

THE ROCK

St. Peter's Episcopal Church – Est. 1954

March 2010

Pastor's Desk



Throughout this Lenten season and Holy Week there are several special events and services planned. Throughout Lent there is Bible Study every Sunday at 9 am and a mid-week service of healing and Holy Communion on Wednesdays at 7 pm. Here are the details about additional services and events:

On **Sunday, March 14th at the 10 am service**, our **Rite 13** youth will be presenting the Gospel and 'sermon' in the form of a **skit**.

On **Friday, March 26th at 6 pm** we will have a **simple meal** – cheese pizza and salad. This will be **followed by an intergenerational "Stations of the Cross."** This is suitable for late elementary school age and older young people and adults. The service will follow the meal, lasting about ½ hour.

Sunday, March 28th is Palm Sunday. Our processional at the 10 am service will start downstairs in the undercroft.

Wednesday, March 31st at 7 pm we continue our mid-week service of healing and Holy Eucharist.

Thursday, April 1st at 7 pm is our **Maundy Thursday** service, followed by a **prayer vigil from 8 to 9 pm**.

Friday, April 2nd at 7 pm is our **Good Friday Liturgy**, followed by a **prayer vigil from 8 to 9 pm**. The vigil on Good Friday is especially intended for anyone who has ever suffered the loss of relationship, particularly a child (of any age). Come, like St. Mary, to the foot of the Cross; be present in your grief with Jesus and the gathered community of the faithful.

Saturday, April 3rd at 10 am there is a simple service for **Holy Saturday**, followed by the **decorating of the church** for Easter Sunday.

Sunday, April 4th at 8 am and 10 am we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.

Please mark your calendars and try to participate as much as you are able in these events in which the faith community gathers to study, worship, and pray. May you continue to observe a Holy Lent.





Get to Know Me

I was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania. I lived right in the city. My father was a glass blower who started a neon sign shop in our basement. I was the first grandchild who spent a lot of time with my

grandparents. They would take me with them often. My parents were very economical especially as my father had started his own business. The dresses my sisters and I wore were made by my mother. By the time my last sister was born, she didn't have to wear homemade dresses, our father's business had taken off and now we got store made dresses, but who do you think had to iron all of them? Me!

When I was in high school, I got an early release on a daily basis and I would work with my grandfather at his grocery store. He was losing his sight and some customers would take advantage of this. During the depression, an item like chicken noodle soup was expensive so they would tell him they had tomato soup which was considerably cheaper instead. I met my husband to-be in high school. After we were married, we moved to Buffalo to find work. He got hired at a baking company. When our youngest child was 10 months old. I got a job with the Chronic Disease Institute which eventually became part of U.B.'s medical school. My husband worked nights and I worked days, so we had no need of a babysitter or daycare. My husband retired early but I kept working. I eventually retired after more than 30 years as a supervisor in bookkeeping.

I have 2 children, 6 grand children and 5 great-grand children. Before my husband passed he loved to go to the raceway. He had a truly wonderful

memory and could keep track of all the races once I read him the program. Now I live a very comfortable life in a senior complex run by the Mennonites'. My daughter keeps daily track of me, my sister comes to stay with me during the holidays and my brother and I are close.

Lillian Sitek

(She faithfully attends the 8:00 service.)

Biggest Winner Update

17 people have joined the group. We have had 2 meetings and a diabetes educator for week 2. Some members are participating without the meetings, but they can connect via our Yahoo web site. Thank you to Sarah Hardy for setting this up. We're able to chat and share ideas during the week. Our total weight reduction has reached 40 lbs. Think of it, that's a heavy load. Carolyn Bongi will lead a meditation during our Sunday meeting on week 5, March 6th. We've planned a Yoga class at St Peter's on Monday, March 22, 6:30 pm. It's free and open to all. You don't have to be a Biggest Winner member to attend. Hania Burkhardt, Registered Nurse and certified Yoga instructor will lead us. Bring a mat or Beach towel and wear comfortable clothes. It's not too late to join.

Call Lois Tripp, 839-5868 or e-mail ljt203@yahoo.com. Shalom,

Lois



My Thoughts

All the purple in Church on Feb 21 made me think how this winter has been a long lead up the Lent for me. The cold dry air has messed my sinuses and breathing and cracked the skin on my fingers. While the arthritis in my knees has affected what I do in the gym. For me, Lent began with the first snowfall! Pastor Barbara started her sermon with the words "Who is glad to be here in Church today?" Well I sure was. Dry air, pain in my knees but I was alive right? As Bruce Stark used to say "It's a great day when you wake up and your feet hit the floor." Even though I had to leave right after the sermon so I could open the Pharmacy on time, I was glad to be in church because I needed to be there and I needed inspiration for this thought. Merrie sent out an e-mail reminder on Feb 19th, with the Rock deadline and I had nothing in mind. Come on God, plant a seed in my mind! Also I needed to find a Lenten discipline.

Pastor continued with her teaching sermon & asked us to open the Book of Common Prayer to page 857. "Q. What are the sacraments?" Oh I know this, ummmm, give me a minute and I can name them all. What is this? What are we reading? Catechism! Yea I read that when I was confirmed in the 50's and I should know this right? It's right there tucked away in the BCP, Catechism, the Church's teachings are spelled right out for us all to read. Right there in the BCP, long ago forgotten by me, and I bet a few others. As Lent proceeds we will be treated to more teaching sermons on the sacraments. Be there. Oh, and God, thanks for the inspiration on this article and for getting me to study the catechism as a Lenten devotion. I will study it.

Paul Schwartzmyer



Friendship Partnership Update

Our new **Friendship Partnership** with Journey's End Refugee Services has begun in earnest. This second venture consists of collaboration between St. Peter's, Calvary, St. Patrick's, All Saints, and St. Aidan's, with the heads of the Partnership Committees being chosen. Volunteers from St. Peter's include Ed & Sharon Hill, Kristie Payne, Robert Kapshun, and Jane Cushman.

The **Free Will Offering** held on Feb. 21 contributed \$334.00 to the partnership pool for rent and food purchases. If you missed the donation for any reason you may still do so. Just mark an envelope with the words **Deanery Friendship Partnership** and send it in. Checks should also be made out to the same name as above.

We can still use help in the following areas:

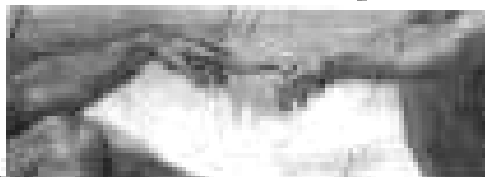
- Airport Greeting
- First meal
- Pickup & Transport of donated items
- Apartment Setup
- Transportation to appointments.

If you are interested in serving in any of these areas, please contact me soon. If you cannot contribute money or time, please pray that our efforts are successful in building a caring reception for our yet-unknown family. God has chosen them for us to care for already, and we need to pray for their safety as well.

Peace and Blessings,

Deacon Tom

The Season of Lent



**Remember man thou art dust
and to dust thou shalt return.**

ECS Drive begins



The **Episcopal Community Services** (ECS) drive has begun throughout the WNY diocese, and will continue until Palm

Sunday. You will be sent a pledge card. **If you mail it back to the Diocese, also send your donation to the Diocese.** Instead, you may use your ECS monthly envelopes included with your box of pledge envelopes. Please give what you can.

I had the distinct pleasure of visiting all fourteen (14) agencies supported by ECS throughout February for a related project, and was both dismayed and elated.

I was dismayed by the tremendous amount of need to attend to in Western New York. From the homeless people in rural Genesee County to those in Olean; from the teens in crisis in Niagara Co. to those in the City of Buffalo; from counter-punching poverty in Perry to that same fight in Dunkirk- the needs are vast and non-discriminatory.

The “working poor” is a new demographic that has reared its head in all corners of WNY and appears to be growing in these harsh economic times. I was dismayed at the scope of need.

Elation, however, comes with knowing that these 14 agencies are “fighting the good fight” to alleviate these real problems. Yet- they continue to require monetary assistance in running their programs. In times of such political and governmental inadequacy in taking care of our needy, we should rejoice in knowing there are such agencies carrying on that fight. Many were started by faith-based groups, or are supported by them.

By giving to ECS, you can be assured that your dollars are doing God’s work for our WNY neighbors- our brothers and sisters. Your donations will cover a wide range of



needs in a wide area of service- bigger bang for the buck!

Please give what you can to ECS. In doing so, you contribute so much to the community of God’s children.

See myself or Merrie Hill (our parish’s ECS representative) if you have any questions.

Deacon Tom

God Is Speaking

The Women's Spirituality Group has met for some time now on the third Thursday of each month in Pastor Barbara's office. Besides sharing laughter and prayer, we share our dreams for interpretation. Some dreams are prompts from the sub-conscious reminding us to do something which we have been avoiding. Others may reflect our search for identity as we pass through life's stages. Sometimes our dreams are actually messages from God. At our last meeting



I shared a dream which the group felt was such a message and I have been asked share it with you.

The setting of the dream was the Tae Kwon Do studio that my younger son, Jeremy, manages in Orchard Park. As the dream progressed, one evening a tall, dark gentleman of Middle Eastern descent came to the studio. Jer welcomed him. The man asked if he could observe the classes. He and Jer sat together and the man asked questions as he watched the group. Jer explained to him that Tae Kwon Do promotes the importance of courtesy and respect. The students learn self control, cooperation and how to set and achieve goals. The benefits are: better focus and concentration, physical fitness and commitment (not giving up when faced with challenges).

He additionally explained, while Tae Kwon Do is seen as an aggressive sport, that does not mean that the combatants can be aggressive. Protection is worn so that the participants do not injure nor be injured. The students do not





compete to hurt their opponents but to test their strength both mentally and physically. They improve with training to ultimately attain

harmony with nature and themselves. They also will learn the value of ethics. Ethics are the difference between good and evil.

The man commented on the students. He noticed some were children and some were adults. Jer commented the classes are comprised of both young and old. They were a cross-section of varied economic religious beliefs and circumstances. They learn to work together with respect and understanding.

The gentleman returned several times to watch. One evening he and Jer were talking together again. He turned to Jeremy with tears in his eyes as he explained in his quiet, polite way, that he is a Muslim. He said he is heartsick that a fanatical wing of his faith is being fed a diet of hatred and scorn for all Christians. The hatred is based on a distortion of Allah's teachings. Promises of fictionalized rewards in the afterlife are made to promote the destruction of Christian societies. These falsehoods have bred zealots who are willing to kill for glory. This has promoted fear, mistrust, and hatred on the part of many Christians toward those of the Muslim faith.

At the end of the dream, the man thanked Jer for his kindness. He said he wished that this religious conflict could be settled through the ideals of Tae Kwon Do: ethics, courtesy and respect, etc. Each party would draw upon his skills to resolve the conflict. No fear, no hatred, no bloodshed, no death, just respect and harmony.

I feel God is asking us to cast aside our suspicions and fears. These negative feelings, combined with ignorance, breed hatred. Hatred is a destructive emotion (and an exhausting one, too!) We should strive to be more Christ-like.

If we do not banish the negativity in our treatment of others, we will allow these black emotions to turn our society into a bleak, cold, loveless entity.



Compassion and understanding will shrivel and die.

We are instructed in Colossians 3:15 to "clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness and patience. Bear with each other and whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you". Isn't this a good time to start ?

Betty Peters



Souper Bowl of Caring

The parishioners of St. Peter's came through once again on Super Bowl Sunday as they contributed \$50 and 90 cans of soup to an effort by the Eggertsville-Snyder group of churches . The beneficiary of the collaborative drive was the University Presbyterian Food Pantry.

The breakdown of soup cans (if anyone was interested) came out like this:

- AFC Colts (beef stock) - 47
- NFC Saints (chicken stock) - 22
- Undecided/Apathetic (vegetable stock)- 21
- Nobody will accuse our church of being Nostradamus -based .

Here is a breakdown of what was collected by St. Peter's Episcopal, Crossroads Lutheran, St. Paul's Lutheran, and Amherst Community Church. Together we collected 467 cans of soup;

- 228 chicken (Saints),
- 85 beef (Colts)
- 154 vegetarian (Undecided /pathetic).

In addition a total of \$512 was collected. This was greatly appreciated by the University Presbyterian Food Pantry.

Thank you for participating.

Deacon Tom

Sunday School News



The children noticed that we had started the season of Lent with an addition to our altar.

There was a grapevine wreath, wrapped with a purple ribbon on it. In the wreath are three nails, and in the center of the wreath there is a purple candle. What did it all mean? We had some great guesses. The grapevine wreath represents the crown of thorns worn by Jesus. The three nails represent how he was hung on the cross. The color purple was worn in ancient days by royalty. Who is more royal than Jesus? The candle represents the eternal life of Jesus. What simple symbols to represent such a great person, and an easy way for us all to remember Jesus, especially during this season of Lent.

During Lent, we like to meet as a whole Sunday school. We have group lessons and activities to learn about the importance of this season. The first week we focused on prayer. For the second year in a row, we made pretzels to remind us to pray. This has become a favorite activity for our kids and teachers. The congregation gets to enjoy them too for coffee hour. Due to the popularity of this activity, we have decided to make pretzel making an annual event.

The second week of Lent found us making heart mobiles. On the first heart, the kids wrote Love. On the second heart, they wrote Is. On the third heart, they could write a word describing what love can be. Here are a few that they wrote. Love Is Kind, Love Is Forgiveness, and Love is Fun. What is love to you?

Keep a look out for our third week in Lent's activity. We will find out what our children think the recipe for peace should be!

Alison Mohr

Finding the Abundant Life ...As stewards of God's creation

As a member of the Parish Nurse Ministries of New York, Inc, I would like to invite you to attend our Ecumenical conference at Christ the King Seminary. It will be held on April 24, 2010, 8 am-2:45 pm. It's called, "Finding the Abundant Life... As Stewards of God's Creation". Many of you will be interested following our Creation season this past fall. Deacon Tom will give the opening prayer.

The presentation will cover the teachings of St. Francis of Assisi and other Franciscan scholars on creation and God's relationship with creation. It will also focus on the science of Ecology to further define creation as we understand it today. I would love to fill a table with St. Peter's congregation. The price includes breakfast, lunch and conference materials.

Please read the brochure which is on our web page (StPetersAmherst.net) and consider attending. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me via e-mail, ljt203@.com.

Shalom,

*Lois Tripp, CRNI
PNMNY, Inc*



Everyone who brought in soup or gave a donation to the Souper Bowl.

Ed Hill for making the soup, **Betty Peters**, and **Carma Miccoli**, for distributing it and to all **the people** who delivered the soup on Sunday.

Ruth Graesser for suggesting it and **Pastor Barbara** for successfully writing a \$500 grant to the Clarence Business and Professional Women for the Threads of Hope Linen Pantry.

Tom Halterman for preparing the monthly calendar.

Our schedulers: **Dorothy Talbot** (ushers), **Karen Miller** (Altar Guild & Linen Pantry workers), **Kristy Payne** (Visitor's Inc.) **Merrie Hill** (Lay Ministers Schedule) and **Pastor Barbara** (Calendar & Events) **Kathy Bates** for making coffee each Sunday.



The Rock Electronically

This is the age of computer technology.

If you don't pick up your Rock newsletter, it is mailed to you. You can look on St. Peter's web site (StPetersAmherst.net) and click on Newsletter and see/print a copy of The Rock. One person has already told me he would prefer to receive his Rock in that format. If that is your preference or you want to stop receiving The Rock, please let me know. My email is mmhill5@verizon.net.

Merrie Hill

The Teacher

Behold a Teacher went forth to teach,
 Some two thousand years ago,
 Before the age of the telegraph,
 The car or the radio.
 He had no books or magazines,
 And held no scholastic degree
 But men still ponder the things He taught
 By the waters of Galilee

He didn't teach that the world was round,
 That water was H₂O,
 The 4th dimension He didn't expound,
 In Jerusalem and Jerico.
 But His soul was moved by the urge to break
 All fetters and make men free,
 So He gave the best that He had to give,
 By the waters of Galilee.

Men know full well that the earth is round,
 That water is H₂O, The 4th dimension has lost its
 kick, But there is much that they do not know.

For it's not mechanics that
 old world needs, But rather
 to make men free—More
 Teachers to teach as the
 Master taught. By the waters
 of Galilee.



St. Peter's Episcopal Church As of February 28, 2010

Operating Account

RECEIPTS YTD

Plate & Pledge	Actual
Liturgical & Outreach & Special	13,886.02
Memorials	4,041.73
Other	105.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	495.78
	<u>\$18,528.53</u>

DISBURSEMENTS YTD

Building & Grounds	Actual
Clergy	\$1,792.59
Memorial Expense	8,729.15
Operations	114.15
Outreach	2,873.63
Personnel/Payroll tax/Payroll Service	2,474.73
Utilities	1,414.39
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	1,632.95
	<u>\$19,031.59</u>

St Peter's Account Balances 2/28/10

First Niagara - Checking	
Capital Funds YTD	\$624.73
Lillian Shandraw Educational Fund	\$3,188.23
	\$401.50
Money Market - Savings	
Interest & Deposit	\$19,678.39
Withdraw	\$1,680.23
Total 2/28/10	-\$904.17
	<u>\$20,454.45</u>

1,275.17	Meath Memorial
251.05	Walgate Memorial
59.15	Wellness Ministry
17,325.61	Renovation Fund
107.00	Summer Camp
79.00	Theological Ed.
136.47	Parish Nurse
16.00	Music Fund
20.00	UTO
1,185.00	Memorial Garden

Money Market - Checking 2/28/10	
J2A Pilgrimage Fund 2/28/10	
Mission & Ministry 2/28/10	\$255.50
Columbarium Fund 2/28/10	\$450.25
Morningstar Ministries 2/28/10	\$324.00
	\$3,517.63
	\$6,224.68



Prayers of the People



We remember all the servicemen and women in the Middle East, especially those known to us: William, Jessie, Anthony, Bryan, Jack, AJ, Greg, Ray G, John, Dustin, Billy, Aaron, Danny, Dominic, Nathaniel and Christopher.

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.

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, Millie & Sig W, 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, Rick , Jim S, Ron Strong, Colleen, Megan & Judy M.

Short Term:

Sister Jeanne, Elysse & Elijah and family, Theresa (Terry), Laurie , Pat, Cheryl K., Carey, Marty, Jennifer, Jeremy P, Louise, Thomas, Kevin R, John M, Ann M, Ruth and Gary.



Birthdays

03/01 Karen Miller
03/06 Annabel Paradise
03/10 Michele Hill
03/18 Greg Lavis
03/22 Bruce Hamilton
03/23 Alexandria Levett
03/29 Ginny Hemmer

Anniverseries

3/19 Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hill

