

Those Whom We Hold in Prayer

Carrie, Kevin, Lance, Tony, Sandy, Rod, Josh, Todd, Wendy, Bea, Ellen, Ryan, Margaret, Doris, Elaine, Debbi, Mike, Pat and Sally, Bob and Ginny, La Rue and Peter, Joan and Bill, Jim and Mary, and the families of Tyler and Karen. Prayers of compassion for all those affected by recent flooding, the poor and the homeless, and all who grieve. Prayers of thanksgiving are offered for: the gift of Wendy in Bill's life, improvements for Stephanie's parents, care-giver Ron, Jenna's and Mary Ann's trip to St. Peter's Episcopal Church, the flowers on the altar in memory of Ken Parmelee, the promise of Spring, Lex's courage and healing, anniversaries that remind us of those dearly loved, and the guiding, renewing light of God.

Deacons Report

As we move through the last of winter and eagerly await the coming of spring, Deacons are working towards better spiritual communications within our church community. We are requesting that members contact us when they know of new families moving into the area, they or their families are dealing with illness or surgery or just need a friend to talk to. We are here to help serve you and your spiritual needs – please call us.

We are sponsoring another pet drive for the month of April to help Happy Tails shelter in Canandaigua. As before they always are in need of laundry soap, bleach, cleaning supplies, paper towels and office supplies. A complete list can be found on their website www.yourhumanesociety.org.

Anyone turning 80 this year still has time to let us know and get added to our list. We love visiting people and helping to celebrate your day.

Current Deacons:

Diane Bassage	657-6609 [Chair]
Deb Footer	657-6353 [Secretary]
Jim Burgess	943-7983 [Treasurer]
Karla Babcock	657-5479 [Prayer chain]
Shaina Babcock	Jr. Deacon
Faye Brocklebank	394-5299
Bob Marcellus	657-7209

Joy Jar & Outreach Update

Christian Education

Christian Education will once again hold our annual **Easter egg hunt on Sunday, March 29th**. Our youth will also make resurrection rolls, another tradition and delicious way to illustrate the resurrection of Jesus. Please plan to attend!

Adult Faith Formation for Spring 2015

We will meet beginning on **April 7th**, Tuesday at 11:00 to 12:30. Bring your lunch if you like. There will be hot water for tea, and, if you sign below that you want coffee, I will make a pot. **We will meet EVERY OTHER Tuesday, and the last class will be June 16.**

After a quick review of where we left the People of Israel, we will move on to their entry into Palestine. Please bring your books and read Core Stories 4 and 5. If you can, read the Bible passages for both stories. We will be using the Bible versions in our pews. Start now, come a little early, stay a little after to read so you will have the context for the film.

If you would like to join us and do not have a book, see Cc as soon as possible so we can order books. Cc's phone is 585-396-0344, email: c.k.bodnar@gmail.com. Please put Bristol Church Class in the subject line.

Altar Flower Committee Report

The time has come to think about the flower order for Easter Sunday!! This year you will have two choices: **Daffodils @ \$7.50 and Easter Lilies @ \$8.75**. Sign-up sheets will be in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you in advance for your purchase of Easter flowers!! The Sanctuary is always beautiful because of the congregation's generosity!!

If you wish to place memorial flowers on the altar please contact the appropriate committee member. The committee always welcomes fresh bouquets from member gardens, let us know if you are willing to share any particular Sunday!!

Diane Bassage [657-6609] is coordinating flowers for April, **Franette Staub** [229-7306] for May and **Gloria Miles** [229-2322] for June.

Easter Blessings and Happy Flower Growing!

Music Committee

Jerome Kern wrote "Can't Help Singing" in 1944. It tells of the promise of April...time of rebirth. If you love to sing, instead of singing in the shower try singing in the 'chower' (choir). We need your voice, your talent and just **YOU**. Hope to see you @ 9 AM on Sunday Morning. We are always there.

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy Spring filled with Easter Blessings. Peace,
Mary and the Music Committee

Pastor's Letter

I am writing this essay with a pencil. Call it an act of subtle defiance in a world teeming with technology. Just this once, no clicking or tapping or swiping or sweeping. Just a primitive, yellow, hexagonal stick scraping graphite against a bare page. Though equipped to do so, I don't bother to erase when an errant word takes shape on the paper. I just cross it out and move on, leaving a glaring testimony to my mistake. In that sense, I find pencils to be more honest than computers, which have the option to "delete" the word and leave the reader with the impression that what was written flowed seamlessly from my frontal cortex, by way of the spinal column, to my left hand and out onto the page. No such pretense with a pencil.

If pencils are more honest than computers, they are more forgiving than pens, whose permanence brings a measure of anxiety: "one false move...and this note-card gets it!" –stained and unceremoniously tossed into the circular file due to an unpardonable and irreversible error of ink.

Yes, pencils are both honest and forgiving – like the best of friends. Pencils are like friends in one other way: they are noisy. Pencils scratch and scrape. (By contrast, pens and computers are relatively mute.) Friends speak up, question, and challenge AND affirm, celebrate, and encourage. Friends engage, chatter, banter and even badger.

The pencil has even more to teach us about ourselves! As I look back over this graphite-littered page, with all the cross-outs, arrows, additions and corrections, the inherent "unloveliness" of the creative process is evident. Unfortunately, the reader of this essay is not privy to the delicious messiness of the composing and de-composing that went into the finished product. Again, I suggest that pencil writing speaks to us of the human condition...

I've seen relationships that appear to be without blemish – relationships between people and relationships with God. I sometimes feel deficient when I see them, because I am much more like the graphite-smear page, full of obvious missteps, dead-ends, false starts, and second thoughts. And so I gravitate to those of the "graphite persuasion", those who - like me - are unmistakably smudged with the need for God's deep forgiveness – forgiveness of themselves and others. Figuratively speaking, I look for the graphite stain on another's pinky that tells me that they, too, engage in the messy process of writing their lives, while leaning heavily upon the grace of God.

We are told that God knows the hairs on our heads. (In my case, God doesn't even break a sweat on that one.) Point is, God knows us...knows us very well...with all our deletions and omissions, cross-outs and mess-ups - as individuals, as families, as a church, as a nation and a planet. Nothing is hidden. And nothing is lost. The

very good news is that the Holy One keeps us amply supplied with graphite. There's only one thing we must not do: and that is to stop "writing". No matter what sort of mess we make – as individuals or as groups – we need to keep scratching away, sustained by the promise that out of the mess something good will emerge.

Even out of our most caustic, divisive debates about education, energy, jobs or defense, the true sin is not disagreement; it's disengagement. I believe we are compelled to keep on scratching – "getting the lead out", as we co-create with one another and with the God – the God of all messiness...as well as all beauty.

My pencil tells me I need to make my point while I still have one. So I sign off with gratitude for the chance to join you in scratching out our story, trusting in the Great Editor to make sense of it all...to make good of it all.

Your faithful scribe,
Tim