

The



Rock

St. Peter Episcopal Church

Established 1953

Summer 2024

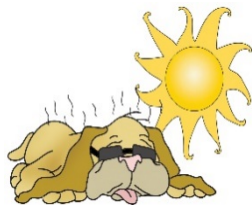
From the Pastor's Desk

Dear People of St. Peter's,

I appreciate summer more and more every year. Sure, when I was a kid, I enjoyed the break from school and more free time. (As a college teacher, I still get summer breaks. I used to teach summer school sometimes, but not anymore. It was nice to have the extra money, but I eventually decided that even if, as some say, "time is money," money is definitely *not* time.) Getting older, though, I find myself just wanting to bask in every moment of blue sky and warm sun we get.

Our dog, Andi, has been teaching me this. One morning a couple days ago Maria was at work and I had to run some errands, and so I texted our daughter Rachel to let Andi outside to "do her business" when she got up. A couple of hours later I got home, and Andi is right there at the door, dancing somewhat frantically, and I realize Rachel has been sleeping in. I'm thinking, this poor dog is desperate to get into the yard, thank goodness she "held it" until I got here. Whimpering with impatience, she beats me to the back door, and when I open it, she runs straight onto the patio, plops down on the wooden planks under the bright sun, rolls onto her side, and closes her eyes, the picture of serenity. She just couldn't wait to enjoy the sunshine.

(Back porch sunbathing in the summer is Andi's favorite thing, and she makes it look so good sometimes I can't help but lie next to her on the hard wood. She



tolerates this, and I'm grateful. It feels like sacred space

"Sabbath"—holy rest—is a gift from God, essential to our health and, not only that, to the health of our relationship with God. The commandment, "Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy" (Exodus 20:8) is not an order to go to church. It's a commandment to take your holy rest because God loves you and wants you to be well. Jesus teaches that "the sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath" (Mark 2:27). Holy rest, our Lord reminds us, is a gift. Remember, we're told God rested on the seventh day of creation (Genesis 2:2). In other words, "down time" is sort of built into everything, as important as anything else God has made. We should honor it, respect it, enjoy it, and be grateful to God for it.

Believe me, God smiles when you rest.

I know how hard you work—in your homes, for your families, in your jobs, for our parish. *Thank you*, and thanks be to God for all that good, hard work you do. But please be sure to make time to rest, get outside into the natural world if you can, and one way or another enjoy the beauty of God's creation. Re-ground yourself, reconnect with God. There's no better time than summer to do that.

Looking ahead to this summer, please put two dates on your calendars. More information will be forthcoming, but take note of Sunday, July 14th, and Sunday, August 18th. The first day we're anticipating our brothers and sisters in Christ from St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Buffalo to be joining us for worship at St. Peter's, as we worshiped with them earlier this

year. Our visit to St. Philip's was such a blessing, and I know their visit with us will be as well! You will definitely want to be in church that



Sunday! August 18th is the day of our annual parish picnic at Ellicott Creek Park in Tonawanda. We'll worship there that morning and enjoy fellowship (and hopefully good weather) together. I'm eagerly looking forward to both those days!

Right now, though, as I write this, the sun's shining and Andi probably wants to hit the back patio. And I think I'll join her.

Peace and blessings,

Fr Dan+



Tis the Season

allergen (al' ar gan) n. *-a foreign substance, at times dangerous, that provokes the body to produce antibodies to counteract them*

antibody (an' ti bod y) n.- *a substance in the body that is formed in response to specific antigens*

Ah yes, tis the season for allergies around WNY, and everyone seems to have them. I certainly do. It's the season of saline sprays, flonase, and antihistimes for me, with my new friend Zyrtec. I'm sure you have your favorites.

Between my nose-clearings this week, I got to thinking about the metaphorical allergens in the world that may affect us as Christians, and what metaphorical antibodies we could use to fight them off. I'll speak to my own.

Most of the antigens I am concerned with are of the airborne variety. They may include, but not be limited to: hateful speech, verbal bullying, intentional lying, verbal abuse, war-mongering, white supremacist shouts, etc.

There is one all-encompassing antibody remedy for all those airborne antigens, and that is LOVE. And here is how it works: "**Love is**

patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is LOVE." 1 Corinthians 13

In the Beloved Community, the only prescribed antibody to the dangerous and destructive antigens of our world is Love. Endless dosages of Love. Just what the doctor ordered.

Deacon Tom



Diakonia Musings

The warmth of summer is here, and I am so excited to be "painting" the area around my house with colors. I put pots of flowers by the chicken coop, front porch and side entrance as a cheery welcome to family and friends as well as wild birds and insects. There are fragrant smelling herbs planted for enhancing meals and also for keeping my feathered friends healthy. My wild bird feeders are full and serve up meals of seeds and suet to a variety of birds, all eating together, sharing the food I set out for them. I have raised beds that will be filled with good soil, seeds and plants that will yield vegetables to nourish the bodies of the people who eat them.

All this preparation and work connects me to the land and God's creation. It connects me to my grandparents and what they taught me about gardening, composting, and eating fresh. My children used to laugh at me when I saved rain water, took pictures of roots and natural objects, and of course, had too many flowers. Now my oldest daughter is obsessed with planting flowers, watching birds, and decorating her yard with whimsical items she makes from recycled materials. We laugh and say we have turned into grandma.

For me, when I am outside and creating a beautiful space, I see a correlation between the

sacredness of Sunday morning and this season of planting.

*We add flowers and frontals, pops of color to the altar.

*We gather together to share the meal provided for us

*We are nourished by the fellowship and relationships we develop.

*Seeds of faith are planted, fertilized and watered with love.

*We recognize that we are connected to our ancestors and interconnected to each other and all of creation.

*We pass on our Christian faith and belief in the God of all creation, to our children and grand children by what we show them.

For all this, I give thanks and praise to the God of creation.

Deacon Diana

be placed in a small box placed near the books. It is marked for the Book Sale.

The Blessing Box has seen some wear the past couple of years. Thank you to Jerry Mohr and Gary Donhauser who replaced a broken plexiglass panel this past Sunday. Due to vacations and because the blessing box needs further repairs and painting, we will close the Blessing box Monday, July 1-Saturday, July 6.

Is there anyone that would consider painting the inside of the box? Please contact Gary Donhauser **before** July 3rd.

Shalom,

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



Blessing Box News



We have been blessed with donations of food from an estate sale. We have also been promised additional food

from further Estate sales. Thank you to Tori for that contact! Thank you to Gary, Tori, and Carlene for picking it up. Tori and Alison have been shopping monthly at The Goodness Project. You never know what you'll find, but they have gotten some great deals the past few months. The community continues to donate throughout the week as does our church family!

Gary is continuing the paper product, soap, cleaning products and toiletry neighborhood give away every third Sunday. A table is placed near the Blessing Box and between 11:15 am and 12 noon neighbors may pick five items of their choice.

Alison Mohr has got the Blessing Box book sale going. Thank you for all your generous donations. Books are very inexpensive, \$0.25, \$0.50 and you may fill a bag for \$5. Money can

Linen Pantry Update

The Linen Pantry continues to be busy. In May we completed 19 client requests from 19 agencies. That is a lot of work when you consider the Linen Pantry is only open Mondays and Wednesdays for 3 hours (supposedly). It is not only filling client's requests but arranging times for agency counselors to pick-up the items for their clients. The Linen Pantry staff consists of 4 people.

Besides putting the orders together, we also must check donated items for stains or for damage. Towels, pillowcases and washcloths which are stained but clean are taken to the SPCA. Sheets and comforters that are ripped or soiled are sent to Hearts for Homeless for their Penny-a-pound which generates income for them. Any clothes we receive usually goes to them for sale in their stores. Knick Knacks, wine glasses etc and anything else we do not give out goes to Savers and they give us a 20% off coupon which we use to purchase sheets, pots and pans when we run out. Coats

and ski jackets go to Colvin Cleaners for them to clean and distribute to the needy.

Calvary Church gave us another donation of household goods left from their refugee Project. St. Bart's Church has supported the Linen Pantry for many years thru household items and a yearly cash donation.

Paper bags from parishioners, the Linen Pantry and the Blessing Box goes to Good Shepherd Food Pantry. They have put articles in their newsletter regarding donating to the Pantry.

If you or someone you know is downsizing, consider giving the unneeded household items (except clothing and furniture) to the Linen Pantry. We always are in need of towels, twin and queen sheets, pots and pans.

Merrie Hill



Summer Retreat In East Otto

Those of you who attended last summer's retreat in East Otto, will remember

that the property was "under construction". You'll be happy to know that the front patio has been finished and the new garage is built. For those of you who have not experienced a retreat focusing on the sacred in creation, consider coming this year. The plan is to have the retreat on **Friday, August 2**. A light breakfast from 9:30-10:00 will be available. The retreat will start at 10:00, lunch will be provided, and we will end with a service around 3pm. Deacon Diane Cox will co-facilitate again with me. There will be a signup sheet in the Undercroft and carpooling is encouraged.

Deacon Diana

Our Little Roses Update

This year's Lenten donations for Our Little Roses Home for Girls came to \$1200. A check will be sent asking these funds to be used to help support the girls educational programs. Thank you to all who donated.



A Thought-provoking Version of The Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me a channel of disturbance.
Where there is apathy, let me provoke.
Where there is compliance, let me bring questioning.
Where there is silence, may I be a voice.
Where there are doors closed and hearts locked,
Grant the willingness to listen,
When laws dictate, and pain is overlooked....
When tradition speaks louder than need....
Grant that may I seek rather to do justice than to just talk about it;
Disturb us, O Lord.
To be with, as well as for, the alienated.
To love the unlovable as well as the lovely.
Lord, make me a channel of disturbance.

(Author unknown)

Submitted by Lois Carter

From a non-denominational church bulletin



Tuesday, June 18 –Rockettes 5:30pm dinner at Family Tree restaurant

Sunday, July 14 – Members of St. Philip's Episcopal Church will join us for the 10am Service. Coffee hour to follow.

Friday, August 3 – Parish retreat in East Otto at 10am lead by Deacon Diana and Deacon Diane Cox. Carpooling is encouraged.

Sunday, August 18 -Church picnic in Ellicott Creek Park. Bring a dish to pass. the Church will provide the hot dogs, rolls and condiments.



Prayers of the People



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 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, Donna, Mike & Gina K.

Short Term: Joel C, Riley, John M, Mike T, Mark M, Ava R, Don M, Christie J and family, Jim and Jackie, MJ & Peter, Gayle C, Bob R, Mary R, Donaly and family, Harvey R, Donna G, Bryan, Jeff, Allison C, Dawn, Cynthia and Carmine, Karen and family, Merry J.

Military: Brandon G, Richie, Quincy, John, Tyler

Departures: Mason, Robert M

Please update me regarding additions, corrections, thanksgivings.

God Bless!

Sue Gunn

Birthdays

6/01 Joanne Usatch
6/06 Zachary Pinti
06/7 Allison Carter
6/10 Lukas Hardy
6/10 Stefanie Campus
6/10 Ronald Bongii
6/11 Gary Donhauser
6/13 Kristie Payne
6/13 Marcia Scime
6/23 Olivia Campus
6/25 Shaye Sanchez-Clarke
6/28 Sharon Hill
6/30 Ruby Hardy

7/08 Sharon Taube
7/12 Cheyenne Mohr
7/14 Shawn Mohr
7/17 Talia Benning
7/18 Heather Wagner
7/18 Fran McElhinny
7/19 Emmalina Baumgartner
7/20 Gus Hardy
7/25 Maria Sanchez-Clarke
7/26 Alison Mohr
7/31 Becky Piativ

8/01 Michael Coury
8/01 Jay Fiutak
8/01 Emily Fiutak
8/01 Nicholas Campas
8/03 Wendy Palmer
8/04 Alissa Gordon
8/09 Bryan Tripp
8/10 Katia Sanchez
8/13 Tariq Benning
8/15 Robert Rezabek
8/15 Suzanne Smith
8/16 Maya Hill
8/21 Lee McElhinny
8/25 Elaine Miller
8/25 Della Harris
8/27 Rev. Terry Buff
8/28 Bradley Taube

Anniversaries

6/15 Damon and Becky Piatov
6/23 Elizabeth Schaschek and Daniel Thibodeau
7/11 Wendy and Greg Palmer
7/20 Gary and Marty Donhauser
7/25 Nicholas and Mary Jane Campas
8/19 Carolyn and Ronald Bongii
8/19 Michael Kankiewicz and Merry Jeffers
8/21 Susan and James Gunn
8/27 Rev. Dan and Maria Pinti

