

The



Rock

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Established in 1954

October 2023

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear People of God,



We celebrate Creation Season in October, so, of course, both Creation (capital “C,” “All that is, seen and unseen,” as the Creed puts it) and creation (God’s activity, and ours, of making new things, and making things new) are very much on my mind. So, this month I offer you two short poems about creation. (“Poem” and “poetry,” by the way, both come from the Greek word *poiesis*, which means “create” or “make.”) One is very old, the other very new, from the opposite ends of the history of poetry in English.

The first is known as “Caedmon’s Hymn.” It was composed by a humble man named Caedmon in the 7th century, in Old English, the earliest form of the English language, very different from English today. (The first line in the original reads “Nu sculon herian heofonrices weard”; if you look closely, you can see the word “heaven” hidden in the fourth word of the line.) It is the oldest poem we have in English, and it is written to celebrate God and Creation. Here’s my lame, but fairly literal, translation:

Now let us praise the guardian of Heaven’s kingdom, the power of the Maker and his mind’s thoughts, the works of the Glorious Father. He, the eternal Lord, established a beginning for every wonderful thing. First the holy Creator shaped for humanity Heaven as a roof. Then our guardian, the eternal, almighty Lord, made the earth for us.

I love Caedmon’s hymn for its artistry, for its antiquity, and for the simple fact that the first poem ever composed in English honors God,

Creation, and our place in it. The kinship of all that is.

I love, too the writings of Steven Charleston, Choctaw elder and former Episcopal bishop of Alaska, and he has gifted us with a new book: *Spirit Wheel: Meditations from an Indigenous Elder* (Broadleaf Books, 2023). From that book, published over 1300 years after “Caedmon’s Hymn” was composed, is his poem, “In the Midst of Creation’s Wheel”:

It was not my hand
That sketched the deep valleys of the earth
Or shaped the jagged edges
Of the great mountain’s summit.
I did not cast the embers of stars against the
night sky
Or pour the waters of the sea onto the dry land.

There is a mind far greater than mine at work
A will and a purpose exceeding what I could
even dream.

When life seems out of control, I go outside
To remind myself of that fact.

I stand in the midst of creation’s wheel

And watch in wonder the quiet majesty of its
turning.

We are in the care of a love without limit or
definition

Under the protection of a love that never looks
away.

Creation season ought to remind us that we, and everything we see around us—sun and rain, moon and stars, plants and animals, family and friends—all “stand in the midst of creation’s wheel,” “under the protection of a love that never looks away.” And it should remind us, too, that, like Caedmon, like Steven Charleston, we all have our creative gifts and our creative roles to play, our contributions to make to the ongoing gift of Creation itself. As the Celtic teacher and mystic John O’Donohue writes, “Each of us is an artist of our own day.”

May you find yourself more deeply connected to Creation and creation this month, and thereby more deeply connected to God.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Dan+



Deacon Musings on Creation

For those who didn't know, I was a science teacher in my former life. I trust wholeheartedly in the validity of the Scientific Method. I trust in independent scientists, who are not corrupted or bribed by Corporate greed into putting forth biased or outright false data. (ie. the tobacco company scientists who told us for years that smoking was safe)

Significant, harmful climate change has been predicted since I was in college in the 60's. We are in it now, and we could all feel it- first hand; by reading global accounts in newspapers, or watch in horror on our cell phones or televisions.

By most accounts, the powers that be who could turn around climate change, have turned a blind eye, or a deaf ear, to the groans of our environment. By most accounts, we are in crucial, "**Danger Will Robinson**" times in order to right the ship.

When I still taught science in public school, I could teach about Evolution science, but not mention God. When I taught in an RC school for two years after retiring, I could infuse God and Creation into the curriculum, but was discouraged from going into Evolution. (I did anyway). My point is that I acquired a healthy dose of each of those aspects of the planet we live on, and relate it to my students to broaden and balance their minds.

There is a mankind reason for the Earth being 2 degrees warmer than it has been in the last 50 years and beyond. There is a mankind reason

for all the toxins in the earth's soil, waters, and atmosphere. There is a mankind reason behind the increased forest fires, massive droughts, destructive mega-storms, and rising sea levels in the world. There is a mankind reason for the increased endangered and extinct species of this planet.

God wants us to be caretakers of His Creation, not the destroyers of it.

Look for and vote for GREEN INITIATIVES at the polling places, and vote for candidates that support them.

God is there to give us hope. God needs us to give him/her hope for Creation.

Deacon Tom



Just a Helping Hand Blessing Box News

Fall has returned and with it, we are asking for donations of soup to keep our neighbors full and warm. For our animal neighbors, we are asking for donations of canned cat and dog food.

Lois, Gary, Tori and I are always looking for funding sources to help us buy the items we put in the box. Last year we were awarded a \$5,000 grant that Lois applied for. Sadly, we did not get the grant this year. We did a fundraiser at TGI Fridays. I am currently working to set up a couple of more of these. Gary and Tori have investigated other funding sources too. Gary just was given a \$50 gift card from Tops. All of these are very helpful, but we are struggling to meet the needs of our neighbors. We have had to cut down on the number of times we can fill the box.

There are many ways to help. We are always looking for donations of food, cleaning products, personal care items, pet food and pet care supplies. We have also placed envelopes in every pew for monetary donations. Anything you can give helps. We also have the books in the undercroft that are available. Please feel free to put in a donation for the books you take. The can says the money is for the pet pantry, but we have combined forces. All the money for the blessing box and pet food pantry has been

combined. We offer all items for both in the box every time we load the box. Thank you for your support for this ministry.

Alison Mohr

Animal Blessing & Food Drive

On **Sunday, October 15th** at the **10:00 am service**, we will be having our annual animal blessing. Please come join us for one of the liveliest services of the year. Father Dan is willing to bless any animal we bring. If you are not able to bring your animal, he will also bless the animal in your picture or your favorite stuffed animal. Please consider bringing in donations throughout the month of October to help our neighborhood pets in need. We accept pet food and treats, cat litter, toys and any other items associated with pet care. Thank you.

Alison Mohr



Third Beloved Community Retreat

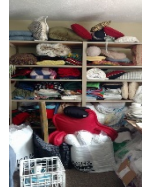


Our third and final retreat focused on Beloved Community and our call to work toward dismantling racism will take place on **Saturday, October**

28th. We will gather at St. Peter's at 9 a.m. and finish up by 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Our first retreat this year focused on understanding and overcoming our personal biases, while the second looked at the institutional racism in our society. At this retreat we will discuss what it means to be anti-

racist: that is, how we can actively work to combat racial injustice, and what St. Peter's specifically might be called to do. All are welcome to participate! (You do not have to have attended the first two retreats to take part in this one.) Mark your calendars, and please attend if you can.

Linen Pantry Update



In September the Linen Pantry served 13 families from 6 agencies. Mike Taube has been busy getting donations from garage sales this month. Also, several large donations appeared on our front porch. Fortunately, as fast as items go out, we received donations to replenish our supplies.

Thank you to everyone who gave us Dash's Market receipts. We received a check from Dash's for \$250. Keep those Dash's receipts coming. The church budget only provides for utilities and repairs to the building. We get our funding from the Dash's receipt and cash donation.

Wish List

Twin and queen sheets Christmas mugs
Hats, mitten & scarves Winter Coats
Paper grocery bags Winter Jackets
Paper grocery bags
Unopened cleaning supplies
Plastic silverware that comes with takeout.
Merrie Hill

Woman's Retreat Review

On the days of Sept. 8 and 9 twelve St. Peter's women plus a facilitator had a wonderful retreat at Stella Niagara. Our facilitator was a trained spiritual advisor. Our intense topic was WHO AM I? We sat in our private lounge on comfortable chairs in a circle and one by one as we took turns discussed this heavy topic as our leader quietly asked us one question after another giving us time after each to think about our answers and share if we chose to.

During our breaks we could go to our rooms, walk out on the beautiful grounds, get

refreshments or just plain close our eyes and contemplate this topic as we listened to meditation sounds. We shared, yes even tears, but also a more complete love and understanding of each other and ourselves and WHO WE ARE! From childhood thru our adulthood.

On Friday evening we enjoyed fellowship with snacks and beverages. Our accommodations were comfortable and three times a day we were served fabulous meals. I know every one of us fabulous women were refreshed in our discoveries, happy to know ourselves better, and we all had very tired minds as we headed home late Saturday afternoon.

Many thanks to Lois Tripp who was monumental in setting this up, thanks to our facilitator, our hosts at Stella Niagara, and each wonderful Christian friend who joined the retreat. May we all cherish WHO WE ARE!

Linda Pike



Episcopal Relief & Development

We know that Episcopal Relief and Development responds to natural and environmental disasters across the globe. And, the fires on Maui and heat related problems experienced this summer are no different. But here are some things you may not know.

The administrative and staffing costs for ER&D are paid by the operating budget of the Episcopal Church and are not deducted from the donations. Over 90% of the donations are channeled to the relief and development work. The rest are for printing and other expenses related to their work around the world.

Relief and Development agencies from different denominations have differing specialties and work together in crises. Methodists, for example, specialize in being first on the ground after a disaster. ER&D works with those who are first on the ground, to provide needed food and supplies. But ER&D's specialty is to provide ongoing, long-term assistance.

One example of that is the challenges two years after Hurricane Ida (which hit the metro area of New Orleans in 2021) included inadequate housing and limited access to health care. Those ineligible for Federal aid are most vulnerable. ER&D partnered with the Diocese of Louisiana for a second year of long-term recovery aid. Another is their work with our churches in Europe assisting Ukrainian refugee. If you want to help people over the long term – whether in response to fire, flood or other disaster, a gift to Episcopal Relief and Development is a wise investment

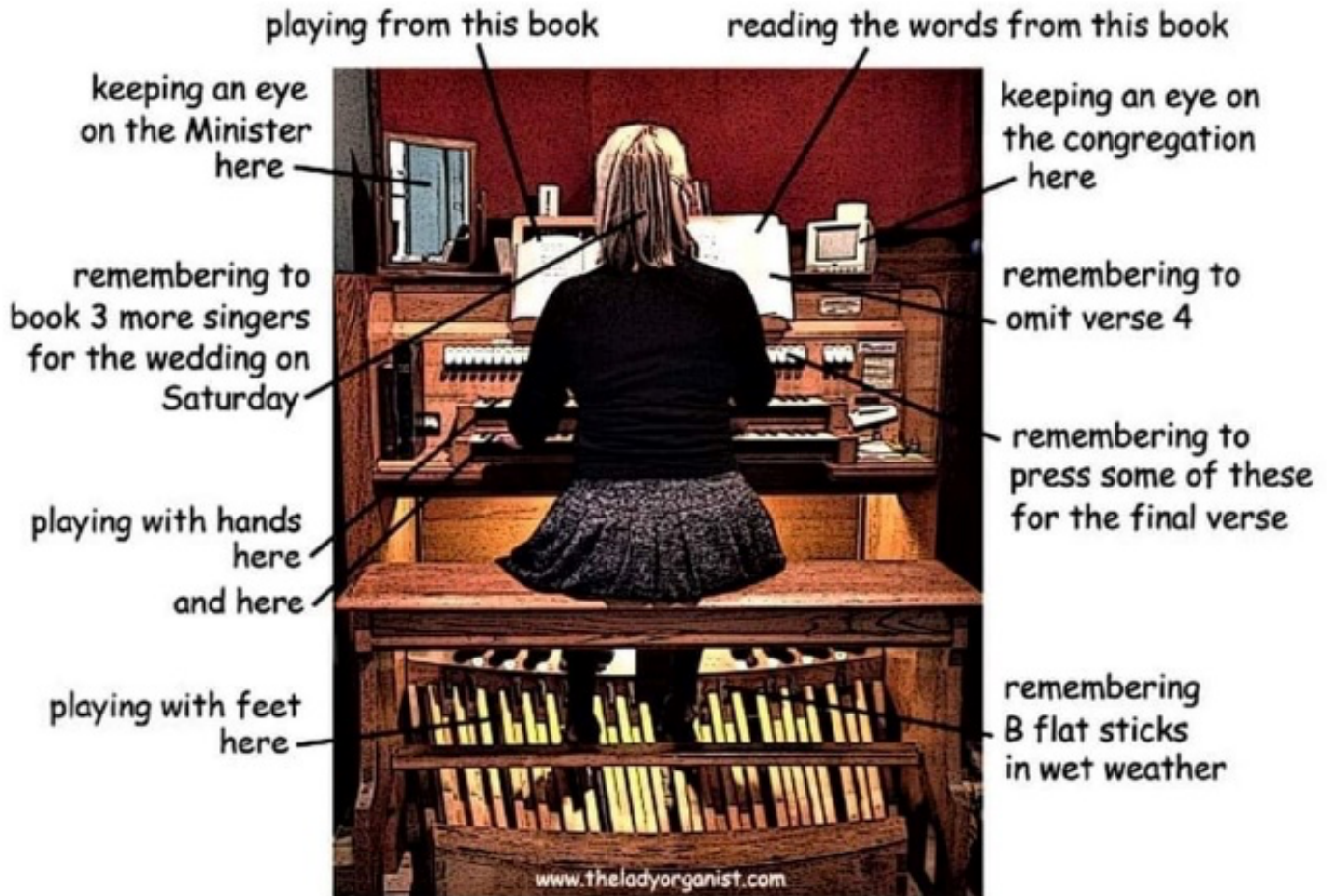
A Little Poem for Seniors

Another year has passed
And we're all a little older.
Summers feel hotter
And winters seem much colder.
There was a time not long ago
When life was quite a blast.
Now I fully understand
About "living in the past".
We used to go to weddings,
Football games and lunches...
Now we go to funeral homes
And after-funeral brunches.
We use to go out dining,
And couldn't get our fill.
Now we ask for doggie bags,
Come home and take a pill.
We use to often travel
To places near and far.
Now we get sour asses
From riding in the car.
We use to go to nightclubs
And drink a little booze.
Now we stay home at night
And watch the evening news.
That, my friend is how life is,
And now my tale is told.
So, enjoy each day and live it up...
Before you're too damned old!

Anonymous



Thank you, Elizabeth Ann for what you do.



THE CHURCH ORGANIST

Prayers of the People

Long Term: 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, Kathy and family, Mike, Billy F, Rickie P, Becky P, Giada F, Jordyn S., Bray S, Olive P and Linda P, Scott



Short Term: Maria and Dick W, Carolyn B, Joey, Paul L, Jean, Emily, Madilyn, Sharon H, Michael Curry, Florence, Jeff, Jan & Walter W, Kenny S.

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

Please contact me with any updates, corrections or thanksgivings and God Bless,
Sue Gunn



10/02 John Pinti
10/02 Rachel Pinti
10/02 Elizabeth Ann Schascheck
10/05 Steve Hardy
10/06 Fr. Dan Pinti
10/08 Arlene Frey
10/09 Dillon Lopat
10/14 Sue Gunn
10/15 Scott Frake
10/17 Natalie Campas
10/20 Marty Donhauser
10.23 Daniel Thibodeau
10/26 Michael Taube
10/30 Donovan Benning



Anniversaries

10/05 Samuel and Marcia Scime
10/07 Rev. Terry and Cindi Bull

