



January 2023



A Prayer for the New Year

The church is the body of Christ, but every body needs breath, air, spirit to be alive. The Holy Spirit is the spirit of Christ, the breath of the body. Where the Spirit is missing, the body dies from lack of breath and its lights go out. No light, no life.

My prayer for your New Year is that you and your church will take in deep breaths of the Holy Spirit, that your devotions and meditations may be deep-breathing exercises, not in church management or church growth or church renewal or leadership strategies, but in Pentecost Power-lifting and Spirit-driven living. – LEONARD SWEET

A Message from our Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

What a joy it was to be with you for this first Christmas as your rector! The services were beautiful and spirit-filled, and I am grateful for everyone who made them possible. Now, we welcome a new year. It is hard to imagine that another year has passed and a new one has dawned. As we greet 2023, we may find ourselves tempted to create a list of resolutions, intentions, or begin some type of self-improvement plan. There is nothing wrong with that impulse. The beginning of a new year brings promise and possibility, and we often feel compelled to honor that by taking on new practices or “turning over a new leaf.” We know, however, how quickly these plans and intentions can be overwhelmed by the realities of life and the difficulties of creating change on our own.

Perhaps this is the year to be counter-cultural and to spend some time at the beginning of this new year just being instead of doing. Before embarking on our new project, whatever that may be, we can pay attention, we can listen, we can notice where we are encountering God. Out of that awareness, we can discern if the things we feel are important for us to take on at the start of this new year, truly are important. When we become tuned to what God is calling us to do and to be, we can get down to the real work of being human, together, on this little planet—making a difference where we are needed most. As I look forward to the year ahead, I am excited about the possibilities, and I know that God will be right in the middle of everything with us.

In the liturgy for the celebration of New Year’s Eve in the *Book of Occasional Services*, there is a prayer that feels like the perfect guide for our New Year’s discernment:

Most gracious and merciful God, you have reconciled us to yourself through Jesus Christ your Son, and called us to new life in him: Grant that we, who begin this year in his Name, may complete it to his honor and glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. *Amen.*

Peace & possibility,

Rev. Rebecca



Some power lifting and spirit-driven living in action

St. Peter's News

Happy New Year St. Peter's Church

There is definitely a fresh breath of spirit in our church now! Just since the arrival of our new rector, Rebecca Roberts, we have worshipped and lived in new and vigorous ways. Even with lingering effects of the pandemic we are experiencing more spirit-driven living. Our congregation is fuller during church services, Bible study began during Advent, a group of parishioners volunteered at Caz Cares, we have begun publicly inviting our community to church services and concerts, the altar guild enthusiastically dressed our altar, sanctuary, nave, and parish hall, inside and out, and we have gathered and sung together during coffee hour and parish potluck dinners. This is a great time to consider what spirit driven living means to us both inside and outside our church.

Inside our church there are small vibrant committees that need new breath. Here are some with their point person. Please consider these ministries as a possibility for you!

Worship Committee – Rebecca

Altar Guild- Sandy

Buildings and Grounds – Betsy

Communication – Louise

Finance – McEwan

Pastoral Care – Chris

Coffee Hour – Sherry and Louise

Prayer Circle – Karen

Lectors – Rick

Ushers – Rick

Eucharistic lay leaders – Don

The Key – Suzanne

Music – Ida



Epiphany Season

Most of the month of January takes place during the Episcopal season of Epiphany which is “A season of four to nine weeks, from the Feast of the Epiphany (Jan. 6) through the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. The length of the season varies according to the date of Easter. The gospel stories of this season describe various events that manifest the divinity of Jesus. The coming of the Magi is celebrated on the Epiphany. The Baptism of our Lord is observed on the Sunday after Epiphany. The gospels for the other Sundays of the Epiphany season describe the wedding at Cana, the calling of the disciples, and various miracles and teachings of Jesus. The Last Sunday after the Epiphany is always devoted to the Transfiguration. Jesus' identity as the Son of God is dramatically revealed in the Transfiguration gospel, as well as the gospel of the baptism of Christ. We are called to respond to Christ in faith through the showings of his divinity recorded in the gospels of the Epiphany season.” *

The liturgical color used in Epiphany is green.

* From: An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church



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Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of St. Peters Church will be **Sunday, January 29th, right after the church service.**

We will be electing two new members to the vestry. If you are interested in serving our church on the vestry, please contact Rev. Rebecca at

therevrebccaroberts@gmail.com
at 315-546-5794
or in person.

In addition, the annual report and budget will be read, discussed and approved.



Pastoral Care

Just before Christmas, The Rev. Rebecca, accompanied by Don and Chris visited Lois at St. Camillus Health and Rehabilitation Center where she is now receiving care and rehab. Lois is doing well and was very happy to participate in Communion with her visitors from St. Peter's.

Lois has been an active and spirit driven member of St. Peter's. She has supported our music ministry, has knit many beautifully intricate white blankets for babies who were baptized in our church. She has led our prayer shawl ministry, told many wonderful stories during Foyers gatherings, enjoyed our church pot luck meals, always providing a thoughtful helping hand to anyone who needed one.

The Rev. Rebecca is available to take Communion to parishioners in their homes or care facilities. If you would like to participate in pastoral care by preparing meals, visiting shut ins, or provide some other form of care, please talk with Chris.



Members of our Congregation



Scott Tatum Face to Face, Ukraine 2022

It was supposed to last only a few days to weeks. The Ukrainian army was thought to be no match for the Russian one. However, the Ukrainians had been preparing since the annexation of Crimea. They are also very tough, determined people. And they are receiving significant international support. Once we saw that the fight was going to go on, those of us in Face-to-Face (humanitarian arm of the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery) who had been to war zones before knew that there would be mounting severe facial injuries amongst civilians and military personnel. Modern warfare involves high speed projectiles that can do catastrophic damage to the human body. Survivors often have severe residual defects and deformities. When these problems involve the face, head and neck, facial plastic surgeons can help. Frequently, embattled countries lack the resources to care for these patients. Most of these residual deformities are life altering, not life threatening, so they're not priorities.

Ten surgeons with various specialties and two nurses, a surgical technician, three support personnel and an embedded war correspondent made up the team. We chose Ivano-Frankivsk as our site. It is close to the Polish border and has an appropriate hospital with local surgeons who welcomed our help. In late summer, our local contacts began soliciting potential patients. The next couple of months we spent preparing with numerous computerized virtual surgery planning sessions with local physicians via Zoom.

In mid-September, we flew individually into Krakow, Poland and there boarded a bus for the 12-hour trip to Ivano-Frankivsk. Some Polish purchases helped pass the time.

We arrived in Ivano-Frankivsk tired, but otherwise unscathed. After unpacking and organizing our gear—thank you, nurses and technician—we saw 39 patients for triage and planning. Thirty-five were appropriate for us to operate. The following day was a Sunday, so we were treated to a day in the Carpathian Mountains. Cold, but fantastic. The next five days were spent operating 10-14 hours per day. There was a 10 pm curfew, so some nights dinner was cold from a brown paper bag. We didn't really suffer, though, since we stayed in a comfortable Soviet era hotel.

The patient mix was about even, soldiers and civilians. They mostly had penetrating trauma to their faces, head or neck. Often large pieces of cheek or jaw bone were missing. Scarring was severe. Several patients had lost an eye, one patient had lost both eyes. We worked with local surgeons; the local anesthesiologists were extremely helpful as well. Our surgeries were telecast to a first floor meeting room with about 200 loco-regional surgeons. The surgeries all went smoothly. The custom implants mostly fit very well. The estimated value of goods and services provided by this mission to the Ukrainians is over 1 million dollars.

I'm often asked about lasting impressions from this mission. My first is how saddened I am that there is a ground war in Eastern Europe in 2022. Next, the graciousness, bravery and resilience of the Ukrainian people are remarkable. They kept us safe and comfortable. The soldiers all asked how soon they could get back to the front lines. Every store had hats, T-shirts, and beer cans with defiant messaging. It was overall an enriching experience, and it felt like the right thing to do. The group plans a return trip in the spring. Other sites are being added, and the team is growing. Hopefully, the cause of the problems will soon end.

News of St. Peter's and the Greater Community



The Key Consignment Shop

The Christmas Season brought a lot of business to the Key. Clothing, house wares, and Christmas accent pieces all sold quickly. In January, Caroline and the rest of The Key staff will be hosting shop wide sales.

The Key has its own Facebook page and Instagram account, so be sure and look there for updates and ministry stories.

The Key is a consignment shop but accepts donations, too. Giving clothing and house ware donations and volunteering are great ways to support The Key's ministry. Currently they are accepting:

- All men's seasonal attire & accessories
- All women's seasonal attire & accessories (which include jewelry and purses)
- All Infant to junior seasonal attire
- All seasonal housewares

If you would like to donate or consign items please come by the store. Store Hours are:

Wednesday: 1pm-5pm
Thursday: 10:30am-2:30pm
Friday: 10:30am-2:30pm
Saturday: 10:30am-4:00pm



Caz Cares had a successful gift and food giveaway, even with Mother Nature throwing in a snow storm. The many recipients were very appreciative of the community's generosity. As always, St. Peter's stepped up to contribute gifts as well as boxes of cereal and assisted in distributing boxes to families. Caz Cares is a truly important ministry.





CRIS is happy to report that they delivered 150 Christmas bags filled with goodies to people who otherwise might not have received any Christmas gifts. 115 of them went to seniors, 20 to Kinney Drugs that gifted them to home delivery clients, and 15 to Meals on Wheels recipients.



Diocesan News



Sacred Ground Pilgrimage: February 2023

The diocese will be sponsoring a pilgrimage to the Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama, in February of 2023. The Legacy Museum is a comprehensive history of the African American experience in American society, from enslavement to mass incarceration, and is located on a site where Black people were forced into bondage. The Pilgrimage will also include the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, the location of historic voting rights marches during the Civil Rights Movement.

Read Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe's invitation in the Messenger to discern whether you are called to join this pilgrimage.

Calendar

Events in January

- 1 10:00 am Sunday Service, followed by Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)
- 2 10:00 am Bone Builders (Parish Hall)
- 5 10:00 am Bone Builders (Parish Hall)
7:00 pm Choir Practice
- 6 **Feast of the Epiphany**
- 8 10:00 am Sunday Service, followed by Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)
- 9 10:00 am Bone Builders (Parish Hall)
- 10 7:00 pm AA Meeting (Parish Hall)
- 11 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting
- 12 10:00 am Bone Builders (Parish Hall)
7:00 pm Choir Practice
- 15 10:00 am Sunday Service, followed by Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)
- 16 **Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Parish Office closed**
10:00 am Bone Builders (Parish Hall)
- 19 10:00 am Bone Builders (Parish Hall)
7:00 pm Choir Practice
- 22 10:00 am Sunday Service, followed by Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)
- 23 10:00 am Bone Builders (Parish Hall)
- 26 10:00 am Bone Builders (Parish Hall)
7:00 pm Choir Practice
- 29 10:00 am Sunday Service, followed by Annual Meeting (Parish Hall)**
- 30 10:00 am Bone Builders (Parish Hall)

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Our mailing address is:
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
10 Mill Street
Cazenovia, NY 13035
315-655-9063

Email us at:
parishoffice@stpeterscaz.org
Find us at:
www.stpterscaz.org