



# The Rock



St. Peter's Episcopal Church- Est. 1954

March 2011



## From the Pastor's Desk

We're about to begin another season of Lent. Here are some commonly asked questions about this church season



### Why are we marked with Ashes on Ash Wednesday?

In times gone by, people wore clothes made of sacks and ashes on their heads to show they were sorry for something they had done. The ashes of Ash Wednesday remind us about growing closer to God. These ashes come from the burnt palms we carry on Palm Sunday.

### Why do we use purple in the church for Lent?

Purple was the color of kings in the olden days; it is also the color for penance (being sorry for what we've done wrong). Purple helps us focus on the life of Jesus, the King of Kings and to remember to try to do better and love God more deeply.

### Why does Lent last forty days?

Forty was a number used in the Bible for many important events, for example: the great flood with Noah and the Ark; the people of Israel in the desert with Moses leaving Egypt for the Promised Land; and Jesus' time in the wilderness before beginning his public ministry. We use the forty days of Lent to search our hearts and to work on changing our ways to be more who Jesus is calling us to be. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Maundy Thursday, and we don't count the Sundays as Lent because we celebrate the resurrection every Sunday. Taking out those days, Lent equals forty days.

### Why do we "give up" things during Lent?

We give things up during Lent to practice controlling our desires and to learn to think of others first and what God wants for us. We can give things up, like gossiping, and we can do more, like helping our neighbors.

### Why don't we say "alleluia" during Lent?

The word "alleluia" is a Hebrew word meaning "praise God." It is associated with joy and festivity. We "put away" all alleluias during Lent as we reflect on the last days of Jesus' life, and his crucifixion and death. During the Easter season, we sing and pray many alleluias as we celebrate our new life in Christ, our Savior and Lord.<sup>1</sup>

### A Lenten Blessing

*May you have a holy Lent.*

*May you be strengthened in your faith..*

*May you be a bit kinder, more loving, and more prayerful.*

*May you find ways to help others, and to care for yourself.*

*May the blessing of God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit –*

*Be with you throughout Lent and always.*

<sup>1</sup> From Daughters of St. Paul, 2004



## Souper Bowl 2011 Results



For the second year in a row, the parishioners of St. Peter's accurately predicted the winner of the NFL Super Bowl contest. WE collected 28 cans of soup for the Green Bay Packers, and 17 for the Pittsburgh Steelers. Green Bay won the actual game by a score of 31-25.

Of course, there were also 18 cans collected in the "I Don't Care:" category, giving apathy towards the star-studded event a slight edge over the Steelers as well.

Along with the three other churches in the Eggertsville-Snyder area, we managed to collect 207 cans of soup, and \$372- all of which was delivered to the University Presbyterian Food Pantry shortly after the game.

Souper Bowl of caring, the parent organization and sponsor of the event, has raised over \$76 million in soup and donations to local charities in its 20 years of existence.

Thank you to all who participated. The food pantry was in need of all our attention, and most grateful for the efforts.

*Deacon Tom*

\* \* \* \* \*

## A Relaxing Prayer

*Lord, help me to relax.*

*Take from me the tension that makes peace impossible*

*Take from me the fears that do not allow me to venture.*

*Take from me the worries that blind my sight.*

*Take from me the distress that hides Your joy.*

*Help me to know that I am with You, that I am in Your care,*

*That I am in Your love, that You and I are one.*



*The Joyful Newsletter*

## Eastern Deanery helps Refugees



The Eastern Deanery rides again, and comes to the aid of refugees!

On Friday, Jan. 28, members of the Eastern Erie Deanery came to the aid of Haptom Mumur from Eritrea. Haptom was hired by the Diocese (through JERS employment I might add) to be their sexton for the new Diocesan Ministry center on Brighton Rd. Haptom, his wife, and 3 year old daughter moved into the former rectory there that Friday. Preceding the move, however, several partnership people brought furniture, linens, houseware items, and various odds and ends to supply the WNY newcomers with needed items. Carol Lynn and Dennis Grzywna supplied some furniture items stored at St. Patrick's, and Carma Miccoli from St. Peter's gathered up and helped deliver a multitude of items from the parish's linen pantry. We then took a tour of the new diocesan facilities.

A week later (Feb. 4), the same crew helped JERS out in a semi-emergency situation by doing much of the same for a family of 5 from Burma, who were just recently reunited with each other. We managed to almost clean out our storage facility at St. Patrick's of furniture, and supplied them with an ample amount of linens and houseware items to give them a good start.

Many thanks to Dennis, Carol Lynn, and Carma for contributing personally to these back-to-back efforts, but also to all of you congregants who may have contributed a year ago. It really is a gift that keeps giving. Pass the word on to your parishioners and thank them for their contributions to a second chance for refugees.

Peace and Blessings,  
*Deacon Tom Tripp*





## BIBLE STUDY

Beginning on the first Sunday of April, April 3rd, we will be offering an hour-long Bible study after church. This study will be interpreted for the deaf, and will take place on every FIRST SUNDAY thereafter. ALL are welcome.



We need an archivist - someone who will put all our parish event photos in albums and/or picture frames. They're all organized in one place - just need labeling and sorting. Are you available to work on this project???



## ICE-In Case of Emergency

If you were in church on February 27th, you received an Emergency contact form. Please fill those out today and bring them to church on March 6th, if you did not hand them in yet. More forms are available and will be on the Narthex table. Please write in more than one contact, in case we can't locate your primary person.

Why do we need those completed and returned? We may not know who you would like us to contact, if you should become ill. If we need to call an ambulance, what are your allergies, which hospital do you wish to be transported to? Do you have a Health Care Proxy? Do you have special instructions for the first responders?

We want to be your advocate. Please take personal responsibility for yourself and your family. I hope we never have to use the information! **Remember all information is confidential.**

Shalom, meaning- wholeness, health, peace, welfare, safety, soundness, tranquility, prosperity, perfectness, fullness, rest, harmony, the absence of agitation or discord. My wish for you.



*Lois Tripp, Parish Nurse*

## Upcoming Health Care Programs

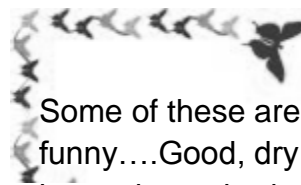


We hope to have a speaker from the Kidney Foundation on Sunday, March 20th. The call has been placed and we are waiting for confirmation. More details soon.

In May, a three week series will be offered regarding the NYS Health Care Proxy, Five Wishes and the MOLST form. (**MOLST** is an acronym for Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment). The proposed dates are May 15, and the 22nd. This is a very important series. Who will speak for you when you can't? Plan to attend.

If you have any questions prior to this series, see me. I have lots of information and would be more than happy to help.

Looking forward to Spring-  
*Lois Tripp, Parish Nurse*



## Church Signs

Some of these are not only fun, but really funny....Good, dry humor Christian Churches have always had a way with words.

1. There are some questions that can't be answered by Google
2. Down in the Mouth? Come in for a faith lift.
3. All services are different. We leave the repeats to TV
4. As you pass this little church, be sure to plan a visit, so when at last you're carried in, God won't ask "Who is it?"
5. Can't sleep? Don't count sleep. Talk to the Shepherd.
6. Speak well of your enemies. After all, you made them.
7. Let us help you study for your final exams.
8. Almost 2000 years old and still under the maker's guarantee.
9. God is perfect...Only man makes mistakes.
10. Adam blamed Eve. Eve blamed the snake and the snake didn't have a leg to stand on.

*Submitted by Philip Gardner*



March

TO DO LIST

*Many, many thanks to all who helped achieve the short-term goals set forth for February, especially, Al Price, and Pastor Barbara for the work on*

*the Rector's office.*

Here's a list for March –

1. Complete the sanctuary renovation project:
  - prepare the cushions for the benches and altar rail – Carolyn Bongi
  - work out the seating arrangements for the servers/clergy – Renovation Committee
2. Continue the Narthex refurbishing project. This involves making the Narthex (the entrance area 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. Continue cleaning the closets and shelves throughout the church, including the ambulatory. Thank you to those who have volunteered to help – all that remains is scheduling a work day. Pastor Barbara will be coordinating the time.
4. Get our Capital Campaign finalized and approved by the Vestry; including the “Tree of Life” for the narthex. Merrie Hill, Jane Cushman, Richard Arquette, Kristie Payne and Pastor Barbara are working on this.
5. Either in March or April we'll be putting together a work crew to get the pews out of the choir loft and level the floor upstairs. John Lopat, Warden, is the coordinator.
6. If YOU see a project that needs doing, suggest it to Pastor Barbara for April's “to-do” list.



## Lenten Study Opportunities

### Leading Whole and Holy Lives

Our five-week Lenten study will be offered on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm. immediately following our mid-week Healing Service. The Healing Service will begin at 6:45, rather than the usual 7 pm start-time, to accommodate time for the class. (Thank you to our OSL members for being flexible). Here's the schedule:

1. **Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> – 7 pm – Ash Wednesday Service (also at 10 am that day)**
2. **Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> – 6:45 Stations of the Cross – 7:30 – 8:30 pm Class**
3. **Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> – 6:45 Healing Service – 7:30 – 8:30 pm Class**
4. **Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> – 6:45 Healing Service – 7:30 – 8:30pm Class**
5. **Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> – 6:45 Healing Service – 7:30 – 8:30 pm Class**
6. **Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> – 6:45 Healing Service – 7:30 – 8:30 pm Class**

Our Lenten study will address ways that we go about living whole and holy lives. We will incorporate principals of 12-Step spirituality, Ignatian spirituality, and healthy systems (how to avoid triangulation, overfunctioning, underfunctioning, the scapegoat mechanism, etc.). Teaching handouts will be provided at each class – no book purchase is necessary.

You may be able to participate from 6:45 through 8:30, or maybe you can only come to the Healing Service or the class. We invite everyone to participate as



fully as they are able. Class materials will be suitable for older teenagers and adults.

### Exploring Celtic Spirituality

You've probably heard of it – you may even believe you participate in it – but just what *is* Celtic spirituality? On Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup> (a Soup Sunday) from 12:30 to 2 pm we will explore the life of the early Church in Britain, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland. This should be fun and is appropriate for Rite 13 young people and adults.

### The Story of Jerusalem

The story of Jerusalem is complex: both glorious and tragic. From 12:00 to 1:00 pm on April 10<sup>th</sup> we'll watch a DVD from the History Channel on the story of Jerusalem, especially as it relates to the city that Jesus would have known. Some of the images may be disturbing to younger children, but older elementary through adults should find it interesting. Maybe we'll order pizza or make popcorn.

### **What Keeps You Going?**

Happiness keeps you sweet.  
Trials keep you strong.  
Sorrows keep you human.  
Failures keep you humble.  
Success keeps you glowing.  
But only God keeps you going.

### **Church Directory Changes**

Has your address, telephone number or email address changed? If so, please let Bill Bates know. The parish records and directory can only be correct if you provide Bill with the latest information.

### **To Realize the Value**

To realize the value of a brother/sister:  
Ask someone who doesn't have one.

To realize the value of ten years:  
Ask a newly divorced couple.

To realize the value of four years:  
Ask a graduate.

To realize the value of one year:  
Ask a student who has failed a final exam.

To realize the value of nine months:  
Ask a mother who gave birth to a stillborn

To realize the value of one month:  
Ask a mother who has given birth to a premature baby.

To realize the value of one week:  
Ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of one minute:  
Ask a person who has missed the train, bus or plane.

To realize the value of one second:  
Ask a person who has survived an accident.

To realize the value of a friend or family member:  
LOSE ONE.

Treasure every moment you have.  
You will treasure it even more when you can share it with someone special.  
**Hold on tight to the ones you love!**

*Origin of this letter unknown*



**Thanks**  
to.....

**Peter Ramos** for providing drum accompaniment and to all of the Contemporary Music Group **singers** for their musical offering in February.

**Steve Paradise** for setting up the computer and screen and for projecting the words for a new hymn.

**Sue Gunn and Missi Lopat** for organizing the J2A Baked Sale.

**Everyone** who baked and bought baked goods from the J2A group. They made \$176 towards their trip this summer.

**Tom Halterman** for securing a grant to assist in getting more efficient lighting in the Undercroft.

**Deacon Tom** for organizing Souper Bowl Sunday.

**Everyone** who has signed up for Coffee Hour. If you haven't signed up, there are still Sundays available.

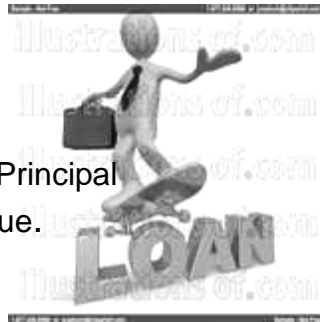


**John Frantz, Jerry Mohr, Kathy Bates, and Carma Miccoli** for their work after the undercroft flooded this week.  
**Mike Taube** for his help in arranging to have a new

sump pump installed before the rains come again.

### Loan Update

\$33,000	Balance owed
<u>- 3,000</u>	February paid on Principal
\$30,000	Current balance due.



## Treasurer's Report

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



Operating Account

<b>RECEIPTS YTD</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Plate & Pledge	12,130.90
Liturgical & Outreach & Special	1,242.52
Memorials	175.00
Other	3,980.08
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b><u>\$17,528.50</u></b>

<b>DISBURSEMENTS YTD</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Building & Grounds	\$1,825.70
Clergy	8,031.00
Memorial Expense	175.00
Operations	2,759.89
Outreach	2,550.00
Personnel/Payroll tax/Payroll	
Service	1,428.08
Utilities	1,914.45
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b><u>\$18,684.12</u></b>

**St Peter's Account Balances  
2/28/11**

<b>First Niagara - Checking</b>	<b>\$61.46</b>
<b>Capital Funds YTD</b>	<b>\$4,165.94</b>
<b>Money Market - Savings</b>	<b>\$7,462.11</b>
Interest & Deposit	\$3,294.44
<b>Withdraw</b>	<b>-\$3,000.00</b>
<b>Total 2/28/11</b>	<b><u>\$7,565.55</u></b>

300.42	Continuing Ed.
1,210.17	Meath Memorial
251.05	Walgate Memorial
3,370.00	Sitek Memorial
59.15	Wellness Ministry
152.47	Renovation/CF
356.00	Summer Camp
201.47	Parish Nurse
239.50	Music Fund
1,415.32	Memorial Garden
154.00	Order St. Luke
11.00	UTO
36.00	Theo .Ed.



<b>Money Market - Checking</b>	<b>2/28/11</b>	<b>\$260.46</b>
<b>Lillian Shandraw Ed. Fund</b>	<b>2/28 /11</b>	<b>\$501.50</b>
<b>J2A Pilgrimage Fund</b>	<b>2/28/11</b>	<b>\$626.65</b>
<b>Mission &amp; Ministry</b>	<b>2/28/11</b>	<b>\$601.25</b>
<b>Columbarium Fund</b>	<b>2/28/11</b>	<b>\$3,540.22</b>
<b>Morningstar Ministries</b>	<b>2/28/11</b>	<b>\$6,605.08</b>



## Prayers of the People

**Long term:** 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, Barb & Frank, Shirley, Dorothy, Wesley C., Warren, Caleb, Jim R, Art, Jacque D, Betty J., Chelsea and family.

**Short term:** Judy B, Kimberly D, Richard H, William, David, Lilly R, Alexander S, Eposito, Tom, Anna, Yolanda, Dave & Jane, Wanda, EJ and Justin, Cathy D, Michael, Tom, Dennis, Patrick W, Sue Allen and family, Diane B, Verdis T, Linda S, Josh and Patricia, Kay, Richard, Debbie, Ange, Josephine and family, Theresa M, Jan, Paul R and Reidun, Talisa, Rev. Phil, Mary Lou M, Joan, Mary Lou C., Tim, Ron B, Fr. John Russell, Fred, Bill M, Tom H., Phoebe, Mark B, Alison M, Nicole, Ned, Joshua, Edwin M., Kirk, Dave F., Ruth, Missi, Steve H, Teresa,, Darlene S, Lynda H., Michael, Joan A, Walter, Robert C, Donvan, Rich and Ruth.

**Armed Forces:** William, Jessie, Jack, AJ, Greg, Ray G, Christopher, John, Dustin, Nathaniel, Vinnie D, Gene S, Fred C & Ricky.

Please remember that March is a *pruning* month for our list. This means that both the long term and short term list need to be updated. If the name is on long term, please let me know that it needs to stay there and it will be read the second Sunday of each month, on healing Sunday and also on Wednesday nights at the healing service. The short term names older than 3 months will be automatically eliminated unless you request they be moved to the long term list. Judy B to Diane B will be removed in the next couple of weeks if I do not heard that they need to remain on our list.

Thank you and please remember to tell Pastor Barbara or me when you have prayers of thanksgiving as well.

God Bless!  
Sue Gunn



### Birthdays

- ★ 3/01 Karen Miller
- 3/06 Anabel Paradise
- 3/10 Michelle Hill
- 3/18 Greg Lavis
- 3/22 Bruce Hamilton
- 3/23 Alexandria Lavett
- 3/29 Ginny Hemmer
- 3/30 Quinn Hagerity



### Anniversaries

- 3/15 Mr. and Mrs. Glynn Matthews
- 3/19 Mr. & Mrs. Edward Hill



Remember to turn your clocks ahead 1 hour on Saturday before you go to bed.

