

The



Rock

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Established in 1954

June 2023

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear People of God,

I write this as we are coming off a truly special Pentecost weekend, during which we celebrated the funeral of our dear brother-in-Christ, Al Price, as well as the Feast of Pentecost itself. It all seems somehow a fitting culmination of the Easter season and a fitting way to head into the (unofficial) start of summertime.

In my homily at Al's funeral, I invited us to reflect on how Al first and foremost made room for God in his life, and how God makes room for us. I thought I might revisit that theme here for a couple of reasons. The first reason is that I believe it's a fruitful way to think about God and God's work, this idea of "making room." If I "make room" for someone, I kind of move over, move out of the way, so that space can be shared, and, strange as it may sound, that's kind of what God does in creation: "moves out of the way," so that something (the entire created universe!) can exist alongside God, and be something *else* for God to love.

Moreover, if I "make [a] room" for someone, I sort of "re-create" it: I prepare it, fix it up as necessary, get it ready, put it in order, so that they can be relaxed and comfortable there. And, strange as it may sound, that's kind of what God does in the life, death, and

resurrection of Jesus Christ. Making room is Godly work.

The second reason is that it seems to me summertime is a great time for "making room." Maybe we're blessed to be able to make room for a summer vacation or a weekend getaway. Perhaps we make a little more room in the evening to enjoy the nice weather or a sunset. Maybe we make room for guests visiting from out of town. Maybe we make room to tend a garden or repair somethings around the house. Maybe we just make room to relax a little, kind of "downshift" (like—for instance—only having one issue of *The Rock* in June and July!).

Or maybe we make a little more room for God—take a little bit of time to meditate or pray in the morning, spend a little more time with Scripture or a guided reading like *Forward Day-by-Day*, find the time to participate in an upcoming retreat or activity at St. Peter's, or just take a moment during a sunny day and remind ourselves, "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

In all these cases, whether God's or ours, "making room" is always a *creative* act, and it reminds us of our "co-creation" with God. (Remember, God made all that is. *How* it all is is in no small part up to us.) When we make room—for God, for others, for the care of our souls—something comes into being that might not otherwise be present, something is experienced that we might otherwise miss, and often, it's the peace of the Lord.

Anyway, I "made some room" for myself recently when Maria and I took a trip to New Mexico in May, and I can't resist sharing a



picture. It was taken by our daughter, Rachel, who joined us for a few days out there. Prickly pear cactus, of course, and an image that



captures something of why I love the desert. Plenty of thorns to be avoided. But amidst those hazards, the beauty of the flowers finds a way to make room. Remember the beauty of the Lord is all around you and, indeed, within you, and may you

make room for it this summer!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Dan+

Diakonia Musings

And it's here! Warm weather has finally arrived in Western New York and the sunshine is creating a lot of smiles. If you don't believe me, just look around at the people in stores, running, walking and bicycling in their neighborhoods and along water fronts. Grills have been pulled out of the garage and pools are opening. It's that time of the year when every corner has a sign advertising garage sales, outdoor concerts and events, and chicken dinners.



Gardeners have been reveling in the chance to get their hands dirty as they dig in the dirt, adorning their

home spaces with beautiful flowers and fun lights and backyard adornments. To me, it feels like a bigger version of decorating for Christmas. All boundaries across religion, ethnicity, and place are crossed when it comes to planting flowers. From a single geranium on a windowsill to a lush secret garden that is part of a Garden Walk, everyone can be an artist who paints with the colors of nature. I hope that we can feel our hearts filled with gratitude as our voices are raised in praise for the God

of Creation who has given us this time to enjoy the gifts of summer.

Don't forget to put Saturday, August 12, on your calendar. We will once again have a daylong retreat in East Otto, reflecting on Creation through scripture, discussion, prayer, and art, while enjoying each other's company in the great outdoors.

On May 19, I took Halayna to St. James in Batavia with 50 dozen pierogi. She was able to greet people at a cookie and pierogi sale that raised money for both Episcopal Relief and Development and her family. Her pierogis sold out in two hours. The people in the community of Batavia are so generous in their support of the Ukraine and it has been a blessing.

On May 31, I co-facilitated the first of 12 Racial Healing Circles that will be hosted around the greater Buffalo area in response to the TOPS Shooting a year ago. We were gathered at the Cathedral with parishioners from both St. Paul's and St. Philip's churches. The Commission to Dismantle Racism and Discrimination received a \$30,000 Grant from the Kellogg Foundation through the Community Foundation for a Greater Buffalo. Looking forwards to St. Peter's hosting a Circle later in the season. It will be a wonderful way to connect with others and create a bridge to the last of our three retreats focused on building a Beloved Community.



With joy,
Deacon Diana

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry receiving medical monitoring and treatment



Over Memorial Day weekend, Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael Curry was admitted to the hospital in Raleigh,

North Carolina, where he underwent testing for internal bleeding and a heart condition. He has

been discharged and will be monitored while working on a reduced schedule from home.

Until he is cleared for air travel by his medical team, Curry will remain in Raleigh, resting and working from home on a reduced schedule. As more information becomes available regarding Presiding Bishop Curry's health and schedule, his staff will provide updates.

Please pray for a full and speedy recovery—and for Curry's medical team as they identify the best course of treatment.

St. Philip's Episcopal Church Facebook page

Blessing Box Safety and Summer Donation Ideas



With the hot summer months coming along, we need to consider food safety. Many items will bake in the sun, luckily most of the items are taken quickly so we don't have to worry about that too much. Some of our

neighbors donate items that are expired or open. Unfortunately, they cannot be used. Here is an article I found today. I will place a copy of it inside the box, too.

*<https://nourishtogether.org/who-is-the-food-farm-council/>

*It is a blessing to donate food to those in need. But it is not a blessing to donate unsafe food. If the blessing box is outside of a building, and outdoor temperatures are extremely cold or hot, many foods can be compromised which could reduce the quality and be unsafe.

Keep these tips in mind when deciding the types and forms of food to donate. Throughout the year, 3 the following to a Blessing Box:

- Open or partially used items
- Rusty or unlabeled cans
- Homemade or home canned foods
- Food in torn cardboard boxes

- Food in torn plastic packaging
 - *• **Perishable items must be placed into the cooler with ice packs and marked with a date** – Otherwise, NO raw meats, eggs, dairy, fresh breads
 - Dented, bent, leaking, or bulging cans
 - Any packaged food past its “best by,” “use by,” or “sell by” date
 - Any packaged food with damaged tamper-resistant seals
 - Re-packaged foods
 - No fresh fruits or vegetables in the Blessing box– these can spoil easily during extreme temperature changes, get easily damaged, or get contaminated by animals or insects. * **They May be placed inside the cooler with Ice.**
- *St. Peter's Blessing box info*

Suggested items for summer (kids out of school)

- *Macaroni and cheese- If you can donate the type with cheese packs that helps. That way they don't need any other ingredients.*
- *Canned Ravioli, spaghetti*
- *Peanut Butter and Jelly are always a good donation.*
- *Crackers to go with the Peanut butter and Jelly (Bread does not keep well)*
- *Non perishable snacks (Trail mix)*

Pet food summer request

- *Cans of Dog food*

Thank you,

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



Garden Party– June 4th

Just a reminder, this Sunday is the outdoor garden cleanup after 10 AM church service. As you may have seen there was some underground drain work done last fall. This work left some lawn restoration to be completed. If **anyone has a rototiller**, we can use to repair that area it would be greatly appreciated. We can see if we can

make arrangements to transport it to and from church.
Contact Ed Hill.

Linen Pantry Update



During the month of May we provided household goods for 17 families from 6 different agencies.

With the weather we have been having this past week, our clients are asking for fans or air conditioners. These are primarily for families living in second floor apartments or have medical conditions.

Our clients popular bed sizes are twins and queens. For each bed our clients have, we provide two sets of sheets (one on the bed, one in the wash,). That is why we are always in need of twin and queen sheets. Clients will also need comforters in those sizes for colder weather. We never have enough of these as well.

When we are assisting a large family, our bedding stock is quickly reduced to nothing. That is when we need to purchase these necessary items. We use to buy sheets from Savers. However, if they mismark the size, we can no longer exchange it for another sheet set. Goodwill and Amvets seldom have sheets for sale.

We use the money we receive from the Dash; grocery receipts for purchases. We also receive cash donations from parishioners.

Thank you! Once in a great while we will get a sterling silver item or an antique item which we have been able to turn into cash.

The Linen Pantry is not a line item in the parish budget. As the landlord, the parish pays for repairs of the property and the utilities. Any other expenses, we use our money.

Merrie Hill

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

- June 4 Spruce up church grounds after 10am service
- June 24, 10am Memorial service for Susan Wolf
- June 24, 10am Memorial Service for Anna Hill, Ed Hill's mother
- June 24 1pm CPR renewal class
- July 18 Rockettes Dinner at Family Tree at 5:30pm
- August 12 Retreat in East Otto led by Deacon Diana
- August 27 Parish Picnic at Ellicott Creek Park
- September 8-9 Woman's Retreat at Stella
Details to follow



Our Little Roses Update

I am happy to report we sent a check for \$900 to Our Little Roses towards phase 2 of the construction of a second floor for their bilingual school. Thank you everyone for your donations. It is greatly appreciated.

Merrie Hill

Amish Verse

If you would first thank God
For each good He has bestowed
You would not find the time
To speak of your woes.

Wisdom of the Plain Folk
By Donna and Robert Leaky





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

Short Term: Lee, Steve U, Bruce D, Lori S, Billy F, Adele, Mike, Steve P, Abby and family, Priscilla, Sheri, Giada F, Jordyn S. and Bray S, Sharon H, Sammy M, Joe & Teri W. and Michael Curry.

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

Please send me any updates, additions, corrections thanksgivings,

God Bless

Sue Gunn



06/01 Joanne Usatch
06/06 Zachary Pinti
06/07 Alison Carter
06/10 Lucas Hardy
06/10 Stefanie Campus
06/10 Ronald Bonggi
06/11 Gary Donhauser
06/13 Kristy Payne
06/13 Marcia Scime
06/23 Olivia Campas
06/25 Shaye Sanchez-Clarke
06.28 Sharon Hill
06/30 Ruby Hardy



Damon and Becky Piatov III
Elizabeth Schascheck and Dan Tribodeau
Karen and Robert Miller

God, help me never to
make false assumptions
about people I've never
met, circumstances I've
never known, and events
I've never experienced.

STEPHEN MATTSON