

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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It's almost here ...

What comes to mind for you in reading or hearing "it's almost here;" what is it that's almost here? For some, what's almost here is school, or autumn, hunting season, voting, a birthday. Others might be reminded of an anniversary, a pending bill, surgery, or the ending of an illness. What is "almost here" in your life? Whatever it is, you are not alone. We live in an in-between time, the time between Jesus' ascension into heaven and his coming to the world again. Will it happen while we are alive ... or is that arrival centuries or a millennium away? We join the saints before us when we say, "Lord, come quickly!"

Scholars describe this living in an in-between time as living in the already and the not yet, and that is exactly what we are doing. Jesus has already died and been resurrected, already ascended to God and is still present to us. Jesus Christ has not yet come again. I wonder how we live in an in-between time. If we are preparing for a holiday, we plan for it: who will be here, or where will we go? Will there be food; what kind? What about gifts, places to sit, to sleep? In preparing for God incarnate to come again all of those holiday questions come into play. We have welcomed our Lord into our lives by the power of our baptism. We are preparing for Jesus – who happens also to be here already!

Who will be here? Jesus will be, and we will need to be present in body and spirit. Wherever we are is the perfect place to welcome Jesus.

Will there be food? Oh, yes, there will be food! There is spiritual food in worship and in the best meal ever, in a meal named Eucharist – which means thanksgiving – and in that meal we take Jesus Christ into our own bodies. The one who was a guest now lives within us. We become the thanksgiving that we proclaim.

And gifts? The best gifts show up: abundance and mercy and God for everyone; there is always enough. We present the gifts of our lives; we offer them to God, who makes them holy. There is always enough room at God's table.

Join us this fall at St. Peter's as we live into the mystery of our faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Amen!

Catherine+



Believe. Belong. Become.

Mission Statement

We strive to strengthen the faith of all people as we share the good news of Christ's unconditional love through prayer, study, worship and service – responding courageously and compassionately to the needs and hopes of the world around us.

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Running with the Angels

2016 is the third consecutive year of our fund-raiser 5k and 10k races. The 10k was added in the second year and will be offered again this year. What a fun day “race day” is! We begin our Sunday with race preparation, which includes our Sunday morning worship. Join us as we sing and pray and celebrate. Then we don our racing or walking clothes, lace up our sneakers, pin on our numbers, and off we go! We gather after the races for water and an abundance of food, for awards, and for great fellowship.

Thank you in advance to all of the volunteers who help along the way, and especially to our racing commission: Barbara Kowulich, Race Coordinator; Hazeldene Hercules, Wendell Hercules, Kathy Warner, and Dave Adams.

All are invited to participate in the entire day! Worship, walk, run, visit with the participants, enjoy the chicken barbecue and the sunshine. (Pray for sunshine!)

See you at the race!



Episcopal Church Home Women's Auxiliary

We meet once a month, on a Thursday for lunch. Sometimes it is just a quick business meeting, but usually we have very engaging speakers or take a little field trip. We have visited almost all of the ESLC communities, as well as the Memorial Art Gallery. We had people from Wild Wings bring us some exotic birds, we had a gentleman from Kittleberger's teach us flower arranging, we've learned about knitting, travel, genealogy and many other interesting topics. We over-see the Tip Top Shoppe and money that is earned from the shop is put back towards enriching the lives of our seniors. Dues are \$12.00 per year. For more information or to join the Auxiliary see Patty Gillett or Barb Kowulich. Our first meeting this year is September 8th at Valley Manor located on East Avenue at 11:30 AM.

Patty Gillett, membership chair and recording secretary

Social Ministries Update ***Social Ministries Commission – FALL 2016***

Habitat for Humanity – House Dedication Thurs. Sept. 1st

As this month's newsletter is being written, we are about to hold the dedication of Habitat's latest house on 57 Ries Street, in Rochester's Josanna Neighborhood. **The ceremony will be held at the house on Thursday, September 1st, beginning at 11am.** Our house will be handed over to its new owner, Mr. Robert Brown, and is **dedicated as a memorial to the late Roger Cross***. It was made possible through the support of the Harvest Home Coalition, of which St. Peter's is a member, and which also includes West Henrietta Baptist, Roger's home church.

The following information has been written by Flower City Habitat about this house's new owner. Here is a quote.

"The home will be purchased by Robert Brown. "Nothing less than a blessing," this is how Robert describes his partnership with Flower City Habitat for Humanity. He is a true example of someone that does not allow life circumstances to dictate how he lives his life. He lost a son to gun violence, and has suffered a life-changing injury. Through this, however, Robert has been able to use faith, and his trust in God, to strive for bettering his family.

Robert is the father of 8 children; 5 boys and 3 girls. His older children are grown and married, and he currently has custody of his two youngest sons. He has made it his goal to give them the best life that he possibly can. He feels that his purpose is to make a good life for his children, and to help them grow into good men. . . .

...Robert would like to thank everyone involved in this project for making his goals achievable, "You have given me an unbelievable gift. I am one of a very few people that can say that I have helped to build my own home. Thank you!"

Watch for a brief narrative with photos of the dedication in our next newsletter.

*Roger Cross was the founder of the Flower City Chapter of Habitat for Humanity here in Rochester. He did this after visiting the birthplace of Habitat for Humanity in Americus Georgia, and becoming a close friend of its founder, Millard Fuller. He was a long time member of West Henrietta Baptist Church.

Full Tummys Food Collection for RHAFT

There were 18 bags of food collected at St. Peter's and donated to RHAFT.

Among other non-perishable food items, RHAFT is in particular need of pasta sauce, cereal, and icing.

Next Meeting for Social Ministries: Our next scheduled meeting for the Social Ministries Commission will be held early this fall. The date and time will be announced.

Sincerely,
Britt Hopkin -- Chair

Ushers and Greeters



We have not had a very busy season this summer. We have temporarily lost Kris Cruz due to a back problem. Let's keep Kris in our thoughts and prayers. Now that most of your vacations are over, we can get back to a normal schedule. St. Peter's always welcomes additional ushers and greeters. Anyone interested, please contact me. I do the training and it is very easy.

Bob Shepherd, Chairperson of Ushers and Greeters

Memorial Garden



The Memorial Garden Commission has been busy. On June 4th, we held our annual garden cleanup and wish to thank the following: Harry Cooke, Jeanne Panek, Barb Kowulich, Ted Marston, John Dreher, and, yours truly, Bob Shepherd. We also thank the Building and Grounds team for the trimming of the bushes, Kathy Warner for beautifying the area around the signage in the front yard, and Jeanne Panek for the flowers in the flower boxes outside the Narthex.

I also wish to thank the Horton Family, John and Karen Hooper, Barb Kowulich and John Dreher for weeding the garden in these hot summer months.

At our spring meeting, we talked about the possibility of ordering a plaque with brass plates that lists the names of those whose ashes are interred or scattered in the memorial garden. Barb Kowulich is working on this project. Bricks that were sold during the spring and summer months have been taken to the engravers and will be ready sometime in September.

On August 28th we welcomed John Dreher to our commission. At our recent meeting, Bob showed the commission a 12"x12" paver stone that Ed Simon has donated. There are 19 of these paver stones in the shed and the commission talked about building a sidewalk from the Gazebo to the driveway. We will need volunteers to place the pavers; contact Bob if you can help.

Bob Shepherd, Chair of Memorial Garden Commission



Bible Study News



St. Peter's Bible Study will be starting up again on Thursday, September 15 at 7 PM (with bring-your-own supper at 6:30 PM). Building on the success of the Essential 100 Bible Readings, we will be using the *NRSV Daily Bible*. This Bible breaks the entire Old and New Testaments into 365 sections, complete with meditations, contemplations and prayers. (Maybe we should call it E365!) We'll plan to continue to meet on the first and third Thursday of the month and cover 5 readings each session. The first session will be a guided lesson – no reading needed beforehand.

If you would like to join us, either in person, on-line (through the St. Peter's Henrietta Bible Study Google Group) or in spirit, please plan to pick up your copy of the NRSV Daily Bible in Catherine's office.

Please plan to join us as we explore both well-trodden paths and roads less traveled in the Bible.

Dr. Carl D'Angio, Chair of Bible Study



Choir News

Believe it or not, September is here and summer is coming to an end! It is already time for music directors and ministers to start thinking ahead to the Advent season, and so I am hoping to have a bigger choir. Even from the choir loft, I hear many, many beautiful voices down in the congregation, and I would love to have more of you join me and the choir this coming season. There's no need to read music, I just want joyful voices that are willing to try their best! If you're interested in joining the choir, we meet before the church service at 9:00 AM. And, as always, if you'd like to make suggestions for the music, feel free to speak with me after the service anytime!

Andrew Stephens, Music Director

Meet Our Parishioners



Featured this edition is Mary Holley

Mary was born and raised in Rochester, New York. She was married to Robert Holley in 1959 at the Rochester Divinity School, by a Methodist minister. She has a grown daughter and is a widow. Mary was baptized at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Westminster Road in Rochester, and confirmed at St. George's Episcopal Church in Charlotte, New York. Mary graduated from Syracuse University and after college worked for Sears on Monroe Avenue as a copywriter in the advertising department.

Mary attended church at the American Legion only a couple of times, but then came to St. Peter's after the building was built. She came with Harriett and Dudley Stark and has been here ever since.

Mary is a Volunteer at Channel 21, WXXI, as a file clerk and radio reporter, and was recently honored as the "Volunteer of the Year" at WXXI. She also has been in a writers' group for over 20 years and was occasionally published. Mary is in the choir, serves as a lay Eucharistic Minister and Lector and is a past Greeter. She also served as Vestry Clerk for many years, formed a women's retreat with The Rev. Marilyle Page Sweet and others and wrote publicity articles for various church events. She also attends the Wednesday Morning Prayer Group and is currently our "Sous Chef" for our Month Community Breakfasts.

When you see Mary, give her a big St. Peter's hug!!

Bob Shepherd, Interviewer

Community Breakfast

If good conversations with great people and delicious food is your thing, please come and join us the **first Wednesday of each month from 9:00 – 11:00 am** for breakfast, coffee, and community!



Letters from the Bishop

The following pages include two letters from Bishop Prince Singh, Bishop of the Diocese of Rochester. The first letter is an update on the sale of the Diocesan house, and since that letter was written, we have an additional update. First, the property has been listed for sale through a real estate broker. Second, the diocesan archives are being housed at St. Peter's! We entered into a rental agreement with the Diocese for their rental of the space that we call "the high school room" on the lower level. St. Peter's continues negotiations with the diocese for rental of our entire lower level, although nothing of that sort can take place until Diocesan house is sold. In the meantime, we will be sorting and cleaning out our supplies, furnishings and other items. Please let a vestry member know if you can spare an hour or two to help. Thank you!

The second letter is one that Bishop Singh wrote in response to what is, at times, overwhelming news of hatred and other evils. Bishop Singh gives us, by example, a way in which to respond to hatred and violence in the world.

July 14, 2016

Dear Friends,

I'm writing to share a few updates on the Trustees' resolve to sell the Diocesan House at 935 East Avenue, Rochester. In the past month, we have received some amount of press regarding this decision: WXXI, the Democrat & Chronicle, and The Living Church have all taken notice of this announcement. While the Trustees and I have received many supportive and substantive comments about the decision to sell, I'm also aware that some of you have meaningful questions about the process and how such decisions work in our system. Please see the "*Frequently Asked Questions about the Sale of 935 East Avenue*" section below, in which I hope some of your questions are addressed. I am so appreciative of your patience, your curiosity, and your concerns around this change. We are blessed to follow Christ in a church where people are engaged.

But first, a few updates on the sale process:

- The Diocese published a request for proposals from interested brokers, with a deadline of July 8. This information was on our website.
- We recently coordinated two open house events for interested brokers, giving them a chance to view the property before submitting their proposals.
- We have received a number of proposals from brokers.
- Once a broker is selected, the property will be listed for sale.
- In the meantime, we have been reviewing options for our interim diocesan office space. That has included visits to parishes and commercial office space.

Please keep the Trustees and staff in your prayers as this transition continues!

Your fellow servant in Christ,

+Prince

The Rt. Rev. Prince G. Singh
VIII Episcopal Bishop in Rochester

July 14, 2016

Dear saints,

I am weary, as many of you are, of expressions of hate, confusion, and violence in our world accentuated by the seeming escalation recently. Acts of terror have seemingly consumed us. In the midst of all this, we cannot forget that we are interconnected, one with another. What happens in Baghdad, Bangladesh, Turkey, Orlando, Minnesota, Dallas, Louisiana, or Kashmir impacts our common soul as human beings. I am not attempting to make a statement here, but I wanted to write and suggest something at this time. The writer of Ecclesiastes says that there is a time for everything. Perhaps this is the time for more embraces and fewer statements. I am calling for us to consider hitting the pause button, so to speak.

Here's what I mean: I wonder if it is time for practicing intentional acts of kindness as a central part of our conversation, because everything else seems loaded and unreasonable. It does not make sense to have all these dividing lines of fear that exist between us. And yet they do. I have a gut feeling that we are not going to discuss our way out of this impasse because each of us thinks, and often is convinced, that we are right. And rhetorically speaking, it's easy to think if *I am right you must be wrong*. I have found that most of life is not that simple. So much of human interaction is enriched because of our ability to see the world from another side and adjust our own perspective. It is the ability to be transformed by another view that enables us to grow into a more perfect union. This is true whether it involves a relationship between two people or in a community or a nation.

Such transformation, however, needs a baseline of feeling calm within. So, let me suggest a nonviolent protest that any one of us can organize for such a time as this. I urge us to gather in small groups to break bread. Roja and I will practice this by inviting our neighbors over. We are cooking food with lots of passion and love, and sharing it with neighbors; some have become close and some have never come into our home. We hope to have normal conversations about children, about the beauty of the garden, perhaps about fireflies — and to lift up prayers for our country and our world.

There are many ways to take a break from the paralyzing news cycles. We can watch a movie with a simple theme. We can make time to share our love generously with our immediate neighbors. We can donate generously to a local mission. The way out of a violent cycle is to create or recreate a nonviolent one. We have the power to do it. So, let's get creative and do it! There are even two upcoming opportunities to come together as a joyful diocese: the baseball game this Friday at 6 p.m. and the Pride Parade on Saturday at 1 p.m. We are interconnected and are better together.

We have weddings in our Diocesan staff family this weekend. Chief Financial Officer Todd Rubiano's daughter, Taylor, is getting married to Peter, and our Communications Missioner, Matt Townsend, is marrying Kate. I invite you to bless them by praying for them.

Now cliché, posters urging people to “keep calm and carry on” first appeared in Great Britain in 1939, as British people came under almost constant threat of bombing. In the midst of this violence, and on all sides of that conflict, people continued to break bread, to share a kind word, to marry one another, to weed their gardens. The message wasn't to ignore the violence – it was to be brave, to hold fast to dear things, to repair what is broken and move on in hope. We have a lot of repairing to do. Let's keep calm and do the gentle work.

Pray with me: *This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand up bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus. Amen.*
(BCP 461)

With much affection,
+Prince

The Rt. Rev. Prince G. Singh
VIII Episcopal Bishop in Rochester



Following is a letter that Trinity Church in Baton Rouge, LA posted in the aftermath of the severe flooding in their area. I share with you these words of faith and encouragement:

Trinity Episcopal Church
Baton Rouge, LA

The outpouring of prayers for Baton Rouge has touched us deeply. Many have asked what they can do. Here is a short list:

1. Pray. Always begin with prayer. Pray for peace. Pray for guidance.
2. Listen. Listen for God's response. Listen to those who are hurting. You don't need to give them answers, just a supportive ear.
3. Be patient and kind. Our community needs this now more than ever.
4. Avoid vengeful or harsh words, especially those that stereotype or promote discrimination or bigotry. Anger cannot cast out anger or build up what is good – only love and understanding can.
5. Work with a group that is working to make a difference in the community, bringing people together. Trinity partners with several groups.
6. Donate blood. Our local blood supply is low.
7. Pay close attention to our children – all our community's children. They hear and see more than we think. They need to feel safe and loved.
8. Remember that we are not in a sprint. The issues in our community have been around a long time. Healing that will last will take time, but it will not happen if we all rely on others to take action.
9. Do not give in to fear and hopelessness. We follow the Light that shines in the darkness, the Light that darkness cannot and will not overcome.
10. Pray. Begin with prayer. End with prayer.



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