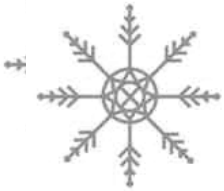


# The Rock

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

January 2011



## Pastor's Desk



I suppose I say this every year, but where has this past year gone? This is my favorite time of the year. I love the stretch from Thanksgiving through Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup> ("Twelfth Night"). I give up watching what I eat during those two months – maybe that has something to do with it. But it's way more than just that....

For me, this is a time of renewal and hope for the future that rivals springtime – especially in Western New York. I think it has to do with the fact that this is the time of year when we as a society acknowledge that it's a good thing to be thankful and to share with one another and with those in need. Of course, the consumer-driven industries do all they can to pervert those healthy human attributes into greed and lust. But overall, there's more evidence of the appropriateness of at least *trying* to have an "attitude of gratitude" during these holidays than most of the rest of the year. This hymn from our *Hymnal 1982* (#250) sums it up for me:

*Now greet the swiftly changing year with joy  
and penitence sincere;  
Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace another  
year of grace.*



*For Jesus came to wage sin's war; this Name  
of names for us he bore;  
Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace another  
year of grace.*

*His love abundant far exceeds the volume of a  
whole year's needs;  
Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace another  
year of grace.*

*With such a Lord to lead our way in hazard and  
prosperity,  
What need we fear in earth or space in this  
new year of grace?*

*"All glory be to God on high and peace on  
earth," the angels cry;  
Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace another  
year of grace.*

I pray that each one of us may resolve to be more thankful in the New Year and to give (and receive) the gift of love with one another the whole year through. Happy New Year!

Pastor Barbara





## My Thoughts

Zacchaeus Today Part 2

Last month in Part 1 we met Zacchaeus, a worker bee with Internal Revenue.

He bought a home on Transit Road with a proud sycamore tree out front. He had a variable rate mortgage that seemed always to spiral upwards. A very famous Man visited Buffalo and spent the night in Zacchaeus house. He tried to find a way to pay his mortgage from the Man.

Unfortunately Zacchaeus was not able to acquire enough wisdom from the Man before he departed so his mortgage went into default, property seized and sold to a developer at a profit to the broker. Sprawl spread north up Transit from the Eastern Hills Mall. Homes and fields were bought up, turned into commercial lots. A large book store chain had interest in Zacchaeus lot, signing a lease with the developer. Huge tax incentives were provided by the town of Amherst in turn for a 5 year lease. The house was leveled and sycamore tree cut down as a 20,000 sq foot book store was built.

The store was very successful but corporate management was very greedy seeking even greater profits. The larger the profit, the larger the bonus for the CEO. The Clarence Town Board was approached. In return for huge tax breaks the book store chain was willing to build a 25,000 square foot store across the street from the store in Amherst in return for a 5 year lease. Slightly larger store in Clarence thrived and the older Amherst store was vacant.

Many years went by as commerce spread through the farms in Clarence. One day, the commercial hub was in Attica while the now old stores in Transit were abandoned. Some windows were boarded up, others shattered by vandals. Buildings crumbled, fires were set. Urban decay spread on Transit Road. People with vision thought the city could be resurrected. New housing was erected in Buffalo's Fruit Belt. Traffic in the City was much less than in 2010. The Old Peace Bridge finally fell into the Niagara River and since the second Peace Bridge was still being planned,

Canadian traffic was non-existent. Likewise, the Skyway crumbled. The steel from the Peace Bridge and Skyway was stored on the waterfront at a site called Bass Pro. No one could recall how it got that name. History proved the new farmlands, parkways and revitalized apartments in the old downtown area of Buffalo were successful, why not here in the Amherst?

Old buildings were converted into attractive condos. Smaller stores selling fresh fruit and vegetables from the farms in Buffalo were opened. Eggertsville was revitalized! One day a man named Matthew, great grandson of Zacchaeus also a worker bee with the IRS bought a lot on Longmeadow. He built a new house and did extensive landscaping, finishing by planting the first sycamore tree Amherst had seen in 100 years. He became the Senior Warden of the new St. Peter's Episcopal Church, now home to 500 families.

*Paul Schwartzmyer*



## Souper Bowl of Caring (Year 2)



The Super Bowl (NFL Style) is rapidly approaching, and we at St. Peter's will again join other churches from the Eggertsville-Snyder area in collecting and donating cans of soup to the University Presbyterian Food Pantry. We would all be part of a national project called ***The Souper Bowl of Caring***.

As we decided last year, we will attempt to parallel the real Super Bowl contest between the AFC Champion and the NFC Champion. We will begin accepting canned soup on **Sunday, January 30**, and conclude the drive on **Sunday, February 6**, the actual day the Super Bowl is played.

We encourage all parishioners to donate cans in the following manner:

**\*Chicken-based soups if you root for the NFC representative**

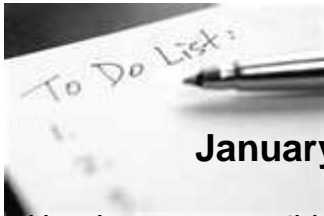
**\*Beef-based soups if you root for the AFC representative**

**\* *Any other type of soup if you are undecided or couldn't care less***

This will be a great way to feed the poor and hungry in the new year, and have a little fun along the way.

Peace and Blessings,

*Deacon Tom*



## January To Do List

Here's a new monthly feature for The Rock: a to-do list of parish (very) short-term goals and objectives. Here's a list for January – (maybe there's more to add, but this is all I could think of – PB).

1. Complete the sanctuary renovation project:
  - build the shelf behind the altar for the candles and flowers – Ed Hill
  - hang the perpetual candle (the red glass candle holder and candle that hangs over the aumbrie – that box on the back wall of the sanctuary where the reserved sacrament is stored) – also called the vigil light or sanctuary lamp – Ed Hill
  - get the credence table – Carma Miccoli
  - install the projection screen and build the enclosure box – Steve Paradise and Ed Hill
  - service the organ pipes – Ed Hill
  - prepare the cushions for the benches and altar rail – Carolyn Bongji

**If you'd like to help with any of these projects, please contact Ed Hill, Carma Miccoli, Carolyn Bongji, or**

**Steve Paradise as indicated above.**

We know that there are talented and able folks who might put up their hand to be of assistance to finish things up.

2. Begin the Narthex refurbishing project. This involves making the Narthex (the entrance of the church) more "user friendly" for children and newcomers. Betty Peters and Kristie Payne are shepherding this work. If you'd like to help them out, please speak with them. They will be asking certain people to "volunteer." ☺
3. Clean the Rector's office. Pastor Barbara is going to do this and (he doesn't know it till he reads it here...) she's going to "volunteer" her husband, Al, to help.
4. Clean the closets and shelves in the parish office. Pastor Barbara would welcome help with this project.
5. If YOU see a project that needs doing, suggest it to Pastor Barbara for February's "to-do" list.



## New Sound System

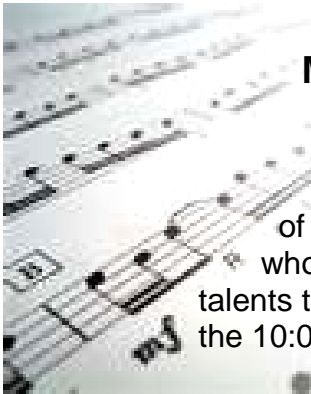
Small children who are tired of sitting and being quiet, can now retreat with their parent to the narthex (front entrance of the church) or the nursery. We have installed new speakers so the church service can be heard in both areas. We will have soft toys, coloring books, crayons, etc. in the narthex to keep the little ones busy when not in the nursery. There will be a rocking chair in the narthex so babies can be rocked or fed. The narthex space is still a work in progress but it should be fully equipped and functioning by the end of January.

If your children have outgrown their toys, consider donating them to the nursery. We

could use toy dishes and plastic food items for the children's kitchen in the nursery. Boys can never have enough cars and trucks. Please make sure all toy donations are in good condition and age appropriate for the nursery.



The **Altar Guild** is looking for volunteers, men or women. Why not start the New Year off right by joining the Altar Guild? There is no pay but the benefit of serving your church behind the scenes is priceless. On the job training will be provided. If interested, contact **Karen Miller**.



## Musicians Wanted

I am recruiting musicians of all ages and ability levels who are interested in using their talents to "make a joyful sound" at the 10:00 service on January 30. All who enjoying playing an instrument are welcome and encouraged to participate. Since I have to arrange instrumental parts, please contact me immediately. All parts will be distributed in advance so participants will have time to learn their parts at home. We will also have a rehearsal after church on January 23. Please talk to me after church or contact me at [seas.mus@gmail.com](mailto:seas.mus@gmail.com) or 912-1160. Sheila E. Schascheck

## Bottle Update

John Frantz turns in all the empty pop bottles, beer cans and water bottles we bring in. He even goes around his neighborhood on garbage day to collect bottles thrown in the recycle bins. He has asked his neighbors to give him their bottles for our church. He suggests you can do the same.



John reports that in 2009 we raised \$600 and in 2010 we raised \$825. So keep those empty bottles and cans coming to church. Let's try to earn \$1000 in 2011. All the money goes into the Memorial Garden Fund.

## Renovation Phase II Complete

Following several delays due to conflicts with organ pipes, the window and cross installation are done, completing Phase II of the renovation of St. Peter's Worship space. The interference with the organ pipes required the roof to be raised which extended the project from 3 weeks to 3 months. This delay caused me, and I'm sure many parishioners much angst. This project took a great deal of effort from many people. Whenever I needed assistance there were many people lining up to help. The Renovation Committee was there from Phase I and crews were needed for many of the following tasks:



- Removal and reinstallation of the organ pipes
- Cleaning
- Pew removal and installation
- Floor removal
- Sand and varnish the altar rail
- Organ screen installation
- Meeting with contractors when I had conflicts

I hate to list names for fear I will forget someone but here goes in no particular

order of importance because they are all important: Richard Arquette, Bill Bates, Kathy Bates, Carolyn Bongi, Sheila Schascheck, John Frantz, Tom Halterman. Merrie Hill, John Lopat, Robert Kapchan, Carma Miccolli, Jerry Mohr, Steve Paradise, Kristie Payne, Becky Peiffer, Betty Peters, Al Price, Damon Piatov, Mike Taube and Tom Tripp. Thank you to all the parishioners who endured many months of displacement and dirt. I would also like to thank Pastor Barbara for her patience and prayers for a “speedy renovation”. Most of all I would like to thank my wife Sharon for her support who I think heard one too many times “ I have to run over to church for a half hour” only to return 5 hours later. This project was a total Parish effort **Thank You All** again.

Ed Hill

**Thursday Evenings at St. Peter’s** –Each Thursday evening, we will have an hour of **Contemplative Prayer from 5 pm to 6 pm.** For the first forty minutes the group will focus on the spiritual journey, including how Christ speaks to us through Scripture through *lectio divina*. The hour ends with twenty minutes of

Centering Prayer – praying together in silence. You do not need to come to every gathering, nor do you need to have been a participant in the Contemplative Prayer gatherings that have been taking place this autumn. Come when you are able – even once a month is fine.

From **6:30 pm to about 8 or 8:30 pm an Education for Ministry class (EFM)** will be offered. (See separate article for more information about EFM). Those wishing to participate in both should bring a bag supper.

### **Special Events –**

Throughout the month of January parishioners are asked to take advantage of the January “white sales” and/or end-of-year closet cleaning to bring in linens for the Threads of Hope Linen Pantry. We’re calling this the **“January White Out.”** All the churches in the Eggertsville/Snyder Ministerial Association are participating.

There will be a special program honoring **Martin Luther King on January 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at St. Peter’s.** This is being sponsored by the youth of the Eastern and Central Erie Deaneries. Donations of gently used winter coats and food for our food pantry will be collected at that time.

On **Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 to 3 pm** St. Peter’s will host a conversation about **The Anglican Covenant: What is the Anglican Communion? What is the Episcopal Church? How do they fit together? What is the Anglican Covenant?** This conversation is



### **What’s Coming Up?**

#### **Third Tuesdays at St. Peter’s – The Dreams and Spirituality**

group continues. You do not have to come every month (though be warned – its’ addictive!), nor do you have to have been a participant in previous gatherings. All are welcome. We share our dreams and consider how God is speaking to us and bringing us to greater awareness and wholeness in our lives, particularly through our dreams.

#### **Wednesday Evenings at St. Peter’s –**

There is a weekly service of **Evening Prayer and Healing at 7 pm.** This Healing Service affords worshippers a spacious period of time to participate in prayers for healing of themselves and others. Again, you do not have to come every week – come once a month or once a quarter, or when special healing prayers are needed. Our Order of St. Luke folks are ready to provide love and support whenever and wherever they are needed.

open to all congregations and clergy in the Deanery.

Finally, **February 6<sup>th</sup>** will be our **Annual Meeting at 11am and Souper Bowl Sunday**. Stay tuned for further details.



**The Taube family** for the Christmas tree in the narthex.

**Jane Cushman** for playing the flute and to **Sarah Hardy and Pastor Barbara** for their musical offerings throughout the year.

**All of the hand chimers and singers** who participated on Christmas Eve and for the Bishop's Visitation. A special thank you goes out to **Megan Fiutek** for assisting with the handchime choir.

**Betty Peters** and **Carma Miccoli** for cleaning the church and the choir loft for Christmas.

**Kathy Bates, Betty Peters, Carma Miccoli** for organizing the Cookie Sunday and reception for the confirmands and Bishop Garrison.

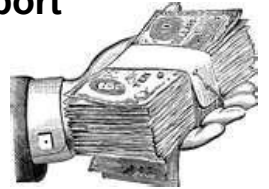
**Everyone who baked** the cookies that we all enjoyed on Cookie Sunday and the following Sunday.

**Ed Hill and Tom Tripp** for putting up the pew crosses, **Carma Miccoli** for putting on the greenery and **Tom Tripp** for adding the candles.

**Everyone** who helped in some way to make the church festive for the Christmas season.

**Ed Hill** for all his work in overseeing the renovation project. We can't thank him enough for all his many days, weeks, and months of work on this project.

## Treasure's Report



### St. Peter's Episcopal Church As of December 31, 2010

#### Operating Account

RECEIPTS YTD	Actual
Plate & Pledge	75,952.09
Liturgical & Outreach & Special	28,926.10
Memorials	1,060.00
Other	2,090.14
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b><u>\$108,028.33</u></b>

DISBURSEMENTS YTD	Actual
Building & Grounds	\$6,645.52
Clergy	52,059.14
Memorial Expense	1,032.86
Operations	17,427.09
Outreach	14,042.33
Personnel/Payroll tax/Payroll	8,760.88
Service	
Utilities	8,529.40
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b><u>\$108,497.22</u></b>

#### St Peter's Account Balances 12/31/10

<b>First Niagara - Checking</b>	<b>\$87.35</b>
<b>Capital Funds YTD</b>	<b>\$23,309.80</b>
<b>Money Market - Savings</b>	<b>\$9,452.28</b>
Interest & Deposit	\$9,446.49
<b>Withdraw</b>	<b>-\$2,663.00</b>
<b>Total 12/31/10</b>	<b><u>\$16,235.77</u></b>

300.42	Continuing Ed.
1,210.17	Meath Memorial
251.05	Walgate Memorial
59.15	Wellness Ministry
8,615.70	Renovation Fund,
356.00	Summer Camp
201.47	Parish Nurse
239.50	Music Fund
1,365.32	Memorial Garden
918.99	Insurance Settlement
107.00	Order St. Luke
2600.00	Misc. items
11.00	UTO

<b>Money Market - Checking</b>	<b>12/31/10</b>	<b>\$276.33</b>
<b>Lillian Shandraw Fund</b>	<b>12/31/10</b>	<b>\$401.50</b>
<b>J2A Pilgrimage Fund</b>	<b>12/31/10</b>	<b>\$450.65</b>
<b>Mission &amp; Ministry</b>	<b>12/31/10</b>	<b>\$841.08</b>
<b>Columbarium Fund</b>	<b>12/31/10</b>	<b>\$3,539.77</b>
<b>Morningstar Ministries</b>	<b>12/31/10</b>	<b>\$3,394.91</b>





## Prayers of the People

### Long Term List:

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

### Short Term List:

Judy B., Art, Kimberly D., Richard H., William, David, Lilly R., Alexander S., Eposito, Tom, Anna, Yolanda, Dave & Jane, Wanda, EJ and Justin, Cathy D., Michael, Tom, Betty J., Dennis, Patrick W., Sue A. and family, Diane B., Verdis, Linda S., Makayla, Josh and Patricia, Kay, Richard, Debbie, Ange, Josephine and family, Jeanette, Theresa M., Jan, Paul R., Talisa, Alex L, Rev. Phil., Mary Lou M., Joan, Mary Lou C., Tim, Ron B., Fr. John, Fred, Bill M., & Tom H.

### Service men:

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



## Birthdays



01/01 Susan Gunn  
 01/01 Daniel Peden  
 01/03 Melissa Lopat  
 01/06 Janet Guarino  
 01/06 Thomas Tripp  
 01/07 Kelly Baumgartner  
 01/07 Mary Morris  
 01/09 Violet Hill  
 01/10 Gregg Palmer  
 01/15 Dylan Guarino  
 01/15 Cathlyn Haggerty  
 01/20 Carolyn Bongi  
 01/21 Donald Banks  
 01/23 John Frantz  
 01/23 Nicholas Palmer  
 01/24 John Guzda  
 01/29 Victoria Paradise  
 01/30 Elizabeth Huffman



## Anniversaries

01/17 Mr. & Mrs. Daniel McGovern  
 01/23 Rev. & Mrs. Thomas Tripp

## 45 Lessons of Life

"To celebrate growing older, I once wrote the 45 lessons life taught me. My odometer rolled over to 90 in August.

1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next small step.
3. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
4. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and parents will. Stay in touch.
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
8. It's OK to get angry with God. He can take it.
9. Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.
10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
11. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
12. It's OK to let your children see you cry.
13. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.
15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks.
16. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
17. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
18. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
19. It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.
20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.
21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special.
22. Over prepare, then go with the flow.

23. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
24. The most important sex organ is the brain.
25. No one is in charge of your happiness but you.
26. Frame every so-called disaster with these words 'In five years, will this matter?'
27. Always choose life.
28. Forgive everyone everything.
29. What other people think of you is none of your business.
30. Time heals almost everything. Give time time.
31. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
32. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
33. Believe in miracles.
34. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.
35. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
36. Growing old beats the alternative -- dying young.
37. Your children get only one childhood.
38. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
41. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
42. The best is yet to come...
43. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
44. Yield.
45. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift

*Regina Brett, Cleveland Ohio*

