

THE ROCK

St. Peter's Episcopal Church – Est. 1954

January 2010



Pastors Desk

I sometimes feel as if I'm living in the Twilight Zone. This morning's paper contained a painful article detailing everything that went awry in a communication sequence intended to summon first responders to a fatal house fire. Clearly (it

seems to me) improvements are needed in our 911 system. Why shouldn't Erie County have at least as efficient and high-functioning a system as Monroe County (wherein Rochester is located)? The well-researched article points out that cell phone users pay taxes each month to amass a pool of money that is supposed to be dedicated to upgrades in the 911 system in order to help prevent such tragedies. But the money is spent elsewhere, not as it is intended. The article goes on to say that someone in Erie County administration (nameless, faceless, who knows who...) said the system is just fine. This has echoes of the response(s) made about the problems at the Erie County Holding Center. Bear in mind that the Holding Center is for people who have not been found guilty of any crime – it is for people who are awaiting trial. Yet there are far-too-frequent suicides and reports of beatings, inadequate restroom or sleeping facilities, and conditions so inappropriate that the Justice Department is suing Erie County. But we're told that everything's just fine. It's THEM that's wrong – not us. In the article about the phone, an official was actually quoted (in reference to the caller's cell phone which lacked GPS), "You get what you pay for." As if, somehow, because her cell phone wasn't a newer, more expensive model, her fate was somehow her own fault. Just like those awaiting trial at the Holding Center.

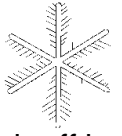
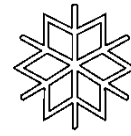
Juxtapose all of the above with the article above-the-fold in the same morning issue of the Buffalo News: diehard Bills' fans at Rich Stadium in freezing temperatures and driving snow, cheering on the home team to victory; a collective minimum of about \$100,000 hard-earned dollars allocated by choice for pleasure. Or how about the money spent on cosmetics or pet foods....something in the neighborhood of \$16 billion per year of discretionary spending on looking good and having pets for our pleasure.

I'm an Anglican through and through. It's unlikely I would suggest an 'either/or' solution to society's pressing concerns. In the spirit of the true *via media* I pray that we can do BOTH – care for society as a whole, our collective wellbeing – and be free to enjoy our discretionary time and money to the fullest.

But we're in the Twilight Zone of denial if we say "Everything's fine" when it isn't; when we claim "We don't have the resources to fix the problem" when what seems to be lacking is the *will* to care for one another. An attitude that says, "I've got mine, Jack – too bad for you" does *not* promote

Christian values. Jesus taught us to care for widows and orphans, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick and prisoners. Remember the parable of the Good Samaritan? The 'good guy' in that story was the one who stopped to help and used his own resources to care for the one who was beaten down. I am reminded of a recent conversation with a parishioner about the brave men at Normandy who literally gave their very lives for the common good.





My prayer for us in the New Year is that collectively we may have the *will* to live the words we pray in the Confession of Sin: ...”we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves...have mercy on us and forgive us.” (BCP p. 360) May the New Year be a new beginning. May each one of us be delivered from our own particular Twilight Zone of unreality to face what we need to face and to turn our hearts and minds to the Holy Spirit for guidance, to Christ Jesus for healing, and to God the Father to be made new.

Pastor Barbara



My Thoughts

“Some people brought a blind man to him to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village; and when he had put saliva on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, “Can you see anything?” And the man looked up and said “I can see people walking, but they look like trees, walking” Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he looked intently and his sight was resorted and he saw every thing clearly. Mark 8:22-25.

I love that passage. Jesus as God cured a blind man, but not on the first try. His human part perhaps got in the way on the first attempt. Only on the second try could the man see clearly.

For those who don't know, I have had cataracts in my eyes for 10 years. My right eye was corrected surgically in 2001 by Dr. Joseph Berradi. The first surgery left me with very good vision needing just a slight correction for distance and reading. The difference between my eyes was so great I needed a special lens for my left eye, called a slab off, where material is shaved off the lens while correcting my vision. This lens had a horizontal line about midway up the lens. Without a slab off I could not read, one line

went up, the line below went down. A slab off is very expensive, about \$200 for 1 lens, taking 10 days to 2 weeks even at the store with lenses in “about an hour”

A cataract was forming in my left eye but for years remained dormant. A little over a year ago I had my annual visit with Dr. Berradi and found out I wasn't seeing very good, which I hadn't noticed. A stronger, thicker and uglier slab off was prescribed which fixed the problem for a while. In the late summer and early fall my vision started to tank and I knew I could not go thru another year waiting till the cataract was so bad that it had to be removed. That is the only way insurance will pay for the surgery. Correct with lenses until you can't see any more.

I was desperate for it to be done! My visit was in mid -November and a vision test showed how bad it had become. Dr. Berradi came in the room, looked at the results of the vision test and said “You are ready, Paul” Then he looked into my eye and confirmed what he already knew. The cataract was ready to come out.

On December 16th, Judy drove me to the Ambulatory Surgical Center for my procedure. Multiple drops were placed in my eye, to dilate and disinfect. Around 9 am I was wheeled into the operating room, given a shot of Versed and Fentanyl and Dr. Berradi began. Less than 30 minutes later I was in the recovery room. There was no patch or bandage over my new eye. I looked up at a sign about 25 feet away from me and read it out loud. Thanks be to GOD, Dr. Berradi nailed it! I could see!

The next day I had a follow up visit to his office and drove myself at 7 am in the dark without glasses. That was the first time in my life I had ever driven without glasses. That afternoon I took my prescription for reading lenses and got them “in about an hour” at a lot lower price than a slab off. That afternoon I also drove to the DMV and applied for a new driver's license with the words



“restriction: corrective lenses” removed. YES!

The following week I returned to work. I can actually see the computer screen without reading glasses, but I need to wear them to read the prescriptions. Whenever I leave the pharmacy, the readers are left on my counter.

I have worn glasses since 4th grade, and now my vision is perhaps the best of my entire life.

It feels so good to walk around and see! When I come in from the cold, no steamed up lenses.

A huge shout out to Dr. Berradi. Thank YOU!

Paul Schwartzmyer

beautiful pigtails are dangling right in from of you? Well you might do just as I did; I dunked that pigtail in the inkwell. She was just screaming and complaining. She got up and went home and her mother cleaned her up and she came back to school. Problem was she sat right in front of me again with those beautiful pigtails just dangling there like before minus the ink of course. Well it just so happened that I had something to cut paper with in my desk, and I was sitting there looking at those beautiful pigtails dangling in front of me and what do you think happened? Snip with those scissors, and the pigtail wasn't dangling no more. Well, she did figure it all out after we were married, so it turned out all ok.

We were married for 53 years and I loved every bit of my time with her. Anything she wanted she got. There was this 3 foot butterfly puzzle that she wanted me to put together. Three feet in size and she wanted me to do. Well, I went to the store we brought our appliances from and asked for a large cardboard box. I laid that puzzle out and I put it together alright, but it took awhile. Then I glued it together and it hung on our back patio. She loved that butterfly. After she died, I took it to a nursing home near where she is now in Pennsylvania and donated it to those old people so they'd have something nice to look at. When you look at my kitchen and see the cupboards and walls, all knotting pine I got from a small mill at the Penn. border cause it was only theplace I could find 8' boards. You know anything she wanted she got and she wanted that kitchen. I made the cupboards and paneled the walls cause that's what she wanted. So now, you can find me still putting together puzzles while I watch a movie. I have a lot of them, pretty much if you name it, I have it. I watch "Gone with the Wind" once every year. I have all of the "Police Academy" movies and the "Ma and Pa Kettle" ones too. So I do my puzzles, take my walks, and I cook in Betty's kitchen. Oh and I can cook. When Betty was here, she took care of all that but now I do and I do well too. Just ask Barbara about my baked beans.



John Franz

☆ I was born in Sayre Pennsylvania, a wonderful town that finally made the wise decision to get its one and only stop light.

Now it's a real town.

I grew up on a farm with the regular farm stuff, pigs, chickens and cows. I came to Buffalo as a young man seeking work. On one of my visits home in Pennsylvania, I saw this beautiful girl. I just had to talk to her and soon we started taking up with one another. Well back in Buffalo, I got hired on at Chevy, so when I had been there I bit; I went back home and asked that beautiful girl to marry me. She did.

Only thing was she didn't remember me from our childhood, which was kinda advantageous for me when you hear the whole story. When we were small and in school, she just hated me, with good cause too. She sat in the desk right in front of me. She had these pigtails, and they just dangled right in from of me. Well, I thought they were just beautiful. What do you do when you're a boy and those





Biggest Winner Program

Blessings to you all for Shalom (good health in body, mind and spirit) in 2010.

The health care committee will present a 12 week health care reduction program this winter. We will have the 1st meeting on Sunday, January 31, after the 10am service. This will be the week to sign up. The weekly meeting date has not been set. We will choose the day of the week that is best for everyone. Mark your calendars now. There is no fee, but please bring any ideas for speakers or personal needs.

If you haven't read the December Rock, I am calling this the "Biggest Winner" program, not the biggest loser. When you complete the program you will be on your way to being a health care winner! We hope to control or improve Diabetes, heart disease-including cholesterol reduction, arthritis pain, self esteem and the list goes on and on. Stop in on January 31st after the 10AM SERVICE to check out the program. You don't have to sign up.

Will you be one of the Biggest Winners? (I sure want to be)

Questions call: 839-5868 or 870-2807
Lois Tripp, Parish Nurse



Friendship Partnership Update

Christmas came to our "adopted" Burmese family a few days ahead of time, as we had a computer and printer installed in their home, and are underwriting the cost of a year's internet subscription.

The generosity of time and materials from Bill Bates of St. Peter's and Adam's Apple Too, made it all happen. Bill supplied the hardware (and

software) and the installation instructions on the Saturday morning prior to Christmas. He worked patiently and expertly with Lian, the oldest son, who will be serving as the "administrator" of the setup for the family.

To say the family was thrilled would be an understatement. The children were already downloading pictures from their camera, but will be able to do most of their homework, and learn English, from the computer programs. I hope to get them a Rosetta Stone program to help translate Burmese into English and back.

The parents were also thrilled to know that via the internet, and the attached camera, they should be able to communicate with relatives left behind in Burma and Indonesia.

They were so appreciative; they provided Bill and me with lunch and some presents- all in the Christmas Spirit.

This will effectively close the book on our 8 month venture into the refugee resettlement arena- and make it an unbridled success!

We will look forward to working with the other churches of the Eastern Erie Deanery during the Lenten season, as we connect with Journey's End again for our second effort in refugee sponsorship.

Thanks to everyone that contributed in any way to this effort, and for all the prayers offered up on behalf of those efforts, and for the successful assimilation of the Za Mang family. We look forward to the day they become American citizens.

Peace and Blessings,
Deacon Tom Tripp



Music for all Ages

CHILDREN'S CHIME CHOIR

Children in grades
KINDERGARTEN through Grade 5

are invited to participate in children's chime choir. We will rehearse on January 24 after service. We will ring during the service on January 31. There will also be a warm-up at 9:30 on January 31.

ADULT CHIME CHOIR

Adults and Rite 13 participants are invited to play a piece during the February 7 service. Rehearsal will be on 1/31 after service, and there will be a brief warm-up at 9:30 on February 7.

CHOIR (All Ages)

We will sing at the offertory on January 15. Rehearsal will be at 9:15 on the 15th.

Sunday School

Happy New Year! The Sunday school department is looking forward to a new year to continue all of the great work we started last year. We will continue to teach the children using the Gospel Light animal curriculum. It is wildly popular with our youth. No pun intended. Well actually, yes it was. Anyway, we will also be using some Veggie Tale curriculum too this year. We are looking forward to a new service project for Canine Helpers and will continue contributing to the soup baskets. I will keep you posted in upcoming Rock articles. Now for some many thanks to people for helping with our youth from last year. First of all to our Sunday School staff for a great job last year. Thank you for all of your hard work, dedication and numerous volunteer hours. Please let our teachers know what a great job they are doing: Pre-K and Kindergarten-Lois Tripp and helpers, 1st grade-Missi and John Lopat and Tori and Steve Paradise and 2nd through 5th grade Della Harris and Jerry Mohr. Thank you also to Shelia Fournier and Diana Leiker for all of their hard



work with the children for the great creation play, and once again to Shelia for the youth chime choir.

I would also like to thank all of the children, parents and adults from the church who helped us with our fall outreach project. We were able to raise \$156.12 for Pennies for the Planet. The Audubon Society will use the money to help protect our animals and lands for future generations to love and cherish. Thank you again to all who contributed.

Alison Mohr



Upcoming Classes and Events

**Bishop Brent School
Classes – On Saturday,
January 16th and 30th from**

9:30 am to 2:30 pm Pastor Barbara will be teaching a class on Theology II. This course will cover:

- Sacramental theology
- Baptismal covenant
- Eucharistic theology
- Worship and prayer
- And will address the question(s): What do you believe? What difference does it make? How does theology help you?

To register for the course (for credit) contact Deacon Jerry Hilfiker, Dean of the Bishop Brent School at hilfikergerald@gmail.com or 941-5695. Parishioners are welcome to sit in at no charge, but will need to alert Pastor Barbara that they'll be attending so she can have enough materials available.

Patronal Feast Day Brunch – On Sunday, January 17th at 11:15 am, we will once again enjoy a pot-luck feast on our St. Peter's Patronal Feast Day. If history repeats itself, we will have wonderful food and fellowship as we rejoice in celebrating our parish identity. All ages are welcome and encouraged to participate.



Martin Luther King Day Event – The youth (grades 2th through 8th +) of the Eastern Erie Deanery are planning a Martin Luther King Day

worship. It will take place at **Calvary Church, Williamsville at 7 pm on January 18th**, Martin Luther King Day. Young people from St. Peter's Church have been part of the planning at this event. The worship will be about 30 minutes long. Please put it on your calendars and plan on stopping in for ½ hour at Calvary on the 18th to show your support and encouragement for our parish youth and the young people of the Deanery.

Deanery Vestry Training Day – All Vestry members and Wardens, on-going and newly elected, are invited to a special event. On **Saturday, February 20th from 2 pm – 5 pm at St. Paul's, Harris Hill**, there will be a training day with about six different workshops. More information will follow, but please mark your calendars now.

Opportunities for Lenten Study –
1. What is a Bishop and what does a Bishop have to do with us? - The Bishop's Election Committee of the Diocese of Western New York invites all parishes to participate in a Lenten study about the role of the bishop in a diocese and to discuss questions about our own parish and diocesan identities and relationship with a bishop. **This study will be offered twice on the five Sundays of Lent: from 9:00 to 9:45 after the 8 o'clock service and from 11:30 to 12:15 after the 10 o'clock service.**

It is appropriate for older youth (5th grade and up) and adults. Study materials have been provided for us so even if you're unable to



attend, you can request reading material to take home.

Dreams, journaling, and drawing closer to God – We originally tried to hold this intergenerational event on a Saturday morning, but there were too many conflicts, mostly with sports. So we're going to try offering an evening program. **On Friday, March 5th at 5:30 pm we will have a simple supper (pizza, subs, kid-friendly food, etc.) followed by talking about various ways of keeping a journal (for dreams, etc.) and actually making our own journals.** Young people are especially welcome. We will probably break into two groups: (1) studying 'regular' journaling; (2) talking about dreams. Everyone will have an opportunity to make his/her very own journal book to take home.



H1N1 Vaccine

H1N1 vaccination recommendations have recently been expanded to include all persons six months of age and older with or without underlying medical conditions. Please see the attached text reminding you to register to receive H1N1 vaccine if you have not already done so.

The registration process has been streamlined; call 1-800-KIDSHOT (1-800-543-7468) to register.

Save the Environment

John Frantz is recycling pop cans and adding some funds to the renovation project. In 2009 He collected \$600 in return deposits, an anonymous donor added a matching \$600. Thanks John. 2010 can deposits will go to the outdoor landscaping fund. John is also the driving force behind the paper recycling bin.

Our next endeavor will be to help dispose of some of those items that say "DISPOSE OF PROPERLY". We do not want to become a hazardous waste dump but we plan to help on a small scale.

Compact fluorescent lamps, that are designed to replace incandescent lamps in your light fixtures, contain mercury. Batteries also contain hazardous chemicals. These items should not be put in your daily garbage and they are not easily disposed of properly. We will collect them at Church and dispose of them properly. **Please do not bring car batteries or other hazardous waste.** For more information contact Ed Hill.

Ed Hill

Souper Bowl of Caring

On February 7th, Super Bowl Sunday, everyone is to bring a can of soup or give a \$1.00 to be given to the University Presbyterian Food Pantry. Churches in the Amherst/Eggertsville are all participating in this day of caring.



GoodSearch.com

The snow is snowing and the wind is blowing so we are spending more time on our computers. Are you using Goodsearch as your search engine and helping St.

Peter's earn a few pennies when you do? We made over \$50 last year, let's try for \$100 in 2010.

"Pennies can add up to dollars."

Green & Yellow Recycle Bin

It may be a little hard to get to the "Green Monster" due to the winter weather but your recycled newspapers, old magazines, junk mail, and shredded paper are always welcome. Shredded paper is the only thing allowed in a plastic bag. This too provides some added income.

Altar Flowers

Mary Lou Matthews asks that when you sign up for Altar flowers, please notify her at 835-0528 as well. She is not always able to get to church in the winter to check the Flower Chart in the Narthex.

During Lent when we don't have flowers on the altar, you can make a donation to the St. Peter's Memorial Garden Fund in memory of a loved one or as a thanksgiving.

Thank you...

Jane Cushman playing the flute at the Christmas Eve service

Taube family for the Christmas tree

Everyone who helped with decorating for Christmas

Everyone who baked cookies for Cookie Sunday

Everyone who assisted with the Kim Greene Sages reception

Missing Communion Set

We are still missing a home communion kit. If you are a person who visits nursing homes, or who does home communions,

please check your home and/or car. If you looked once, look again because this was a kit given to Pastor Barbara and has special meaning to her. We need to get this returned to her.



Pastor Barbara

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your very generous donation to the University Presbyterian Church Food Pantry. Your gift of 10 bags of food, and wonderful afghans, hats and mittens will help provide food and hope to the more than 150 families in our community who are served each month at our food pantry.

We are very grateful for your caring and your support. Thank you for helping us to make our neighbors' lives a little better.

Sincerely,
The Volunteers of the UPC Food Pantry

Mother Teresa's Final Analysis



I have found support and help in these words of wisdom from Mother Teresa. The title of this work is "Mother Teresa's Final Analysis." May God's peace be with you in the New Year.....

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered;

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies;

Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and sincere, people may deceive you;

Be honest and sincere anyway.

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight;

Create anyway.

If you find happiness, some may be jealous;

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today will often be forgotten.

Do good anyway.

Give the best you have, and it may never be enough.

Give the best anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God;

It was never between you and them anyway.



St. Peter's Episcopal Church As of December 31, 2009

Operating Account

| RECEIPTS YTD | Actual |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Plate & Pledge | 71,401.32 |
| Liturgical & Outreach & Special | 17,092.35 |
| Memorials | 1,256.00 |
| Other | 2,124.91 |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS | <u>\$91,874.58</u> |

| DISBURSEMENTS YTD | Actual |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Building & Grounds | \$6,028.09 |
| Clergy | 40,103.34 |
| Memorial Expense | 1,061.91 |
| Operations | 12,061.42 |
| Outreach | 13,600.13 |
| Personnel/Payroll tax/Payroll | |
| Service | 8,128.30 |
| Utilities | 10,278.69 |
| TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS | <u>\$91,261.88</u> |

St Peter's Account Balances 12/31/09

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| First Niagara - Checking | \$308.34 |
| Capital Funds YTD | \$20,276.49 |
| Lillian Shandraw Educational Fund | \$301.50 |
| Money Market - Savings | \$14,569.95 |
| Interest & Deposit | \$3,169.44 |
| Withdraw | -\$424.00 |
| Total 12/31/09 | <u>\$17,315.39</u> |

| | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| 1,275.17 | Meath Memorial |
| 47.64 | Farley Memorial |
| 400.00 | Frantz Memorial |
| 251.05 | Walgate Memorial |
| 59.15 | Wellness Ministry |
| 14,867.38 | Renovation Fund |
| 107.00 | Summer Camp |
| 79.00 | Theological Ed. |
| 193.00 | Parish Nurse |
| 16.00 | Music Fund |
| 20.00 | UTO |

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Money Market - Checking 12/31/09 | \$375.95 |
| J2A Pilgrimage Fund 12/31/09 | \$450.25 |
| Mission & Ministry 12/31/09 | \$294.72 |
| Columbarium Fund 12/31/09 | \$3,517.63 |
| Morningstar Ministries 12/31/09 | \$2,810.65 |

Prayers of the People

We remember all the servicemen and women in the Middle East, especially those known to us: William, Jessie, Christopher, Anthony, Blake, Matt, Paul, Bryan, Jack, AJ, Greg, Ray G, John, James and Dustin.



We pray for victims of all ages of every country whose lives have been permanently changed by the emotional, spiritual and physical injuries of war,, including those at Walter Reed Army Hospital and other VA facilities and their caregivers. And we pray for all countries being torn apart by war and violence especially Iraq, Afghanistan, the Congo, Sudan, Thailand, India, Israel, and Gaza.

We pray for all whose needs are in the Prayer Box and for all those who suffer from MRSA, flu and other infectious diseases.



1/01 Susan Gunn
1/01 Daniel Peden
1/03 Melissa Lopat
1/06 Janet Guarino
1/06 Thomas Tripp
1/07 Kelly Baumgartner
1/07 Mary Morris
1/10 Gregg Palmer
1/15 Dylan Guarino
1/20 Carolyn Bongj
1/21 Tracey Harding
1/23 John Frantz
1/23 Nicholas Palmer
1/24 Michael Baumgartner
1/24 John Guzda
1/24 Robert Martin
1/29 Victoria Paradise
1/30 Elizabeth Huffman

January 2010 prayer list:

Long Term: Fred H., Leigh, Kelly, Arlene L, Valerie, Sarah and family, Darlene, Jim, Dianne and Olin, Dennis, Jim & Mary M., Gary, Ulyssa, Norman, Deborah, Nina B, Millie, Eric, Lee Mc, Donnalyn, Jody, Patrick C, Brenda and family, RJ, Pam and Eric, Scott, Adel, Jean C, Lisa, Sue and family, Bill B, Douglas, Lauren, Brandon G, Mindy, Colleen and Judy M.

Short Term: John F, Monica, Father Joe and Linda, Mary, Luke, Steve F, Sue K., Cathy R., Harlan C, Bea, Wilma, Angela, Eugene B, Jean Z, Joyce, Kaitlin, Arthur, Danielle, Melissa, Rick and Sandy, Jim S, Ron S, Frank and Barb, Dylan, Isabel & Marnie, Adam, Dave and Peggy, Steve and family, Win, Megan, Sister Jeanne, Elysse & Elijah and family and Theresa.

Servicemen: William, Jessie, Christopher, Anthony, Bryan, Jack, AJ, Greg, Ray G, John, Dustin, Billy, Aaron and Danny.

Anniversaries

1/17 Mr. & Mrs. Daniel McGovern
1/23 Rev. & Mrs. Thomas Tripp

