

THE



ROCK

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Est. 1954

December 2011

Pastor's Desk

This is my favorite time of the calendar year. It's pretty high on the list for the Church Year as well. It's all that expectant waiting. Sometimes waiting is horrible – like waiting for test results that you fear will be negative and life-changing. Waiting may be a mixture of joyful anticipation and unspoken fears – like waiting for the birth of a baby. Some waiting seems to be endless, as if you were holding your breath under water – like waiting at the bedside for someone to die. Waiting may be filled with suspense – like waiting for your chess opponent to make a move when the game is almost over and it's not clear whose strategy will triumph. Sometimes waiting is pure delight and excitement – like a kid waiting for a birthday party.

We spend much of our lives waiting for one thing or another. The circumstances of our waiting may be varied as well as our emotional responses. But there's one 'constant' for all whose hearts are open to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. We do not wait alone.

During this Advent season, the Church acknowledges liturgically a season of waiting for the birth of Jesus – the mystery of the incarnation. God coming into the created order from the heavenly realm. God becoming one of us. God becoming human. Do you believe this...or are you still waiting for the gift of faith?



The Holy Spirit has led me recently to be spending time in prayer for groups of people that I don't know, such as victims of human trafficking, especially the children. I believe God hears these prayers. I pray that the hearts of those involved in this great wickedness can be changed to turn away from evil and to have compassion. Yet I know that I'm waiting to receive more of the gift of hope.

As we live through this Advent season and await the gift of the Christ Child, let's all join in a prayer for ourselves, for one another, and for the world in which we live. Let us pray for the gift of love to fill each one of us with such abundance that our love overflows to all whom we encounter. Let love be our gift – received and freely given – during this Advent season, at Christmas, and in all our days to come. I can hardly wait for this prayer to be answered!





Walk to Bethlehem Begins

Our Walk to Bethlehem has begun. Pastor Barbara and I put this on the calendar to begin in Advent and run into Epiphany, a bit different from the September beginning you may read about. We thought it would be even better with an Advent start. Follow our progress weekly on the world map posted in the undercroft, there will also be updates in the bulletin, and our Web page from time to time. A healthy Pot Luck lunch with awards will take place on January 29th. Some members of St. Patrick's Episcopal in Cheektowaga will also be participating and may attend the Pot Luck.

I hope that you will follow the devotions, eat 5 fruits and vegetables per day, and increase your activity. You can log your "miles" on a clipboard located in the narthex. If you don't make it to church you can e-mail me at ljt203@yahoo.com.

In Week 1 of the Walk to Bethlehem we are told that this program can bring change and transformation to our lives. We can determine to take better care of our bodies through the "walk", diet and devotions. "Our physical, spiritual and emotional life will change positively and we will affect our world and those in our world in a positive way."

Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy spirit. Then she spoke with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb" **Luke 1:39-42**

Please call if you have any questions about the program, 839-5868, 870-2807. We are on our way!

Shalom

Lois Tripp, Parish Nurse



A Voice from the Pew

On a recent Creation Sunday I spotted a chart in the Narthax. I went back to investigate and found that it was a pie chart of the church year and the Ministries we sponsored throughout the year. Oh my, we did all that! The bulletin mentioned that day that a clergy group was meeting at St. Peter's that week and then they would tour the Linen Pantry. Tour the Pantry! I would not expect we would become a tourist destination on the Travel Channel! However, we have it and they don't. This ministry was created and developed right here at St. Peter's. No other church has anything like it, and perhaps nowhere else.

In our Diocese we might be considered medium to small sized parish. In comparison with some of the mega churches in Amherst, we are downright small. Yet we have all these ministries involving most of our parishioners. Some of us lead and sit on Vestry. Some volunteer on the Linen Pantry. I prefer remaining in the background, opening the church on Sunday, maintaining the Columbarium and writing these articles for the Rock. There is something for everyone. Collectively, we have many skills and abilities and with our parish heart we reach out to others over and over. We should all be thankful!

Paul Schwartzmyer

Advent Project

Our Advent project is raising money for Our Little Roses Home for Girls in Honduras. The Rite 13 class will have a baked goods sale each Sunday after the 10am service. The Angle Tree in the Narthex will have envelopes in which to make a cash donation. Put your name on the envelope and place it in the collection plate. Your contribution will included on your pledge statement.

Merrie Hill will have \$5 raffle tickets for a seven course dinner for 8 at the Van Horn Mansion in Lockport. The dinner can be scheduled anytime during 2012 mutually convenient to the provider, the mansion and you. The drawing will be January 8, 2011.





A Christmas Prayer

God give us this Christmas
to see the Christmas star.
And give us ears to hear the song
Of angles from afar
And, with our eyes and ears attuned
For a message from above.


Let "Christmas Angels" speak to us
Of hope and faith and love
Hope to light our pathway
when the way ahead is dark..
Hope to sing through stormy days,
with the sweetness of the lark.

Faith to trust in things unseen
and know beyond all seeing
That it is in our Fathers love
we live and have our being.

And love to break down barriers
of color, race and creed.
Love to see and understand
And help those in need.

Amen

The Peace and Flu Season



I know I've been quiet
about this this year, but
here I go again...

You may choose to pass
the Peace and say the "Our Father" without
contact this flu season. Making the Peace sign
or nodding to a fellow parishioner will be
understood. If you chose to pass the peace in
the traditional way and hold hand during the
"Our Father", DON'T FORGET THE HAND
GEL. It does make a difference in spreading a
cold or flu virus.

Lois Tripp, Parish Nurse



Goodsearch Check

We just received a check from Goodsearch in
the amount of \$53.16. For those of you not
familiar with Goodsearch, it is a search engine
that pays 1 cent per hit to a charity. St. Peter's,
Amherst is listed as one of many charities.

This is a very easy way for the parish to earn
money. These funds will be deposited in the
renovation fund.



Deacon's Doings

When last we met in print, I outlined the plan
to begin our 3rd Friendship Partnership as a
Deanery collaboration in January. The timeline
has changed. Circumstances
have now moved back our receiving the
refugee family to March of 2012. That moves
everything else back as well. The new timeline
for carrying out our goals will look like this:

Dec.- March - Sign up for how you can help
(see late March below)

January/February - Start bringing in items on
the needs inventory (see this edition). There
will be a designated collection box in the
narthex.

Early March - Free Will Offering (make
checks out to St. Peters Friendship
Partnership)

Late March - Work crew to clean, set up
apartment, welcome at airport
We have collected a significant amount of
furniture already, so all we need is YOU for the
rest. Please consider aiding in this effort. It
may require helping on one Saturday in March,
and the donation of an item or two from the
needs list.

Once again, St. Peters will again take the lead
in "Welcoming The Stranger".

Peace and Blessings,

Deacon Tom



WHAT IS RITE 13 ALL ABOUT?



Special Services and Events

Christmas Eve—Saturday, December 24th 4pm

Participants in the chime choir, vocalists, and instrumentalists will be rehearsing every every Sunday after church from now through Christmas Eve. Because it's a Saturday, this year, we're asking participants to arrive as close to 3 pm as possible for warm-up

rehearsals on the actual day. This should be a very festive celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Christmas Day—Sunday, December 25th 10am

This year Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. We will be having one service that morning, with carols.

New Year's Eve—Saturday, December 31st 5pm

We will be joined for our New Year's Eve service by the clergy and members of the Eggerstville/Snyder Ministerial Association. The church will be opened at 4 pm for those who want some time for quiet reflection. You might want to write New Year's Resolutions or review your "Rule of Life." These will be collected and dedicated at the altar (and returned to you unopened!) during the Eucharist. Our worship will be followed by enjoyment of "pot luck" hors d'oeuvres. We will toast the New Year with non-alcoholic beverages, in keeping with our alcohol-free policy for our church building.

New Year's Day—Sunday, January 1st 10 am

Once again, the holiday falls on a Sunday with one service (with music) at 10 am.

Food Pantry at University Presbyterian Church

Over the years the members of St. Peter's have been incredibly generous in bringing food donations on Sundays for the Eggerstville/Snyder Ministerial Association food pantry. It is hosted by University Presbyterian Church at the corner of Main and Niagara Falls Blvd., directly across the street from the South Campus of the University of Buffalo.

The Food Pantry is open on Tuesdays and Thursday, from 12:00 – 4:00 pm, and serves the following zip codes:

14214, 14216, 14226,
14421, 14223, 14221,
14968 and both campuses.



- Rite 13 is a 2 year program designed to build faith and self-esteem in the context of our Christian community. Through study and much discussion, our young people are :
1. learning principles of freedom, responsibility and friendship.
 2. learning what is between the covers of our Book of Common Prayer.
 3. learning what their God given talents, gifts and abilities are and where God might be calling them.
 4. learning ways to talk to and listen to God.
 5. learning ways to give thanks even when things go wrong.
 6. sharing ways to deal with bullying.
 7. brainstorming people to go to when faced with different problems or crisis situations.
 8. learning how to take a Gospel reading or biblical story of their choice and reflect on how it relates on a personal level. These are some of the things our Rite 13 youth have done to help them establish the church as a safety zone in the midst of a crazy time of life and in the difficult transition from childhood to adult.

Becky Peiffer



Need a Cleaners???

Please consider using: CORVETTE
CLEANERS

530 Kenmore Ave, Buffalo 14216
(716) 833-2211
5847 Transit Rd. E. Amherst
(716) 688-5343

They have been kind enough to clean all our Acolyte robes for free.


When taking your cleaning in, be sure to let them know you are from St. Peter's on Longmeadow and thank them again for their generosity.

From January through October of this year, the pantry has served 2,756 people from 1,549 households. This represents 24,804 meals. And there are still two months remaining in 2011 for these statistics to be complete! If you would like to volunteer, call 836-7660.

Rite 13 Skit

If you missed the Rite 13 skit, you can find it on YouTube. It's listed as Lukas' Skit (because Lukas' uncle posted it ☺)

The Paint Brush

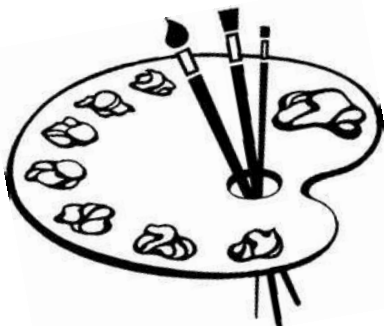


God took a paint brush and painted the sky
He saw the beauty of it so he began to apply
A touch of color here and a touch of color there
So that the earth was a rainbow everywhere.


He looked at the people and they all looked the same.
So he took up his brush and painted again
Some became black, yellow, red, brown and white
He said to himself what a beautiful sight.

But oh! The peoples souls could be as beautiful as God's brush
Then there would be understanding love and the word trust.

By Winnifred A.Volpe



How Financial Giving Works at St. Peter's - Pledge Envelopes, etc.



As mentioned on Stewardship Sunday, we are going into our second year without asking people to complete a pledge to St. Peter's. You will find pledge envelopes at the back of the nave. Please take the box with your name on it and use it at your discretion. You will still receive statements (for tax purposes), but no one will be keeping track of whether or not you are 'meeting your pledge' because what you feel called to give is between you and God. If you choose to put cash or a check in the envelopes, please be sure to designate in the space provided if the money is to go to a special cause. If there is no designation, it will go to General Operations. Here is a list of our needs:

General Operations: Our current budget provides for a Rector at just about 1/2 time, and for a Minister of Music for Sundays and special services. We do not have a parish secretary. We pay for lawn care and snow removal, but almost all other building maintenance is done by volunteers. We seem to be able to afford everything else: heat, lights, insurance, office supplies, Sunday School materials, etc. – all the basics, plus our "Fair Share" pledge to the Diocese. It would be nice to be able to add a line-item in our budget for the Threads of Hope Linen Pantry rather than relying on sporadic donations of support. We hope someday to be able to afford a secretary part-time, and to increase our Rector's time.

Building Fund: Over the past several years we have put on a new roof, installed glass block windows in the undercroft, new entrance doors, a new sign in front, and completely refurbished the narthex, nave, and sanctuary, including the ceiling. We have done all of this on a pay-as-you-go basis in the amount of

over \$200,000. Wow! All that remains is a loan from the Trustees of the Diocese, the balance of which is about \$38,000. Contributions to the Building Fund to help pay off this loan are





are greatly needed and appreciated.



Treasurer's Report

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

As of November 30 2011

Operating Account

RECEIPTS YTD

Plate & Pledge	Actual	69,142.10
Liturgical & Outreach & Special		7,400.28
Memorials		800.00
Other		23,309.93
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$100,652.31

DISBURSEMENTS YTD

Building & Grounds	Actual	\$6,774.04
Clergy		51,435.73
Memorial Expense		877.75
Operations		12,695.51
Outreach		13,667.90
Personnel/Payroll tax/Payroll Service		8,121.99
Utilities		8,398.52
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$101,971.44

St Peter's Account Balances

11/30/11

First Niagara - Checking	(\$912.22)
Capital Funds YTD	\$16,996.36
Money Market - Savings	\$6,850.77
Interest & Deposit	\$1,309.92
Withdraw	-\$1,000.00
Total 11/30/11	\$7,160.69

300.42	Continuing Ed.
940.17	Meath Memorial
251.05	Walgate Memorial
525.00	Reynolds Memorial
25.00	V. Talbot Memorial
59.15	Wellness Ministry
1,743.51	Renovation/Capital Funds
156.00	Summer Camp
347.97	Parish Nurse
415.50	Music Fund
2,075.32	Memorial Garden
286.60	Order St. Luke
36.00	Theo .Ed.

Money Market - Checking	11/30/11	\$375.46
Lillian Shandraw Ed. Fund	11/30/11	\$501.50
J2A Pilgrimage Fund	11/30/11	\$2,225.66
Mission & Ministry	11/30/11	\$302.65
Columbarium Fund	11/30/11	\$4,892.33
Morningstar Ministries	11/31/11	\$7,735.05

Nov. paid interest & \$1000 principal on loan to the Diocese.

Special Funds: These include the Rector's Discretionary Fund, the Deacon's Discretionary Fund, United Thank Offering (twice a year), Episcopal Community Services (now called The Partnership – once a year), Our Little Roses (on the "Angel Tree" in December), Flower Fund, Music Fund, Memorial Fund (for garden plantings and upkeep), and the Meath and Shandraw Funds (for Sunday School needs). Some of these giving opportunities have special envelopes found in the pew racks, but you can also fill in your regular envelope for any one of these.

Questions? If you have questions about any of the above, ask our Treasurer, Merrie Hill, our record-keeper, Bill Bates, or Pastor Barbara.

Annual Pledge

Annual Income	3%	5%	7%	10%
5000.00	150.00	250.00	350.00	500.00
7500.00	225.00	375.00	525.00	750.00
10000.00	300.00	500.00	750.00	1000.00
12000.00	360.00	600.00	840.00	1200.00
15000.00	450.00	750.00	1050.00	1500.00
17500.00	525.00	875.00	1225.00	1750.00
20000.00	600.00	1000.00	1400.00	2000.00
25000.00	750.00	1250.00	1750.00	2500.00
30000.00	900.00	1500.00	2100.00	3000.00
35000.00	1000.00	1750.00	22450.00	3500.00
40000.00	1200.00	2000.00	2800.00	4000.00
50000.00	1500.00	2500.00	3500.00	5000.00
60000.00	1800.00	3000.00	4200.00	6000.00
70000.00	2100.00	3500.00	4900.00	7000.00
75000.00	2250.00	3750.00	5250.00	7500.00
100000.00	3000.00	5000.00	7000.00	10000.00

Please clip this chart out of this document for use in determining your personal pledge goal in this and in future years. Place it in your Bible at Deuteronomy 14:22 as an annual reminder of your commitment to your church.



Merrie Hill

Prayers of the

Long Term List:



Leigh, Jim, Dianne and Olin, Jim & Mary M, Ulyssa, Norman, Eric, Donnalyn, Adel, Bill B, Lauren, Brandon G, Bea, Wilma, Harlan, Stanley B, Nancy, RJ, John W, Barb & Frank, Dorothy, Jim R, Art, Jacque D, Kimberly D, Anna, Wanda, Patrick W, Josh, Kay, Richard, Debbie, Reidun, Talisa, Joshua, Edwin M., Lynda H., Danielle, Dan, and Richard H.



Short Term List: Sue G, Chris, Gloria S, Lance S, Tammy D, Areti, Mrs. D, Chris, Ruth D, Joanne H, Samatha, Suzanne H, Al S., Jason D, Suchyna family, Betty P, Lisa H, Lisa E, Linda B, Ray J, Steve R, Carol, Ray K, Sue C, Pete and Ruth, Felicia, Candida and Suzanne, Jennifer and family, Richard and Steve M, Ken R, Lucia, Kevin R, Kirsten, Scott, Jalen and Melissa, Scott P, Josh P, Donna, Betty H, Anna L, Matthew, Teresa and family, Mark, Mary Ellen and Marnie.

Servicemen: William, Jessie, Jack, AJ, Greg, Ray G, John, Dustin, Nathaniel, Vinnie D, Gene S, Fred C, Ricky, James, Michael V., and Ashley.

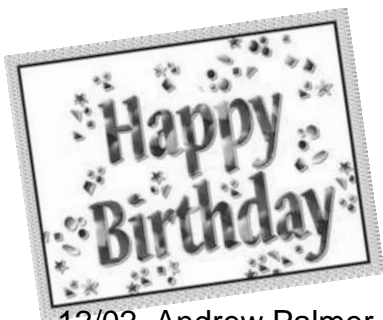
Please be aware that the list will be trimmed after December 1st to remove outdated requests. From the short term list the following names will be removed unless a request is received to move them to the long term list: Sue G, Chris, Gloria S, Lance S, Tammy D, Areti, Mrs. D, Chris, Ruth D, Joanne H, Samantha, Suzanne H, Al S., Jason D, , Lisa H, Lisa E, Linda B, Ray J, Steve R, Carol, and Ray K,

Betty P and Sue C, who are currently on the short term list will be moved to long term, as I am aware they need ongoing prayers.

From the long term list the following names are over a year old and again you must request the name be renewed if you wish it to remain on the long term list: Jim R, Art, Jacque D, and Richard.

Lastly while I do not remove service men from the list as a rule, it would be good to know that all the names on our list are still serving. Please help me ID names that need to be removed/updated on this list as well.

Thanks!
Sue Gunn



12/02 Andrew Palmer
12/05 Chloe Hirschfelt
12/11 Andrew Taube
12/14 Eric Fiutak
12/15 Laurie Guzda
12/24 Jonathan Burroughs
12/24 Mary Lou Gardner
12/28 Robert Kapchan
12/29 Riley Passariella
12/30 Diana Leiker



12/30 Mr. & Mrs. William Bates





**Friendship Partnership 2012
Needs Inventory**

Kitchen

- All purpose cleaner & Sponge**
- Broom & Dust Pan**
- Bucket & Mop**
- Clothes Line & Pins**
- Cooking Utensils**
- Cutting Board**
- Dish Strainer**
- Dish Washing Soap**
- Folding Shopping Cart**
- Kitchen Clock**
- Kitchen Table & Chairs**
- Paper Towels & Napkins**
- Kitchen Trash Bags**
- Kitchen Trash Can**
- Plastic Wrap & Foil**
- Large Pot (for soup & stock)**
- Rice cooker/steamer**
- Scouring Pads & Powder**
- Sharp Knives**
- Shelf Paper**
- Strainer**
- Tea Pot**

Living & Dining Room

- Dresser**
- Couch/Sofa**
- Alarm clock**
- DVD player**
- Desk Lamps & Light Bulbs**
- Wall Pictures**
- Vacuum cleaner**



** Threads of Hope Linen Pantry
will supply bedding items Vegetable
and household items.*

Bathroom

- Brushes & Combs**
- Deodorant**
- Disposable Razors**
- Feminine Hygiene Products**
- First Aid Kit**
- Hand Soap**
- Toilet Bowl Brush**
- Toilet Paper**
- Toothpaste & Brushes**

Optional

- Bicycles & helmets**
- City maps**
- Dictionary**
- Coffee maker**
- Computer**
- Computer Desk**

