

THE



ROCK

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Est. 1954

September 2011

Pastor's Desk

Welcome back to the chaos and rush of September. In some ways, the Church functions on an academic year-everything gears back up in September after a (theoretically) quiet and restful summer.

However, no one would think of singing "Summertime, and the livin' is easy" in relation to life at St. Peter's over the past few months. We have had our undercroft completely redone due to the aftermath of damage from flooding: new drywall, cove molding, and a fresh paint job, as well as new carpeting up the stairs. Phase Three of the renovation project is finally completed: refinished pews, refinishing flooring, new carpeting, and the nave and narthex repainted. As if all that weren't enough, we had a successful Lawn Sale, parish retreat, picnic, and Blessing of the Backpacks. Whew!

This autumn is bringing a new list of upcoming events for our edification and enjoyment. There are a few that I want to highlight.

1. **A Service for Peace and Remembrance on 9/11 at 4pm.** This service is being sponsored by the Eggertsville/Snyder Clergy Association and is open to the public of all faiths. Come and bring a friend.
2. **Acolyte Training.** Several young people are now of an age to begin serving on the altar, and some adults have also indicated their desire to serve. Training sessions will take place on Sunday, September 11th and 25th from 11:30 to 12:30 pm.



3. **Chime Choir.** Our Chime Choir resumes playing during worship once a month.

The rehearsals are September 18th and 25th from 11:30 to 12:30 pm, with the first Sunday playing in church on October 2nd.

4. **Days of Formation.** The Diocese is offering three days of formation on Thursday, September 29th, Friday, September 30th, and Saturday, October 1st. Two-hour programs on a variety of topics will be offered throughout the day and evening. You can come for one, or come for several, all three days or just one day. Pastor Barbara will be offering two of the programs: Thursday, 2-4 pm "Dream a Little Dream With Me" and Friday, 2-4 pm "Mary and Martha: Finding Balance in your life." Flyers and registration information are available at St. Peter's or through the Diocese.

5. **Blessing of the Animals.** On Sunday, October 2nd at 2 pm, St. Peter's will host the Eggertsville/Snyder Clergy Association's "Blessing of the Animals." All pets and their owners are welcome. This Sunday also marks the beginning of Creation Season at St. Peter's our Harvest Altar on November 20th.

6. **Financial Wellness Seminar.** Looking ahead, on Saturday, October 22nd we will offer a program on Financial Wellness. This is for those looking to establish a legacy, for those wanting to prepare for their children's college education, for those looking forward to

retirement. More details will follow but for now, save 5 pm on October 22nd if you're interested. In addition to all of the above, our 'regular' programming resumes in September.

- ** Dreams and Spirituality-Third Tuesday of every month at 7 pm (sharing of dreams and finding God's voice through our dreams)
- ** The Contemplative Journey-4:45 to 6 pm every Thursday (about the Journey from the 'false self' to the 'true self')
- ** Education for Ministry- Every Thursday at 6:15 pm (see Diana Leiker for details)



Mission Day- October 30

In a sermon earlier this summer, I spoke of our congregation doing Mission, and said we would be planning a "Mission Day" in September. Due to a September and early October SATURATED with activities, Pastor Barbara has decided to conduct it on October 30 instead.

Our Mission & Outreach Committee will be meeting soon to develop the program for that day- one that includes a survey of what we already do, along with the possibility of new opportunities. I believe Pastor Barbara will devote her sermon to Mission that day, and we intend to involve the Sunday school in the procedures as well.

I'm writing now to have you "save the date" and attend our presentation. Now that our church "insides" are in much better shape through our re-modeling efforts, we need to take a closer look at what we do for the "outside".

Please make every effort to attend church on October 30. God will smile.
Peace & Blessings,

Deacon Tom



What I Did on My Summer



I.... babysat the grandkids...played golf.....vacationed at Keuka Lake.....played golf.....babysat.....checked construction progress....prayed.....played golf.....checked construction progress.....delivered linens.....prayed.....watered the flowers.....checked construction.....babysat.....helped refugees.....played golf...checked construction.....

The point is- summer is over and our autumn work begins. That work includes sponsoring another refugee family in conjunction with Journey's End Refugee Services, and with other parishes within our Eastern Erie Deanery. We call it a Friendship Partnership.

Please consider helping out in the following ways:

- A) By lending your time to the collection or move-in efforts
- B) By donating household items and furniture (not beds however)
- C) By donating money to a free will offering for food, clothing, etc.
- D) All the above

There will be more detailed information presented in future Rocks. Get Ready!
Peace & Blessings,

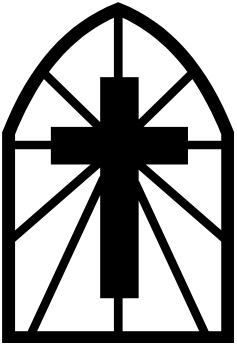
Deacon Tom



Sunday School

The number of infants and toddlers have increased.

As a result, we will have them separated into the two groups beginning September 4th. Sunday School for school age children will begin September 25th.



A View from the Pew

As I write my thoughts, today was supposed to see the dedication of the Martin Luther King Memorial on the Washington Mall. This is a very impressive sculpture on the Tidal Basin, in line with the Jefferson and Lincoln

Monuments. Soon the 911 Memorial Museums will be dedicated.

Oddly after 10 years there is no permanent Memorial to the 3000 lost lives. Judy & I visited Ground Zero this summer but there is no convenient way to even see the construction. I thought that very strange and sad,

Recently a letter was published in the newspaper to one of the advice columnists about roadside memorials. That day, one of the local news stations carried a piece about vandalism to a memorial in the city. Driving west on the Youngman near Colvin is a long standing, very simple cross memorial to someone. It is tan colored so many of us don't notice it, but has been there for a long time. Driving east a newer memorial can be seen at the entrance from the south at Niagara Falls Blvd. This one stands out with multiple crosses and colors.

So what do you think of these roadside memorials?

Certainly a person can mourn the passing of a loved one, so yes a memorial has its place. So how long should it remain in place? A day, week, 6 months, a year? After awhile some of these, since that are not maintained, should be taken down by qualified State Road

Crews. It is unsafe for any of us to stop our car on that busy highway and straighten up a makeshift memorial. Yes, it is unsafe for any of us to build anything on that road. It's unsafe for us, and other drivers. Yet, someone died right there, at that very spot. Should we all remember that? Well I have no idea who died there, although I suspect the one at NFB was the accident with the motor cycles racing at a high rate of speed.

How long should memorials remain in place? I think perhaps a month. Grieving may not be over but a month is sufficient time for a temporary memorial. At that point plans should be in place for a more permanent one elsewhere.

Last fall a car got out of control, careened across St. Peter's lawn taking out the hand rail for our stairs. Fortunately the driver was not hurt, nor any Parishioners. What if the driver had been killed and a memorial erected on our lawn? As Christians we should honor the memory of the driver and the wishes of the family or whoever created the monument.

My thinking is a month would be long enough for a temporary monument. We have memorials all over our grounds in our trees planted in the memory of many people. Inside are small plaques signifying various memorials. Something like this would be more suitable for the long term. When Judy & I pass, our memorials will be the simple name plate in the Columbarium. I could choose to leave money to the Parish to purchase something needed, say a window. A small plaque next to it would suffice for me.

Paul Schwartzmyer





We Pray for Children

By Ina Hughes

We pray for children, who put chocolate fingers everywhere,
Who like to be tickled; who stomp in puddles and ruin their new pants,
Who sneak Popsicles before supper; who erase holes in math workbooks,
Who can never find their new shoes.

And we pray for those who stare at photographers from behind barbed wire,
Who can't bound down the street in new sneakers; who never "counted potatoes,"
Who are born in places we wouldn't be caught dead in.
Who never go to the circus; who live in an x-rated world.

We pray for children, who bring us sticky kisses and fistfuls of dandelions,
Who sleep with the cat and bury goldfish,
Who hug us in a hurry and forget their lunch money,
Who squeeze toothpaste all over the sink; who slurp their soup.

And we pray for those who never get dessert,
Who have no safe blanket to drag behind them?
Who can't find any bread to steal; who don't have any rooms to clean up,
Whose pictures aren't on anybody's dresser; whose monsters are real.



We pray for children, who spend all their allowance before Tuesday,
Who throw tantrums in the grocery store and pick at their food,
Who like ghost stories; who shove dirty clothes under the bed,
Who get visits from the tooth fairy,
Who don't like to be kissed in front of the carpool,
Who squirm in church and scream on the phone,
Whose tears we sometimes laugh at and whose smiles can make us cry.

And we pray for those whose nightmares come in the daytime,
Who will eat anything; who have never seen a dentist,
Who are never spoiled by anyone,
Who go to bed hungry and cry themselves to sleep,
Who live and move, but have no being.

We pray for children who want to be carried and for those who must,
For those we never give up on and for those who never get a second chance,
For those we smother,
And for those who will grab the hand of anybody kind enough to offer it.

We pray for children. Amen.

("We Pray for Children" 1995, William Morrow, publishers)

These were the prayers we used on Sunday, August 28th as part of the service for the Blessing of the Backpacks





Lawn Sale Update

The Lawn Sale did fine for a cloudy day with a noon time rain shower. The Linen Pantry will receive \$192.50, the Renovation Fund will get \$618.50.

The Lawn Sale is not meant to be a fund raiser. We are making ourselves know to the community. All we need to do is meet our expenses. If we make a profit, it is so much better.

A thank you goes to **Kristie Payne, Janet, Dylan, Brandon, Vinnie, Ricky and Rich Guarino** for all their efforts at the Lawn Sale. To **Carma Miccoli & Betty Peters**, (baked goods) **Maria Sanchez-Hill**, (face painting) **Karen Miller** (tickets), **Sharon Taube (J2A)**, **Pastor Barbara** (books) , **Sharon & Ed Hill** (food), **Ruth Palmer, Dylon Guarino** (dime pitch) and **Janet Guarino** (theme baskets). They all helped make the Lawn Sale run well.

A thank you also goes to everyone who helped set up, attended or cleaned up after the Lawn Sale.

Mark your calendars; the next Lawn Sale is August 4th, 2012. See you there.



Food Pantry

The Food Pantry at the University Presbyterian Church sent thank you notes this summer for the 16 bags of food donated by our church.

Dorothy Talbot says besides food, the pantry can use shampoo, soap, toilet paper, deodorant, and other personal care products.



New Beginnings

Since childhood, I have always thought of September as a new beginning. School will be starting, the season changing, and activities or responsibilities restarting.

The blood Pressure checks will restart on September 13th. Healing is done in church on the 2nd Sunday of the month, so we thought that this would be a good week to schedule the Blood Pressures. We got off schedule with the undercroft repairs, so I'm happy to restart. Please know that I will take your Blood Pressure any Sunday, if you would like a check, just ask.

If you hadn't heard, I've retired from my full time Nursing job at the Visiting Nursing Association and Pharmacy. I had worked there 18 years, and 26 total for Kaleida Health. I also look at this as a new beginning for me. I took the summer off, and have mellowed a bit. We've taken a couple vacations and I've enjoyed spending more time with my grandchildren. I do still love being a Nurse and hope to put more time into my Parish Nursing at St. Peter's, along with some per diem work here and there. I am open to where the Lord leads me and I know I won't be bored. Shalom,

Lois Tripp,
Parish Nurse



GETTING TO KNOW YOU



Until my interview with Lois Tripp, I hadn't fully realized the gifts that she has offered to us. Lois retired from 26 yrs. of nursing on July 1st. Three years ago she became

involved in our Health Care Ministry and is now our Faith Community Nurse. So what does that mean to us? It means that Lois assists us in regaining and maintaining wholeness of body, mind and spirit. Lois has coordinated health programs in the areas of flu vaccines, hospice, health care proxy, diabetes, biggest winner group and walk to Jerusalem. She is there to monitor our blood pressure and places information on our table and bulletin board, But Lois also assist us individually or by family. She's a health advocate in making health decisions, obtaining medical services, treatments and care facilities. She visits us as needed providing health counseling, education and spiritual help and support. She can refer us to the help we need and take us through the maze of medical jargon.

Lois, an Episcopalian from birth, has called St. Peter's home for almost 32 years. Lois and Deacon Tom have 3 kids and 3 grandkids. Two of her great joys are traveling and reading. Lois's dream for St. Peter's is that we continue to grow in God's love. Ask her any question and she will try to find the answer for you. But get to know the woman too. Lois is a warm, caring and friendly lady. We are blessed to call her friend.

Your Roving Reporter,
Becky Peiffer



To...

Jerry Mohr, John Lopat, Carma Miccoli, Tom Tripp, Robert Kapchan, Betty Peters, John Frantz Al Price, Merrie Hill, and Philip Reed for their help in the prep work for all the various renovation projects going on this summer in the church.

A huge thank you to Ed Hill who oversaw the entire renovation project to its completion ahead of schedule.

Carma Miccoli who supervised the repairs to the undercroft

The congregation for putting up with minor inconveniences at Sunday services this summer.

Kathy Bates, John and Missi Lopat, Pastor Barbara and everyone who made the delicious assortment of food dishes helped to make the parish picnic a success.

Carma Miccoli and Kathy Bates for setting up the reception after Cathy Reynold's memorial service.

Lois Tripp, Kathy Bates, Sharon Hill, Maria Sanchez-Clarke, Megan Fiutak, Merrie Hill and Ginny Hemmer who volunteered in the Nursery this summer.



Looking for God

Look **back** and thank God.
Look **forward** and trust God.
Look **around** and serve God.
Look **within** and find God!"

God closes doors no man can open and
God opens doors no man can close.

Washington Pilgrimage

Would you like to join us in Washington for a Pilgrimage?



The trip is from Friday October 7th to Monday October 10th. We will leave very early Friday, 7:00am, from St Peters and return Monday evening between 6-7pm. We will tour Gettysburg, the Cathedral, Holocaust museum and Arlington, as part of the tour. The cost is approximately \$500.00. This includes \$200 for the bus and approximately \$50 a night for lodging based on double occupancy. There is also a cost for some of the tours that we will pay for the group included. The estimated price figures \$150 for food on your own, however if you have a large appetite or enjoy purchasing souvenirs figure a bit more.

We have openings for adults from St. Peters, please consider joining us! Contact me or Pastor Barbara and a deposit of \$50 is needed to secure your spot.

Sue Gunn

Five Best Things To Say If You Get Caught Sleeping at Your Desk:



NUMBER 5: They told me at the Blood Bank this might happen.

NUMBER 4: 'This is just a 15 minute power nap they raved about in the time-management course you sent me to.

NUMBER 3: 'Whew! Guess I left the top off the White-out. You probably got here just in time!

NUMBER 2: Did you ever notice sound coming out of these keyboards when you put your ear down real close?

Number 1 and MY all time Favorite:

Best thing to say if you get caught sleeping at your desk:

(Raising your head slowly)
'...*in Jesus' name, Amen*

Visiting Nursing Association Flu & Pneumonia Clinic- Sunday, October 2nd



Please mark your calendars and support the Visiting Nurses Association Flu & Pneumonia clinic on Sunday October 2nd, 11am-2:30 pm.

The VNA is the only local non- for-profit agency providing flu and pneumonia vaccinations in WNY. All proceeds stay in WNY and benefit VNA Charity home care. (The VNA provides medical services for those less fortunate) As an RN and in my opinion, I recommend that an RN should give your immunizations. They are fully trained to screen the patient prior to the injection and to observe for any adverse effects. To be fair, I must admit that that I have been told by parishioners that their Pharmacists have done a good job with their injections. Please, no hard feelings from the Pharmacists out there! (I still stand by my experienced nurses recommendation ☺) We have the first date offered on the VNA clinic schedule this year. See you there.

The insurances accepted are Medicare Part B, Independent Health, Univera, Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Bring your insurance cards. Private pay cost is \$30. for the flu shot and \$45. for the Pneumonia shot. We do have a limited fund for those that are not insured and can't pay. Please speak or e-mail me prior to this date. We don't like to turn anyone away.

We will also have a Bake Sale and gift card auction as we did last year. Again any gift cards you're not using and would like to donate will be gladly accepted. Any Questions please call me at 839-5868, 870-2807 or e-mail ljt203@yahoo.com.

God Bless,

Lois Tripp,
Parish Nurse





Prayers of the People of St. Peter's

Long Term:

Leigh, Sarah and family, Darlene, Jim, Dianne and Olin, Jim & Mary M, Ulyssa, Norman, Eric, Donnalyn, Adel, Bill B, Lauren, Brandon G, Jean Z, Bea, Wilma, Harlan, Stanley B, Nancy, RJ, John W, Barb & Frank, Shirley, Dorothy, Jim R, Art, Jacque D, Kimberly D, Anna, Wanda, Patrick W, Josh, Kay, Richard, Debbie, Paul R and Reidun, Talisa, Joshua, Edwin M., Darlene S, Lynda H., Danielle, Dan, Lincoln,

Short Term:

Sue G, Richard H, Chris, Gloria S, Lance S, Tammy D, Areti, Mrs. D, Chris, Ruth D, Joanne H., Samatha, Suzanne H, Al S., Jason D, Suchyna family, Betty P, Lisa H, Lisa E, Linda B, Sheldon and Barbara, Carol, Ray K, Sue Curry, Mary J., and Phyllis

Service Men:

William, Jessie, Jack, AJ, Greg, Ray G, Christopher, John, Dustin, Nathaniel, Vinnie D, Gene S, Fred Cooper, Ricky, James, Michael V., Ashley, & Ken S.



Birthdays

9/01 John Lopat
9/03 Brandon Guarino
9/03 Linda Pike
9/07 Susan Curry
9/09 Roberta Haney
9/10 Ruth Palmer
9/13 Damon Piatov
9/14 Daniel McGovern
9/14 Simon Ramos
9/15 Dominic Passariella
9/17 Thomas Serafin
9/21 Ruth Graesser
9/21 Marilyn Schultz
9/21 Paul Schwartzmyer
9/22 William Toth
9/22 Rachael Wersinger
9/26 Angela Griffin
9/28 Jerry Mohr



Anniversaries

9/04 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Harding
9/06 Mr. & Mrs. David Passariella
9/09 Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Gardner
9/24 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schulze
9/24 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Taube

