

The



Rock

St. Peter Episcopal Church

Est. 1954

May 2023

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear People of God,



Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

No doubt the Easter season is inspiring me, but as I think about St. Peter's right now, I cannot but write with an overwhelming sense of gratitude. We're coming off a profound Holy Week, a glorious Easter Sunday service, and Sundays since then on which we've been blessed with guest musicians (as we were on Easter also) and two baptisms! I look ahead and see retreats being planned and further new liturgical offerings anticipated, and look around at the outreach ministries being pursued, and the fellowship enjoyed, and it's all both humbling and exciting. Our Blessing Box ministry has just celebrated its two-year anniversary! Deacon Tom and others are finally returning to their prison ministry! Deacon Diana is planning a racial healing circle offering for later this year (more on that to come)! I am not trying to, and probably not able to off the top of my head, provide an exhaustive list of activities or events. I'm just saying, I look around at St. Peter's—at who you are and what you do—and I say, "Wow! Thanks be to God!"

All of this speaks, I think, to something theological that we might pause to recognize and celebrate. As I may have mentioned to you, lately I've been reading a good deal of the work of the Episcopal priest and theologian Matthew Fox. One of the things he focuses on is how we human beings, as a species and as

individuals, are inherently *creative*. And this matters because, of course, it is in God's nature to create, and in creating creative beings—us—God has invited us to co-create the world. And, like God, our creative acts are to be done out of, and for the sake of, love.

Fox writes of creativity as "connecting us to the Divine in us," and as of way for us to "bring the Divine back to the community." "This is true," he says, "whether we understand our creativity to be begetting and nurturing our children, making music, doing theater, gardening, writing, teaching, running a business, painting, constructing houses, or sharing the healing arts." I might add all the other things we do that *create*, in the church and in our day-to-day lives, anything and everything that is the work of ministry. Anything that helps build "Beloved Community."

God's Beloved Community is a community in which poverty, hatred, injustice, hunger, oppression, abuse—anything that would damage or devalue God's creation or God's children—simply are no longer. It's a term associated with Martin Luther King, Jr., but of course it's one that has its roots in Scripture: in the call to care for the orphan and widow, in the lamentations over the poor and forgotten, in the ministry of Jesus to the downcast and outcast, and in his command that we love our neighbors as ourselves.

This is the community God is creating, and that we are called to co-create. We're not there yet. We're nowhere near there yet. But sooner or later, somehow, we'll get there, simply because it is God's will.

But what I want to celebrate is how much you all have done to work toward that, to bring Beloved Community into being in our parish. You've been working at it, creating it, for years, long before I came along, through hard work and dedication, through joys and sorrows, through steadfast love.

There is life abundant in the Risen Christ, and a taste of it is very surely found in the Beloved Community created by you, with God's help, at St. Peter's.

And I just want to say thanks!

Peace and blessings,

Fr. Dan+

What is that?

Did you ever notice that that huge red thing hanging on the south wall of the church near the parking lot door? Ever wonder the story behind it? Well, it occurred to me that the newer members of our congregation might like to know, so here goes...



Around 2006, Rev. Barbara Price and I led a group of J2A students on a mission trip to the White Earth Reservation in

Minnesota. The teens were comprised of Jon Miccoli, Alex Lavett (Missy's daughter), Andrew and Aaron Taube, and Glynn Matthews Jr.

We set up quarters in Enmegahbowh House on the reservation, named after the first Native American to be ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church (1859), and we spent 5 days fulfilling our mission at St. Columba Church.

The majority of each day was spent running a summer Bible Camp for the native children in the morning, then power-washing and repainting the basement floor of the parish. One day we took off to explore the foot waters of the Mississippi River, and Paul Bunyon's "home town", among other sights. We also swam and canoed in the evenings in the lake off our deck.

We had been seeking out eagles that were said to be located in and near the reservation,

but to no avail. On our last day, there appeared a large one, lazily circling the air directly over the churchyard where we played games with the children. We figured it was the Great Spirit rewarding us for our efforts.

That evening, the elders of the church community danced and sang for us and presented us with the beautiful hanging. It represents the "Morning Star" (the light of Christ). Barbara said it was also identified as "God's Eye."

It was a memorable and fulfilling trip. And now you know the "rest of the story."

Deacon Tom

Garden Party



Spring has sprung and it's time to spruce up the outside gardens. Our annual Garden Party is scheduled for May 21st after the 10 AM service, weather permitting. Be prepared to help weed and clean up the surrounding gardens and tree beds. If you would like to donate annuals to be planted, bring them with you on that Sunday. Perennial plants that you may wish to donate need direction to find a proper location for them to flourish. We have some gardening tools and a wheelbarrow, or you can bring your own tools. If you do bring your personal tools, be sure to mark them, many look alike.

During the summer the gardens need regular care. This year we will be hiring someone to help maintain the grounds. We also will be trying to clean up the area along the back of the parking lot. There are a lot of weeds and some annuals, some suggestions are needed on how to rehabilitate this strip so that it can be easily maintained.

Lunch will be served after the outside work is completed. Thank you for all your past help and looking forward to a beautiful summer.

Ed Hill

AAUW 67th Scholarship Book Sale



The American Association of University Women are holding their 67th Scholarship Book Sale from May 31 – June 4. The sale proceeds will provide college scholarships. At the time of the sale, they usually have over 150,000 categorized books to choose from.

However, they need your help. If you have books that you no longer want, here is a place that **you** can take them to. You may donate books from **April 18 until May 20**. The collection hours are Tuesday 9 am – 8pm, Wednesday 9am to 5 pm, Thursday and Friday 1-5 pm and Saturday 9 am to noon. The **donation location is 425 Essjay Road in Williamsville**. Parking is limited.

Donations that are **not** accepted at the sale are textbooks, professional journals, Reader's Digest Condensed books (except for large print), magazines (except for WNY Heritage), cassettes, videotapes, records, encyclopedias, Time/Life books or computer books.

Dates of the book sale is May 31 – June 4. However, during business hours of the sale itself, you are asked to park across the street at 550 Essjay Rd.

Hours for the Book Sale have a sliding scale of admission prices but hours of operation are 9 am to 8 pm, Wednesday May 31 through Saturday June 3, Sunday June 4 10 am to 5 pm.

If you need more information, or would like to volunteer to help sort books, please go to their website at [aauwbuffalo.org/book sale](http://aauwbuffalo.org/book%20sale).

Carolyn Bong

Don't think of the things you didn't get after praying.

Think of the countless blessings God gave you without your asking.

"Just a Helping Hand" Blessing Box- Two Year Anniversary

April 18, 2021



We received a CALENDAR reminder that our neighborhood Blessing Box was two years old on April 18th. What began as a Covid Ministry with many out of work has continued due

to community need for food, personal products as well as pet food. As we all know the cost of all essentials remains high.

Thanks be to God that we were awarded a \$5000 grant from our diocese to continue and grow this ministry. Although you as parishioners continue donating, as do our neighbors, donations do not come close to meeting our goal of filling the Blessing box 3x/week. At our last vestry meeting it was announced that our blessing box Grant money has already been decreased to approx. \$1800.

Our new inventory system has helped us identify the products used and the number of items used throughout the month. Gary Donhauser and Lois Tripp continue to shop in several stores trying to find the best prices we can. Alison Mohr keeps a great count of all her pet food and other items she stocks. Alison and Jerry Mohr shop the Pet food sales and have purchased large bags of pet food and re-bagged and labeled smaller portions for distribution. Gary, Lois, and our new team member Tori Paradise stock the box usually Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

We are naming a food or pet food item of the month to help grow our stocking shelves

May request for food: Peanut Butter and Jelly. Pet Food: Cat Food.

God Bless and thank you for your support!

Gary Donhauser, Alison and Jerry Mohr, Lois Tripp, and Tori Paradise

Linen Pantry Update

We provided household goods for 11 families from 7 agencies. We had 3 very large donations which kept us busy stocking our shelves when we were not putting orders together.

Summer will be here before we know it (hopefully). Clients will be asking for fans or small air conditioners. When doing your spring cleaning, think of the Linen Pantry if you should come across any of these you are not going to use.

We are still collecting paper grocery bags which we give to Good Shepherd's Food Pantry. We are collecting plastic silverware you receive from takeout orders. We give those to Hearts for the Homeless for their homeless program in downtown Buffalo. We accept hats, mittens and scarves all year round. About this time of year, they go on sale at ½ the price. Last but not least there are the Dish's Market receipts that provide money for Linen Pantry

If you want to assist the Linen Pantry but do not have anything to donate, we do accept money. Put your check or cash in an envelope marked St. Peter's Linen Pantry

Thank you for your past and current support. Our clients and their counselors appreciate the large amount of household items we give them for free.

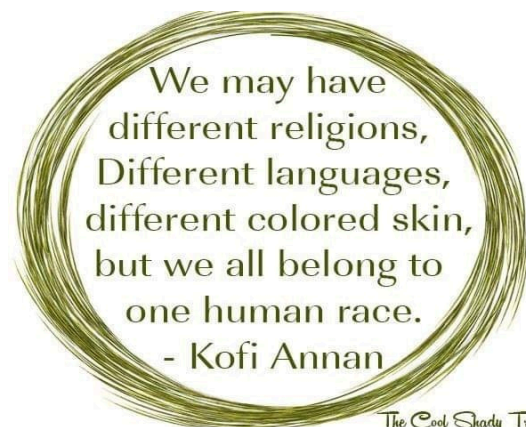
Merrie Hill

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

- 5/06 Dismantling Racism, 10am – 3pm, Lunch Provided.
- 5/21 Garden Party cleaning grounds after 10am service. Lunch provided
- 5/23 Rockettes Dinner, 5:30pm at Family Tree

Some Motherly Advice

- “Because I’m your mother that’s why.”
- “I hope you grow up and have kids just like you!”
- “Because I said so.”
- “I’ve told you a thousand times.....”
- “Just wait until you have kids of your own – then you will understand.”
- “Just wait until you father comes home.”
- “If I talked to my mother like you talk to me.....”
- “You’d lose your head if it wasn’t screwed on.”
- “Money does not grow on trees”
- “Life isn’t fair.”
- “Eat your dinner, there are starving children in Africa.”



The Cool Shady Tree



Long Term: Becky, Jim G, Kristie P, Ron B, Gino L, Alfred, Lee & Jessica M, Judy E, Joanne U, Beth, Sue & Dave S, Ron W, Lynda C, Dominic, Lindsey V, Jason, Bill, Finnegan M, Nicole, Dan & Sue H, Joyce J and Marilyn S

Short Term: Kathy and family, Bill and Cynthia G, Jerry M, Amanda, Lee, Steve U, Bruce D, Lori S, Billy F, Adele, Mike, Steve P, Abby and family, Priscilla and Sheri

Military: Ben M, Brandon G, Richie, and Quincy

Please send new requests, updates and thanksgivings to Sue Gunn.



May 01 Merrie Hill
May 03 Giovanni Campus
May 10 Dan Coury
May 12 Kathy Frake
May 13 Aliah Sanche-Clarke
May 13 Dawn Rezabec
May 21 David Wagner
May 12 Carma Miccoli
May 22 Myla Sanchez-Hill
May 23 Trevor Lopat



May 18 Jerry and Alison Mohr