

The



Rock

St. Peter Episcopal Church

Established 1953

March 2024

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear People of St. Peter's,



Here we are, well into Lent already, and I'm writing something for the March newsletter knowing that before this very month is over, Easter will be here. (This year, no matter what the weather, March really will "go out like a lamb." Think about it.

😊) Right now, though, it seems like Ash Wednesday was practically yesterday.

The Episcopal writer Barbara Brown Taylor has said, "Ash Wednesday is the day Christians attend their own funerals." It's a pretty good line, because it catches the ear and also because there's truth in it. As at a funeral, our focus on Ash Wednesday, and in many ways through Lent, is on our mortality. We are dust, and we all shall return to dust. In other words, we begin with the stark reminder that we are merely creatures, not Creator.

We start Lent with that reminder of our return to dust, though, precisely because it from such dust we rise. If there's truth in this metaphor that the Ash Wednesday service is our own funerals, then the rest of Lent, by its very focus on our frailty (physical and spiritual), is the road to resurrection. As the Book of Common Prayer makes clear, every funeral service "finds all its meaning in the Resurrection."

Every Lent we are called to a long, deliberate journey to the Cross, yes, and from there to Resurrection, to the joy of Easter Sunday, a joy we will more deeply and fully experience by embracing and keeping a holy Lent—a Lent during which we consciously cultivate the calm and quiet and consistency needed to know just how undying and life-giving is the love of God.



I hope you have begun your forty days of spiritual self-care, forty days of allowing God to nurture your soul like a bulb

underground waiting to burst forth from the soil as a flower in the Spring. And if Lent snuck up on you and you find yourself a few weeks into it already and a bit "behind the curve"—it's never too late! Begin that special practice of prayer or study or action in Lent that will give God a little extra room to shape your heart in Christ. To adopt Jesus' words, Lent is about storing up for ourselves not treasures on earth but treasures in heaven, a heaven that is not in Star Wars-fashion in some "galaxy far, far away," but rather nearer than near at hand—indeed, as close to us as our very hearts. For as Jesus tells us, "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

You are all in my prayers, and may God bless you this Lent and always.

Fr. Dan+



3/28 Maundy Thursday service: 7 p.m.
Holy Eucharist.

3/29 Good Friday service: 6:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross followed with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament.

3/31 Easter Sunday services: 8 and 10am Holy Communion.

Women Composer Sundays



Throughout the month of February, we had the opportunity to sing African American spirituals and music composed by black composers. Now as we celebrate Women's History Month, we will be highlighting music written by female composers. On March 10 we will celebrate Woman Composer Sunday by singing hymns composed by women. Below you will find brief bios of the female composers whose music we will be singing.

"I am the Bread of Life" by Suzanne Toolan

Thanks to a young lady who was ill or perhaps staying in the infirmary to escape her class, we have this beloved hymn. In an autobiography released on her 80th birthday, Sister Toolan explains that she wrote this hymn during her free period while teaching high school. She did not like the music, crumpled it into a ball, and tossed it in the garbage. A young lady came out of the infirmary next to her classroom, and said, "What was that? It was beautiful!". As a result, Sister Toolan removed the manuscript from the garbage and taped it together. Thanks to that freshman student in 1964 and Suzanne Toolan, we have this beautiful hymn today.

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" by Katherine Thomerson

Katherine Thomerson, born in 1934, wrote the text and tune for this hymn which has been published in about 40 hymnals. A native of Tennessee who also spent much time working and studying in a variety of states, she wrote this hymn while visiting Houston in 1966. As a result, she named the tune HOUSTON.

"Loving Spirit" by Shirley Erena Murray

Shirley Erena Murray, a New Zealand hymn writer, lived from 1931 – 2020. She was raised Methodist but became Presbyterian after marrying a Presbyterian minister. She was active involved in the human rights organization, Amnesty International, and she was an 8 year member of the Labor Research Unit of Parliament. As a result of her background, her hymns are centered around

women's issues, human rights, creation, and the unity of the church.

"Give Me a Name" by Hannah Brown



Truly a modern-day composer, Hannah Brown has been publishing hymns with GIA since 2022. She has served as pastor in the UCC Church since 2007.

"Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days" by Claudia Francis Hernaman

Claudia Francis Hernaman lived from 1838-1898 in England. She published 150 hymns that appeared mostly in children's hymnals. Today her hymn text, "Lord Who Through These Forty Days", is the most familiar.

"Just As I Am" by Charlotte Elliott

Charlotte Elliott lived from 1789 – 1871. As a youth, Charlotte Elliott was a humorous poet. But at the age of 32, a serious illness left her disabled. With the help of her spiritual mentor, she turned to God. She wrote about 150 hymn texts. Perhaps her most famous was "Just As I Am".

"Just a Helping Hand" Blessing Box Community Donation Event



On Feb 11th we opened our doors to the community for a meet and greet. There was also an opportunity to fill a bag with paper products, detergents, soaps, and many toiletries. Refreshments were available. Unfortunately, we only had one person that decided to take advantage of the event. Signs were posted on the Blessing Box and information was posted on our Blessing Box Facebook page prior to the event.

Feedback from some thought we should have advertised more. We were not trying to attract people from outside our neighborhood, just our community, and users of the Blessing box. Others thought that people frequenting the box may have thought we may try to proselytize.

They also thought they might be too proud to come into the church for supplies. Our intent was to meet the community and share items that we knew were always valued. We will try again in nicer weather and perhaps set up outside. In the meantime, we have given 3 full bags full of paper products, toiletries, and soap products to the Linen pantry. They always have requests for these items.

Thanks to Gary Donhauser and our congregation for donating many items. They will be put to good use! Thank you to Mike Taube for helping Gary and I set up the day before. We also provided coffee hr. on that Sunday. Linda Pike was very kind and generous to offer some individual items - goodies, chips, and hard-boiled eggs to add to our offerings.

We offer healing prayers to Gary Donhauser who had knee surgery on 2/29 and Lois Tripp who had hand surgery on 2/20. Thanks to Carlene Boisaubin who offered to join our Blessing Box team and to Carolyn Bongji who offered to fill in on one of the Sundays Gary would have done.

Our requests for March are boxes of cereal and canned dog and cat food.

Shalom,
Blessing Box team
Gary Donhauser, Alison Mohr, Lois Tripp, Tori Paradise and Carlene Boisaubin

Linen Pantry Update



Another busy month at the Linen Pantry. We provided household items for 25 families from 8 different agencies. Families can be from 1 to 6 or more members. A family of 6 with 4 beds would require 12 bath towels, 12 wash

clothes and 8 sheet sets for the 4 beds and a comforter. They family uses one set while the other is in the wash. Most of our clients have to go to a laundromat to wash their things.

A thank you goes Mike and Sharon Taube for a car stuffed with items they got at an Estate Sale. You can see by the details previously stated, how quickly our donations run out. Fortunately, we do assist many small size families. This month besides the many donations of towels, we still had to purchase some to meet the basic needs of our clients.

We are collecting Dash "s Market receipts. So, if you have some receipts, please turn them in asap so we can get money from them.

Some clients are moving into apartments with no stoves. Therefore, we need toaster ovens, electric fry pans, crockpots, smaller microwaves, pots and pans. Queen and twin sheets and comforters are what we get the most calls for.

Merrie Hill

Our Little Roses Lenten Donations



During Lent we will be collecting money for Our Little Roses (OLR). This is a home for about 65 girls in San Paulo Sulo, Honduras, which provides a loving home for abandoned and neglected girls from infancy to adulthood. OLR provides the right educational programs for each girl depending on need. The girls go to either public school or the OLR Bilingual School. All the girls are given an opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities such as dance, music, cultural arts and woodcarving. There is a need to support these extra educational programs but this can be expensive because of the number of girls.

Diana Fride, founder of OLR, suggested we request **our Lenten donation to be used to help support the extra educational programs** for the girls. These varies programs broaden their life experiences and provides additional opportunities for them and their future family.

There is a white tree (Angel Tree) in the narthex with envelopes to put your OLR cash or check donations in. Make checks out to St.

Peters with Little Roses indicated in the memo section.

Lois Carter, a new parishioner, a former member of the OLR Board, recently returned from a week long stay at OLR. She knows dollars spent to support this effort are used wisely as OLR has many successful young, strong women who are contributing to making the Honduran Society a better place.

The girls who have graduated from the bilingual school have gotten high paying jobs. Many of girls have gone on to college and graduated as teachers, secretaries, engineers and one is a dentist.

Merrie Hill



Daylight Saving Time Some interesting Facts

It is Daylight Saving time not “savings time.

Ben Franklin did not invent it. Though in 1774 he did suggest getting people up earlier as a way to save money on candles.

Port Arthur, Canada was the first city to enact DST on July 1 1908.

First implemented in the USA in 1909 during WW1 as a way to save energy for war production. It was also referred to as “war time”.

Hawaii and Arizona (except for Navajo Nation) do not accept it.

It is used in over 70 countries around the world though dates and times vary.

Daylight Saving Time – March 10th

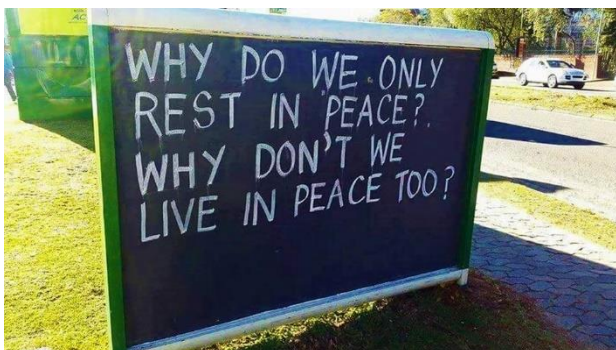
Set clocks forward.

Time to Spring ahead



Books, Book, Books

When you go to coffee hour, take a look at the books on the bookshelves. There might be some interesting reading material waiting for you. There is a selection of romance, mystery and, adventure novels. There are books on golf, finance and religion also sitting on the shelves. A few word search and crossword puzzle books for those interested in them. Take as many books as you want but leave a “free will” offering. The money will go to the Pet Pantry.





Long Term: Jim G, Kristie P, Lee & Jessica M, Francis & Judy E, Joanne U, Jason, Bill, Finnegan M, Emma B, Kelly, Marilyn S, Kathy and family, Rickie P, Becky P, Giada F, Olive P, John D, Rachel, Jean, Dick and Maria W, Sharon H, Michael Curry, Kristy G, Scott, Lynda C, Sue H, Dan D, Kelly T

Short Term: Florence, Elaine M, Donna, Art and Sheila W, Wallace and Angel, Ronald N, Zach I, Alisha, Melissa and family, Suzanne S, Allie G, Conor, Ed H, Carol M, Gary D, Lois T, David C, Matt, Linda P, Joel C.

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



- 03/01 Karen Miller
- 03/02 Samuel Scime
- 03/03 Pauline Talbot
- 03/06 Annabel Paradise
- 03/09 Robert Miller
- 03/10 Michelle Hill
- 03/16 James Gunn
- 03/18 Greg Lavis
- 03/24 Carlene Boisaubin



3/19 Sharon and Edward Hill III

