

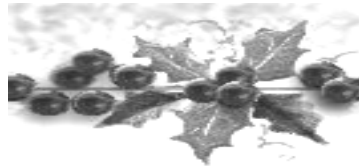


THE ROCK



St. Peter's Episcopal Church – Est. 1954

December 2010



Dearest People of St. Peter's

Al and I want to thank you for your unflagging support and for your prayers throughout this Bishop's Election process. We learned much and felt deeply supported by many. Thank you for the warm reception on Sunday, November 21st, for the roses, the cake, and the stuffed doggie that said "Love U." We love you, too, and are thankful to be with you. God bless.

Pastor Barbara and Al Price



event to the news that the Rev. Dr. William Franklin had been selected. And we began to process what had happened that day over a later-than-usual dinner.

While we cannot anticipate the reality of how the selection will impact our diocese, and the pockets of concern that exist, we can with certainty take refuge in the fact that The Very Rev. Canon Barbara Price will continue to grace our congregation with her spiritual presence and competent leadership. We at St. Peter's were in a win-win situation.

The second certainty that was reflected in the process was the grace, class, balance, and competence our rector displayed throughout all the meetings, interviews, auditions, walkabouts, and yes- even having to sit through, in person, the stress of your own election process as the only internal candidate. We can only imagine the courage of conviction it takes to put yourself "out there" in front of peers and the general populace.

We at St. Peter's should be proud (even though pride is a sin) of how Pastor Barbara represented us, but more importantly – how she represented herself in this physically and mentally trying process. She has no apologies to make- sometimes the best candidate doesn't always emerge victorious.

But victory is what you make of it, and Pastor Barbara is a victor. Whenever you are pure in heart and pure in spirit, you are a winner in the eyes of God.

Welcome back PB, and congratulations!

Deacon Tom Tripp



From the Deacon's Desk

On Saturday, Nov. 20, the highly anticipated diocesan election to select the 11th Bishop of WNY finally took place. It was the culmination of a year and a half of diligent work by

clergy and laity from across the diocese, including two of our own members- Ed Hill and Sheila Schascheck.

It was our very first election, and Lois and I were full of excitement to witness and partake in the process, and to experience the Holy Spirit on perhaps a new and different level.

Eleven hours and seven ballots later, tired and hungry and disappointed, we exited the





My Thoughts - Zacchaeus Today

Zacchaeus was a worker bee, toiling 9 to 5 processing tax returns for the local office of the Internal Revenue. His mid-level job provided him with an adequate wage for the American middle class life style with little room for luxuries. One day, while driving up Transit Rd. he saw a small house for sale in Amherst, south of North French Road. The house was a modest brick Cape with a large sycamore tree planted in the front. This was the only sycamore tree on Transit Road and it sat proudly on the lot as traffic flew past on the road. He put a bid on the house and then sought out financing. Local lenders told him he was not eligible for a mortgage until he had a larger percentage for the down payment. Zacchaeus calculated it would take him several years at his current pay scale to save up that much money. One day he saw a late night TV ad offering first time home buyers mortgages with low down payment. "Praise be" he thought. Here was his chance to buy that home before someone else did and move out of his apartment in Eggertsville.

He applied on-line, since this was only an on-line lender, offering attractive rates because there were no local branches. To Zacchaeus this was a dream come true. He was approved by the lender at a low initial rate which would fluctuate depending on financial conditions. Ah, this was America, how high could rates go? This was his dream, a home with a sycamore tree in front.

Financial deregulation and lack of Congressional oversight led to dangerous practices in the lending market. Lenders issued leveraged loans leading to unstable markets. Zacchaeus' lender sold his mortgage to a broker who immediately raised his interest rate. Rate increases followed on a regular basis and Zacchaeus found it more difficult to pay his mortgage, bills and have anything left over for food or to contribute to St. Peter's. He became desperate.

One day, he found out that a famous, brilliant man whom thousands turned to for

guidance was coming to Buffalo for an engagement. This man was beautiful in appearance, seeming to have a glow about him. Thousands of people wanted to see and hear him speak. Zacchaeus could not afford the ticket price at the Stadium to see the Man. What could he do? If only he could speak to Him, Zacchaeus might figure out how to save his house. If only he could.

A motorcade was to take the Man from the airport, up Transit Road and then to a large hotel near the North Campus where the Man was to rest for the night until his speaking engagement in the morning. Thousands lined Transit Road to see the Man pass by. Zacchaeus was stuck in traffic after his shift ended. Too many people lined the road in front of his house and he was not able to see, let alone talk to the Man. "Wait," he thought, I can climb my Sycamore tree, be above everyone else and see the Man.

The motorcade approached his house; Zacchaeus was perched high on a branch overlooking the road. The Man looked up and asked his driver to stop the car. "Hello, Zacchaeus how are you?" "How do you know my name, Man?" Zacchaeus replied.

"I know many things. Allow me to spend the night in your house, provide me with a simple meal and we shall talk of life in Amherst and your mortgage problems"

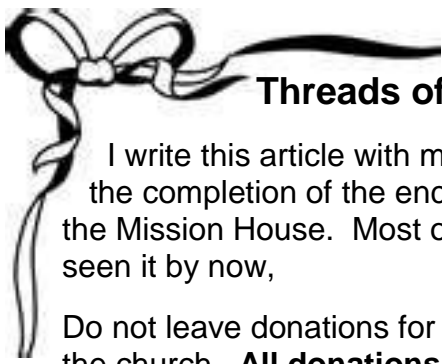
So, the Man entered his house. Crowds on Transit became angry especially those who had not seen the Man. They complained to the magistrates who conspired against the Man. One found a Parade Permit was not issued to the Man so they went to arrest him, but he was able to escape, kicking dust off his shoes as he canceled his event at the Stadium and flew to Chicago.

TO BE CONTINUED in the January Rock. Stay tuned as we see Buffalo and Eggertsville 50 years in the future and what happened to that sycamore tree.

The Sycamore Tree



Paul Schwartzmyer



Threads of Hope Update

I write this article with much excitement on the completion of the enclosed front porch on the Mission House. Most of you have probably seen it by now,

Do not leave donations for the linen pantry at the church. **All donations are now to be left in the newly enclosed porch.** Upon leaving your donation, **make sure the porch door is tightly closed** so as not to blow in the wind. We would like to extend a HUGE "thank you" to Gary Donhauser for all his expertise in repairing and enclosing the porch. Great job! With your donations from the mitten tree and all other donations, we have delivered 50 hats, 50 scarves, 50 mitten/glove sets, 80 mugs filled with soup mix or cocoa mix, 36-40 personal and gift items, and 50 stuffed animals to three local food pantries. We will resume giving away mugs and scarves sets again in January. A special "thank you" to John Lopat and Ed Hill who answered our call immediately. On Saturday, we had water in the basement of the Mission House. They replaced the sump pump and we're good to go for another couple of years. Happy Holidays to all,
Sharon Taube

2010 CONFIRMANDS

On **December 19**, Bishop Michael Garrison will make his last visit to St. Peter's in his capacity as bishop of WNY. One of his duties that day will be to confirm those who desire to make a mature, faithful commitment to Jesus Christ.

We are pleased to announce and congratulate the "Class of 2010":

Charles Andersen
Kelly Barry
John Frantz
Quinn Haggerty
Bradley Taube



May Christ always be with them to guide them through their lives. Please join us in welcoming them as Christ's own.

*Alfred Price
Deacon Tom Tripp*



Fund Raisers

St. Peter's has three ways individuals can help raise added funds. They don't require meetings, set-up, work or your money



Goodsearch

Goodsearch is a search engine you can use to look up items on the internet. All you have to do is type in Goodsearch, select St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Amherst as your charity and include the item you are searching for. You can use Goodsearch's Good Shop for your on-line shopping. St. Peter's receives a penny for every time you use Goodsearch and select St. Peter's. We just received a check from Goodsearch for \$17.08 for this 2010 (last year it was \$52) which was put into the Renovation Fund.



Paper Recycle Bin

There is the recycle bin in the parking lot for papers, magazines and junk mail but no cardboard. You can also put in paper from you shredder in a plastic bag. This is the only plastic allowed because it keeps the shredded paper from blowing around when they empty the bin. We have earned \$36 so far this year with the help of our neighbors.

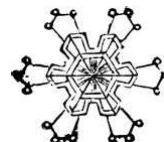


Beverage Cans and Bottles

This is the time for holiday entertaining. If you have pop cans, beer cans, or water bottles, bring them to church and put them in the box by the elevator. John Frantz will turn them into cash. The funds go into the St. Peter's Memorial Garden Fund. This provides flowers, shrubs or trees for our property. We have collected \$100 a month for the last couple of months.



Thank you to all who have assisted in these projects. Thank you to those who will start.



Sunday School News

We have just completed our first rotation on creation. I think it turned out pretty well. The kids seemed excited about attending their new center each week.

I have seen the kids eagerly look on the window to see where their group will be that week and to see what they will be doing. We have heard that the grown-ups really enjoyed the kids baking center. The children had fun playing the two creation games created by Steve and Annabel Paradise. They also made terrariums. I believe part of the reason the kids enjoy this new program is because they have such new and varied ways to learn their lesson.

We have had great attendance each week. One week, in particular, our attendance was so high, it scared John Lopat. He has been a veteran teacher for a few years now. I thought he could handle things pretty well, but when he suddenly found himself with eleven first and second graders, I thought I might lose him. No worries. We simply gave him another teacher or two to help and John was just fine. For the season of Advent, we will go back to our large group activities. We started this Sunday talking about how we prepare for Christmas in both the religious and secular ways. The kids made an Advent chain. Each day between now and Christmas, they will break off one link per day. The links each have a prayer on them for the children to say with their families. They also made an Advent calendar, where they will place an item on or near a Christmas tree. Both are great ways for the kids to count down the days until Christmas.

The next two weeks you will find us busy making both edible and non-edible gingerbread people and various ornaments



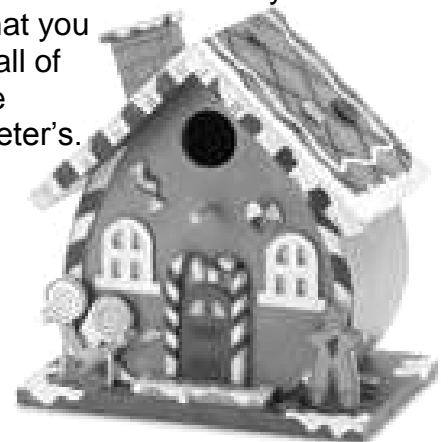
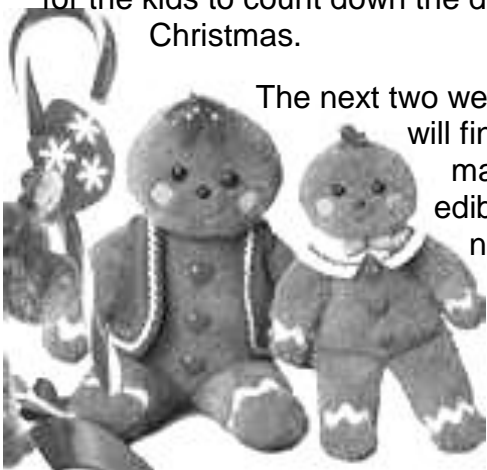
that the kids can give as gifts, if they choose. We will then have the next three weeks off.

On December 19th, we will all be upstairs for the bishop's visit, Confirmation and the dedication of our newly remodeled church. We will actually offer a quiet activity that the children can do right in their pew that will keep their hands busy, as they listen to the service. We will not have classes on December 26th or January 2nd to allow our teachers and families time to celebrate the holidays.

We will start with our new rotation on January 9th. The planning is still in the works, but we think we might have a three week rotation based on the Wise Men. If you would like to be a part of this rotation, please see me. No experience is needed. We always have at least two adults per center. We would love to have some new teachers. We were glad to welcome Wendy Palmer and Kathlyn Haggerty to our teaching staff. They are wonderful additions. The children already love them.

I would like to end this on a happy note, but unfortunately, I cannot. I would like to take this time to thank Della Harris for all of the years she has been a Sunday school teacher. She has given countless hours of her time preparing and teaching lessons. The children adore her calming and loving ways. We are so sad to see her leave us, but wish her and her family the best, as they start the next chapter of their lives in Boston. We love you Della and will really miss you, Tariq and Donovan. Good luck and remember you will always have our family to come back to even if it is just for a visit. I cannot thank you enough for all that you have done and all of the joy you have brought to St. Peter's.

Alison Mohr



Refugee Update

Happy Holidays to everyone!

Thanks to generous clothing donations from the people at Calvary, St. Paul's, Harris Hill, and St. Peter's, we managed to "winterize" both of our sponsored Burmese families on the west side of Buffalo. The Mot Reh and Za Mang families should be well equipped to handle the wind and the snow this year, with enough to go around to their individual Karenni and Chin communities. Joanne Coury-Frake continues to liaison with Journey's End to check up on the families every so often. Thanks be to God.

The Za Mang family moved to a new apartment in September, with Robert Kapchun and Tom Tripp supplying them with a stove and refrigerator. The Grzywna's from St. Patrick's donated the refrigerator. Their daughter Sui Par, married over the summer, and is expecting their first US citizen in the coming year! Papa Za Mang still has his job, and Mom, Tha Men, recently had back surgery. All the children are making great strides in learning English.

St. Peter's held their Fall In-Gathering this past Sunday, and delivered all the food to the Mot Reh family for Thanksgiving and beyond. Dad still takes ESL classes during the day to become employable. Mom stays home with the 3 year old, while the four boys attend school. All seem to be doing well.

Once again- thanks to everyone who participated in any way to the resettlement of two fine families. God bless you all, and pass it on.

Peace and Blessings,
Deacon Tom Tripp



University Presbyterian Church Food Pantry

Each month we receive a note of thanks and appreciation from our local food pantry:

"Thank you so much for the 8 large bags of groceries you delivered in October. We certainly appreciate it!!
Sincerely,

UPC Food Pantry"

All the food pantries in the area are in need of food items. When shopping, if you see an item that is buy one and get one free, purchase one for yourself and give the free one to the food pantry. The University Food Pantry loves to see Dorothy Talbot coming. Because they know she is bringing badly needed items. Our little parish supplies more food on a regular basis to the UPC Food Pantry than any other church in our area.

People are hungry and **not** just around the holiday season but all year. Food pantries are serving more and more clients each month. Therefore, try to remember to bring in at least one can of food per family each Sunday throughout the year. Put your food items in the basket in the back of the church. Dorothy, Robert and Clay won't mind if we increase the number of bags they deliver.



Church Directory Changes

Has your address, telephone number or email address changed since the last directory was published? If so, please contact Bill Bates at 834-5428. The parish records and directory can only be correct if **you** provide Bill with the latest information.

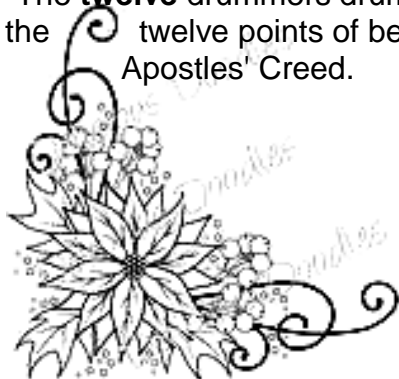




A Partridge in a Pear Tree

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

- The partridge** in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
- Two** turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
- Three** French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
- The **four** calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.
- The **five** golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The **six** geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
- Seven** swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit--Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
- The **eight** maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
- Nine** ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit--Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
- The **ten** lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.
- The **eleven** pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
- The **twelve** drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.



Prayers for the Season



I wish you and yours a Very Blessed Advent and Christmas Season. I hope these prayers give support and comfort to all. Lord, let us receive Your clear light.

Shalom, Lois Tripp and the St. Peter's Health Care Committee

The Word made flesh for us gives us the greatest hope that the murky night of darkness will not overwhelm us, but we shall see the daylight of eternity.

Lord, let us receive your clear light; be for us such a mirror of light that we may be given grace to see you unendingly.

If we are overcome, you have the power to forgive us; therefore, in my sin I call on you, my Lord, my Light, for help. For you were sent into the world to enlighten my heart, to nurture true repentance and to make the Holy Spirit's work grow more powerfully in me.

With the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign forever!

Written by--Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)
(When few women were accorded respect, she was consulted by and advised bishops, popes, and kings)

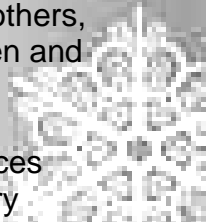
A Prayer for our sisters of this Earth,

Let us Pray.

O gracious Lord, we humbly pray for the women of the world today. Born of different colors and creeds, we share the same concerns and needs. Lord, lift our heads and dry our tears, as you strengthen us and calm our fears. Comfort those who, on bended knee, seek a life where all live free. We pray for ourselves as well as others, as we pray for the future of children and mothers.

Amen.

Prayers from Lifting Women's Voices
copyright – submitted by Sue Curry



Thank you to.....

Gary Donhauser for enclosing the front porch of the Mission House.

Damon Piatov, Bill Bates and Lois Tripp who were our delegates at the Diocesan Convention to elect the new bishop.

Dorothy Talbot, her grandson, Robert and her son-in-law, Clay for taking the food each month to the food pantry.

Gary Donhauser for making the soup, **Betty Peters, Kathy Bates and Carma Miccoli** for dishing it out and for arranging the bags for delivery and to **all who** made the home deliveries of soup.

Alfred Price and Deacon Tom for teaching the Confirmation class.

Richard Arquette and others for taking boxes of tiles and making them disappear.

John Lopat and Ed Hill for installing the new sump pump in the Mission House.

All Parishioners for their prayers and support for Pastor Barbara and her family in the most recent Bishop's Election process....and **thank you to God** for the outcome.

Pledge Reminder

As the year draws to a close, please
make any necessary payments to bring your 2010 pledge up-to-date
make a pledge for 2011, in the spirit of **Grace, Gratitude and Generosity**”.
make sure your capital campaign pledge is fulfilled. The renovation project is still depending on your contributions.

If you have any questions or concerns, Please call Bill Bates.

Treasurer's Report

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
 As of November 30, 2010

Operating Account

RECEIPTS YTD	Actual
Plate & Pledge	66,800.84
Liturgical & Outreach & Special	22,634.63
Memorials	820.00
Other	1,823.77
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$92,079.24

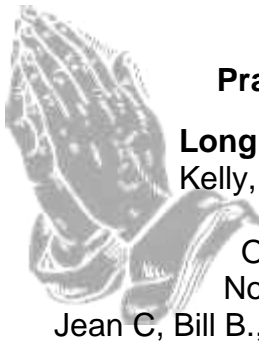
DISBURSEMENTS YTD	Actual
Building & Grounds	\$6,308.48
Clergy	47,682.88
Memorial Expense	729.36
Operations	10,646.28
Outreach	12,991.87
Personnel/Payroll tax/Payroll	
Service	7,978.84
Utilities	7,702.34
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$94,040.05

St Peter's Account Balances 11/30/10

First Niagara - Checking	\$19.67
Capital Funds YTD	\$14,226.31
Money Market - Savings	\$15,222.69
Interest & Deposit	\$581.08
Withdraw	-\$6,351.49
Total 11/30/10	\$9,452.28

300.42	Continuing Ed.
960.17	Meath Memorial
251.05	Walgate Memorial
59.15	Wellness Ministry
1,737.21	Renovation Fund,
356.00	Summer Camp
221.47	Parish Nurse
239.50	Music Fund
1,315.32	Memorial Garden
3,336.99	Insurance Settlement
65.00	Order St. Luke
600.00	Misc. Repairs
10.00	UTO

Money Market - Checking	11/30/10	\$156.04
Lillian Shandraw Ed.	11/30/10	\$401.50
J2A Pilgrimage Fund	11/30/10	\$450.65
Mission & Ministry	11/30/10	\$841.08
Columbarium Fund	11/30/10	\$3,539.32
Morningstar Ministries	11/30/10	\$6,924.33



Prayers of the People

Long Term:

Kelly, Fred H., Leigh, Sarah & family,
 Darlene, Jim, Dianne and
 Olin, Jim & Mary M., Ulyssa,
 Norman, Eric, Donnalyn, Adel,
 Jean C, Bill B., Douglas, Lauren, Brandon G.,
 Jean Z., Bea, Wilma, Harlan, Stanley B.,
 Steve & family, Marty, Kevin R., Nancy, RJ,
 Roy & Ellie, Karen, Patty K., Mary, Father Joe
 & family, Megan, John W., Phillip Amanda,
 Alyssa, Louise, Barb & Frank, Shirley,
 Dorothy, Wesley C. & Jacque D.

Short Term: Joyce, Joe M., Scott, Jackie,
 Walters family, Warren, Phyllis, Jeanne &
 husband, Caleb, Mary Ann, Ned, Phillip G.,
 Eleanor, Dan, Kari, Gene, Nicole, Julie K.,
 Lillian S., Betty, Nina, Jim R., Judy B., Art,
 Kimberly D., Richard H., William, David, Lilly
 R., Alexander S., Eposito, Tom, Anna,
 Yolanda B., Dave & Jane, Wanda, EJ &
 Justin, Cathy D., Michael, Tom, Betty J.,
 Dennis, Patrick W., Sue Allen & family, Diane
 B., Verdis T., Linda S., Makayla, Josh &
 Patricia, Kay, Richard, Debbie, Ange,
 Josephine & family.

Servicemen: William, Jessie, Anthony, Jack,
 AJ, Greg, Ray G, Christopher, John, Dustin,
 Danny, Dominic, Nathaniel, Vinnie D. Gene S.
 and Fred.



- 12/02 Andrew Palmer
- 12/11 Andrew Taube
- 12/14 Eric Fiutak
- 12/15 Laurie Gudza
- 12/24 Mary Lou Gardner
- 12/28 Robert Kapchan
- 12/28 Sienna Tripp
- 12/29 Riley Passariella
- 12/30 Diana Leiker



12/30 Mr. & Mrs. William Bates



Religious Knowledge Quiz

A national poll was conducted by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion and Public Life. Their completed survey included 32 questions. Here is their short 15 question quiz.

- Which Bible figure is most closely associated with leading the exodus from Egypt?
 - Job
 - Elijah
 - Moses
 - Abraham
- What was Mother Teresa's religion?
 - Catholic
 - Jewish
 - Buddhist
 - Mormon
 - Hindu
- Which is the following is NOT one of the Ten Commandments?
 - Do not commit adultery
 - Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
 - Do not Steal
 - Keep the Sabbath holy.
- When does the Jewish Sabbath begin?
 - Friday
 - Saturday
 - Sunday
- Is Ramadan....?
 - The Hindu festival of lights
 - A Jewish day of atonement
 - The Islamic holy month
- Which of the following best describes the Catholic teaching about bread and wine used for Communion?
 - The bread and wine actually *becomes* the body and blood of Jesus Christ
 - The bread and wine are symbols of the body and the blood of Jesus Christ
- In which religion are Vishnu and Shiva central figures?
 - Islam
 - Hinduism
 - Taoism
- Which Bible figure is most closely associated with remaining obedient to God despite suffering?
 - Job
 - Elijah
 - Moses
 - Abraham
- What was Joseph Smith's religion?
 - Catholic
 - Jewish
 - Buddhist
 - Mormon
 - Hindu
- According to rulings by the US Supreme Court, is a public school teacher permitted to lead a class in prayer, or not?
 - Yes, permitted
 - No, not permitted
- According to rulings by the US Supreme Court, is a public school teacher permitted to read from the Bible as an example of literature, or not?
 - Yes, permitted
 - No, not permitted
- What religion do most people of Pakistan consider themselves?
 - Buddhist
 - Hindu
 - Muslim
 - Christian
- What is the name of the person whose writings and actions inspired the Protestant Reformation?
 - Martin Luther
 - Thomas Aquinas
 - John Wesley
- Which of these religions aims at nirvana, the state of being free from suffering?
 - Islam
 - Buddhism
 - Hinduism
- Which one of these preachers participated in the period of religious activity known as the First Great Awakening?
 - Jonathan Edwards
 - Charles Finney
 - Billy Graham

Correct Answers	% of survey respondents Answering correctly
1) Moses	72%
2) Catholic	82%
3) Do unto others as you would have them do unto you	55%
4) Friday	45%
5) The Islamic holy month	52%
6) The bread and the wine actually <i>becomes</i> the body and blood of Jesus.	40%
7) Hinduism	38%
8) Job	39%
9) Mormon	51%
10) No, not permitted	89%
11) Yes, permitted	23%
12) Muslim	68%
13) Martin Luther	46%
14) Buddhism	36%
15) Jonathan Edwards	11%



They returned in 2001 during a major snow storm. Both were confirmed and Kirsten was also baptized at St. Andrew's in 2005. Kirstin continues to teach English at UB. Both are "Master Gardeners". Their spirituality is enriched working in nature. They like our active church, the friendliness and Pastor Barbara's sermons. They want to serve the church more and find spiritual direction.

Robert asked that I mention the Comtemplative Prayer group. He finds it rewarding and maybe you will too.

Get to know this couple. They are down-to-earth and super friendly people.

Your roving reporter.

Becky Peiffer

Getting to Know You



Robert Kapchan grew up in a Jewish family on Long Island. He felt Jesus calling him when he was in his 20's. At age 30, Robert turned to Jesus and became a Christian. He was baptized by full

immersion in a Baptist church. Robert, a Civil Engineer, worked on a high speed train project in South Korea.

Kirstin Reitan grew up in a Methodist family in the Buffalo Area. She went to an Anglican church while teaching English as a second language in Korea.

Robert and Kirstin met at a wedding, fell in love and were married the first time in a Chinese wedding in Taiwan. They were married the second time with family at the Unitarian Church on Main Street. The third time was in Las Vegas, just to make sure it was all legal.