of the most remote in North America. First time I'd ever been there. You drive about 75 miles northwest of Santa Fe, take a left on a one-lane dirt road, and drive another 13 unpaved miles to get to the monastery. Pictures don't do it justice, of course, but trust me, it's pretty beautiful out there.

The monastery includes an outdoor Stations of the Cross path, which I walked and in which I prayed. This was a special experience. Each Station is marked by a large cross carved of wood, each with a different shape, in a slightly different setting, and with a rustic bench nearby for sitting and reflection. Here's the Twelfth Station:

On the plaque are carved the words, *Pater, in manus tuas commendo spiritum meum*: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46)—Jesus's words at his death. As I sat there praying, into my mind came the words from Genesis 2:7: "Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being." As you know, "spirit" and "breath" are one and the same, and I began to pray with every breath I inhaled, "and the man became a living being," and with every breath I exhaled, "into your hands I commend my spirit." And as I prayed silently, paying attention to my breath and spirit, to God's breath and spirit, I felt drawn closer to my creation and to all Creation. I felt myself sharing my life with God, and God sharing His life with me. And I felt profoundly grateful.



Remember, God breathed life into you, and your life is in God's good hands.

This month of November, as this season after Pentecost comes to a close, we remain mindful of the gift of the Holy Spirit we celebrated on Pentecost, we honor the Crucified One who's King of all Creation on Christ the King Sunday, and we give thanks for the many blessings of this life on the Feast of Thanksgiving. I remain thankful for all of you, for your generosity with your time, talent, and treasure, for the good work you do in our community, in your lives, and for one another. God bless you!

Fr. Dan+

DIAKONIA MUSINGS

I ran across this parable written by Dr. R. Scott Rodin and it seems so appropriate during this season of giving. Some is copied directly and some is paraphrased.

"A wealthy man was preparing to leave on a trip when he learned of a family that had suffered a great loss and was nearly destitute. He had compassion on them but was pressed to depart so he called for his son and gave him a check, saying: "I am leaving on a trip and I have compassion for the family who has suffered such a loss. Please take this check, keep what you need for your own expenses and give the remainder to this family as a gift from me. If you are still in need, tell me. Remember, I love you and will always take care of you."

After the father departed, the son cashed the check, then he took the funds and..."

The ending is up to us because we always have choices. Here are three possibilities Scott suggested:

1. The son considered what he did not have and didn't trust that his father would take care of him, so he gave little to the family and kept most of the money for himself.

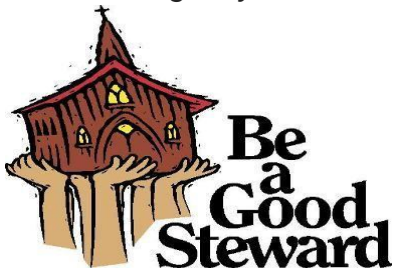
BUT: We are never more like God than when we give.

2. The son was frustrated by his father's request and while he obeyed, he was miserable. He allowed the family to think it was he that gave the money.

BUT: We glorify God when we give in his name.

3. With joy, the son did as his father asked and told the family that the money was from his father.

BUT: We experience the life that is truly life as we give selflessly, joyfully, freely and with a heart to glorify God.



As we enter our pledges, give to ERD and other relief funds, donate to the Blessing Box, give to our adopted refugee families, give of our time and talent to support the other ministries we are called personally called to, it is important to remember that we all make choices about our giving. Let God be glorified by our giving when we are cheerful about it, - and non-judgmental how they are used, and understand that everything we have is from God and not ours to keep in the first place.

Read what scripture says about giving as God has asked us to do, and decide which ending you choose. Matt. 6:1-4, 2 Cor. 9:10-14, Acts 20:35, Luke 6:38, 1 Tim. 6:17-19)

Deacon Diana

THANKYOU!

I am going to keep this short and simple. God has called each of us to St. Peter's. Thank you everyone for being part of this community and contributing your time, talent, and treasure. It is because of each of you that St. Peter's is able to answer God's call and minister to each other and our WNY community.

Elizabeth Schascheck, Junior Warden

“Give Us Now Our Daily Pierogies”



Some of you may know that we have come up with a delicious way to help support the Balanovych family from Ukraine. The mother, Halnyna, turns out to be able and willing to make and sell pierogies, and we seem to have enough parishioners and their friends that like to consume them. Personally, I think they are very tasty and easy to prepare.

The ECW women from our partner church, St. James in Batavia, have donated funds to Halnyna to purchase cooking ingredients; and Ed Hill purchases the farmer's cheese from the open air market he regularly attends.

Armed with all that, she makes quite a large batch of the Ukrainian entrée, and I pay her and Ed out of our Refugee account. Deacon Diana and I then split the batch and deliver them to our respective churches for sale @ \$10 per bag (1 dozen). The sales then go back into the refugee account.

As you see- quite a little enterprise; which gives Halnyna a meaningful way to earn money for her family, and all of us consumers to satisfy our pallets. She makes two types of pierogies- a regular cheese, and the ever- popular cheese and potato.

For any of you worshipping at home who may want to get in on the feasting, call or text me and I'll try to get them to you in time for dinner. Door Dash on steroids. For those who attend in person- you know where to find me.

Peace and blessings,

Deacon Tom

Just a Helping Hand Blessing Box

On Tuesday, October 18, 2022 we had a fund raiser at TGI Fridays at the Boulevard Mall. The fund raiser was from opening until closing. We had many members and their family and friends dine there for either lunch or dinner. We also handed out fliers to people not associated with us that were already in the restaurant dining. We ended up with approximately 27 people handing in the fliers to support us and received 20% of their total check. This effort raised \$231.34. This was a fun and easy way to raise money for the blessing box. Thank you to all who participated.



Food Donations

As always, we continue to ask for donations of food, personal care items and pet food. With the arrival of the colder weather, we ask for soup, hot cereal and things to fill the belly on a cold night. We have also brought the cooler back out. If you put donations of perishable foods in there, please write down the date that you put them in there. They can be put in our refrigerator or freezer, but please let one of us know and we will put the date on them and put them out for you. Thank you, as always for your continued support.

Gary, Fran, Lee, Lois, Jerry and Alison

SAVE THE DATE

11/15 Rockettes dinner at 5:30pm at Family Tree

11/20 Ingathering of 2023 pledges as well as donations for our refugee families and blessing box, with music at 10 a.m. provided by the Parkside Brass Quintet

11/27 First Sunday of Advent, with music at 10 a.m. provided by guest pianist Simone Viola

12/24 Christmas Eve service, 4:30 p.m., in person and on Zoom

12/25 Christmas Day one service, 10 a.m., no Zoom

Creation Station at the St Peter's Friendship-Partnership Bazaar

October has ushered in Autumn weather and the Holiday season is just around the corner. Before we get caught up in the hustle and bustle, let's stop for a moment and reflect on the season we celebrate all year round but especially in October: Creation Season. Ever the practical "doers of the Word and not hearers only (James 1:22)," your Bazaar merchants offered for sale a selection of greeting cards, home décor and gift items made with recycled materials. We continue to add to this collection as Christmas approaches and you will find special gift tags to go with your purchases. As always, all proceeds support our refugee ministry. Pictured here is a photo of one of our dreamcatcher-style doily wall hangings. Read on to learn about how we were inspired by this craft item to a better understanding of how all things are connected. Reuse, repurpose, regift, recycle whenever possible to preserve God's wonderful gift for future generations.



Dreamcatcher-Style Doily Wall Hangings

These wall hangings are inspired by Native American dreamcatchers that originated with the Ojibwe tribe. They were made of willow hoops on which nets made of nettle fiber were woven and decorated with sacred objects like feathers and beads. They were hung over babies cradles to capture evil spirits that intended to harm these little ones. Dreamcatchers have been accepted as Native American art since the 1980s.

However, many Native Americans feel that this traditional style has been misappropriated by non-Natives/ "New Agers" for commercial purposes who use non-traditional materials in their construction. For this reason, we use the term "style," meaning "in the style of" out of respect for Native American way of life.

Our doily wall hangings also hold in high esteem our Native American brothers and sisters reverence for Creation and the spirituality that they find in the natural world and also in their ancestral traditions. Our hangings are made from 100% recyclable materials. For example, the hoops on which the doilies are stretched are from discarded lampshade frames and the fabric strips from unusable old bed linens or scraps left over from sewing projects. The doilies are from The Bazaar's vintage linen collection and evoke for many of us images of our mothers, grandmothers or even great-grandmothers who had very little but a hook and some string (my grandmother saved butcher and bakers' twine) with which to beautify their homes. Preserving these special memories helps all of us feel connected to our past and hope in our future.

Your Bazaar merchants—Joanne and Marcia



Set your clocks **back** an hour on next weekend so you can get an extra hour of sleep on Sunday, November 6th. And, you will not be too early for church.

Thanksgiving Ingathering-2022

Sunday, Nov. 20 has been chosen as our annual day of giving. This year, in addition to submitting what we choose to give to our beloved St. Peter's, we will be trying something new in terms of food donations for those in need.

As you know, we have "adopted" two refugee families as part of our Gospel-driven outreach- one from the Congo (Moises) and more recently the Ukrainian family (Balonovychs). We thought we would ask everyone to bring in one (or more) food item for each family to be placed on the altar and be blessed by Father Dan. I will again serve as the delivery person. We asked each family what they desired.

Here are the two lists:

Balonovych

Beets
Cabbage
Onions
Potatoes
Carrots
Tangerines
Apples
Canned corn
Canned peas
Rice
Pasta
Frosted cereal
Cheerios
Life cereal
Wheat cereal

Moises

Cooking oil
Onions
Peanuts
Peanut oil
Mangos
Fish {tilapia}
Chicken wings
Milk
Oranges
Rice
Watermelon
Bananas

So that there are no duplications, there will be a signup list in the narthex and undercroft areas for people to indicate their intended donations. If you are worshipping from home and would like to donate, please call or text me at **716-713-8204** and I will sign you up.

Let us continue in generosity to give thanks for all the blessings our Triune God has given us.

Peace and blessings,

Deacon Tom

Rockettes Dinner

Who are the "Rockettes"? All the women of the parish are automatically a "Rockette". All the men are the "Rock" Stars". The "Rockettes" have not had a dinner together since before the pandemic. We have a lot of catching up to do. The dinner will be on **Tuesday, November 15th at 5:30pm at the Family Tree**. I will have a sign-up sheet just so I have an idea as to how many to plan for. Please come even if you decide at the last minute. There is always room at the table.

Merrie Hill



Linen Pantry Update

The Linen Pantry was its usual busy self. We assisted 14 families from 5 different agencies. The Mission House porch was completely full of donations on several occasions last month. Thank you to all for your generosity!



In November we collect hats mittens and scarves which we donate to three food pantries (University Presbyterian, Church of the Good Shepherd, and North Park Lutheran). There will be a Christmas tree in the back of the church for your donations.

We are always in need of Dash's' receipts. The money they bring in plus cash donations are how we purchase the things we need but do not receive in donations.

Merrie Hill

Collection Counters

Prior to the pandemic shutdown 8 people in rotating pairs would count the collection after the 10:00 service. During the counting the envelopes would be separated from the offerings. The envelopes would be deposited in the bank.



During the shutdown due the pandemic St. Peter's Parishioners continued their financial support. At first the in-person services where curtailed and people mailed in their donations. I would collect the mail and Sharon and I would count the collections and make the deposit every other week. When the church was opened again to in-person services many donations were still mailed in and the practice of the two counters continued. This is not a good business practice and in October we returned to the rotating pairs of counters. Several of the original counting crew were no longer able to count. I sent out a request for volunteers and was pleasantly surprised to have 6 new counters step up. We now have 12 people rotating which means that only once every 6 weeks will a volunteer need to count.

Thank you and welcome to the new counters, your help is greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank all the parishioners for their continued financial support.

Ed Hill
Treasurer

Buildings and Grounds

Winter is closing in quickly and preparations are being made to the building and grounds for the cold weather. The gardens have been cleared of the summer foliage and weeded. The snow plowing contract has been renewed.

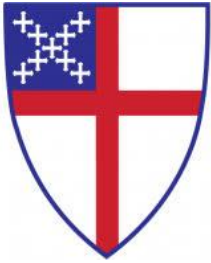


The Mission House which houses the Threads of Hope Linen Pantry has had some major work. In August Fr. Dan applied for a grant of \$10,000 to replace the roof and extend the fire alarm monitoring system to the Mission House. The grant was approved and we received the money in October. With 3 bids in hand the low bidder started work on the roof on October 20th and completed the work the next day, which included new gutters. The fire alarm will be installed on November 21st completing the

grant work.

The storm door on the Mission House, over several years, had suffered damage due to high winds. This was also replaced on the 21st, a busy day. Several LED lights were installed on the inside to improve the working conditions for the volunteers.

Ed Hill



Garrison Keillor on Episcopalians ... an essay

We make fun of Episcopalians for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese. But nobody sings like them.

If you were to ask an audience in Des Moines, a relatively Episcopalianless place, to sing along on the chorus of "Michael Row the Boat Ashore," they will look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their underwear. But if you do this among Episcopalians, they'd smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach! ...And down the road!

Many Episcopalians are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony, a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto or tenor or bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that person's rib cage. It's natural for Episcopalians to sing in harmony. We are too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison.

When you're singing in the key of C and you slide into the A7th and D7th chords, all two hundred of you, it's an emotionally fulfilling moment. By your joining in harmony, we somehow promise that we will not forsake each other. I do believe this, people: Episcopalians, who love to sing in four-part harmony are the sort of people you could call up when you're in deep distress. If you are dying, they will comfort you. If you are lonely, they'll talk to you. And if you are hungry, they'll give you tuna salad!

Episcopalians believe in prayer, but would practically die if asked to pray out loud.

Episcopalians like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas.

Episcopalians believe their Rectors will visit them in the hospital, even if they don't notify them that they are there.

Episcopalians usually follow the official liturgy and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins.

Episcopalians believe in miracles and even expect miracles, especially during their stewardship visitation programs or when passing the plate.

Episcopalians feel that applauding for their children's choirs will not make the kids too proud and conceited.

Episcopalians think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle while passing the peace.

Episcopalians drink coffee as if it were the Third Sacrament.

Episcopalians feel guilty for not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the Fellowship Hall.

Episcopalians are willing to pay up to one dollar for a meal at church.

Episcopalians still serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color of the season and Episcopalians believe that it is OK to poke fun at themselves and never take themselves too seriously.

And finally, you know you are a Episcopalian when: -It's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service.

-You hear something really funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can.

-Donuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee.

- When you watch a Star Wars movie and they say, "May the Force be with you," and you respond, "and also with you."

- And lastly, it takes ten minutes to say good-bye

(NOTE: Garrison Keillor attends St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church in St. Paul, Minnesota)



Long Term: Becky, Jim G , Marty D and Gary, Kristie P, Ann Marie, Ron B, Suzanne and family, Gino L, Alfred, Bob R , 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 S, Jim M, Dan T, Brady, Trevor, Renee B, Joe P, Bob M, Beth, Frank B, Dillon, Joe M, Dorothy G, Dori, Beth, Sue & Dave S, Amy D, Ron W, Gary K, Megan M, Lynda C, Father Jerre, Dominic, Lindsey V, Jason, Bill, Finnegan M.

Short Term: Barbara C, Catelynn and family, Chris, Jim and Jackie C, Steve, Judy and David, Pauline T, Linda and Nicole, Kelly and Beverly T.

Military: Ben, Brandon and Richie

Departure: Dorothy G.

Thanksgivings: Pam S.

God bless

Sue Gunn



11/08 Lois Carter
11/13 Lois Tripp
11/20 Conroy Clarke
11/30 Kathy Bates

11/24 Lee and Fran McElhinny
11/26 Dawn and Robert Razabek

