



THE Cornerstone

March 2018

Newsletter of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church
107 State Street, Albany, New York

From the Rector

Home Life

The Episcopal Church has a daily lectionary for Lent. It is an opportunity to honor the Forty Days by entering more deeply the Scriptures concerning repentance and faith. If one takes this Lenten journey with the daily lectionary, one quickly sees a call and response pattern to many of the readings. God is calling, we are responding -- or not. But there is something more. It is quite often the call of a loving parent to a child. For example, consider the opening verses from the Old Testament reading for the Tuesday following the Second Sunday of Lent:

Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth;
for the LORD has spoken:
I reared children and brought them up,
but they have rebelled against me.
The ox knows its owner,
and the donkey its master's crib;
but Israel does not know,
my people do not understand. (*Isaiah 1: 2-4.*)

All parents understand that raising children is a mixture of delight and frustration, anxiety and blessing. God certainly treats us generously in every way. God's will is that we thrive in His love. Like a good parent, God also delights in our unique natures. We treat our children as individuals. We know their unique gifts and limitations. We seek for them to grow into their best possible selves. All of the ways of a good parent are evident in Scripture with respect to our heavenly Father. Yet there must be certain baseline expectations. Children can't grow and thrive in moral and spiritual chaos. We have been tragically reminded of that truth in the recent horrors of school shootings.

It is notable that when St. Paul speaks of what we call "end times," there is in the list something relevant to our topic. "*People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, **disobedient to their parents**, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God...*" (2 Timothy 3: 2-4.) It is not my point here to get into apocalyptic theology or to engage in speculation about the times we are in. Jesus is clear that we do not know the day or the hour of His coming and a lot of mischief goes on with such speculation. Rather, it is my point to say that a profile of household chaos descends upon homes and cultures alike.

Our Father in heaven is calling us to an ordered home. It is a holy house and a religious house. It is one where the children obey their parent. Lent is a reminder of the house rules. It invites us back into the place of loving obedience to our heavenly Father. As my mother would say, "Cooperate, Paul!" The stakes are high as we witness daily. So yes, let's try to behave and cooperate as best we can.

I believe that Scripture makes our being children a real thing, not a metaphor. We know that parenting a child is joyful but also a serious and holy undertaking. Would it be any less so for God? We are about midway through Lent now. My brothers and sisters, my inner room is still quite messy. How about yours? May the love of our Father keep our hearts eager to please.

In Christ,
Fr. Hartt



Lent...it's all about the pause.

The Lenten journey may feel like a time of wandering. It may have valleys and hilltops with even some plains thrown in. Lent can be a time of difficulty and also a time of great epiphany. Lent can be a time for growth or it can feel like a time of stagnation. But there is an even greater aspect to the Lenten journey than these.

Our Lenten Study group is reading excerpts from various works of Evelyn Underhill. These profound writings give us pause each day, anchoring us in a Lenten thought and/or spiritual discipline. Key in our Lenten journey is the pause. Without the pause, we may miss the spectacular sunrise or mountaintop experience God has for us. Without the pause, we may think we are stuck in the valley or experiencing stagnation.

The pause is important because it stops whatever is happening from our own vantage point and readies us for what God is doing. Much of our lives are spent in a self-directed way. We only have ourselves to travel daily with, after all. However God is consistently inviting us into life spent within His direction. God invites us into true intimacy with Him so that we are no longer traveling alone...in fact we never were... but may not have realized it. So this new direction calls for us to pause our own course before we can even begin to enter His.

The book our Lenten study group is reading is "Lent with Evelyn Underhill". In it, she shares, "We make the first and greatest of our mistakes in religion when we begin with ourselves, our petty feelings and needs, ideas and capacities. The Creed sweeps us up past all this to God, the objective Fact, and His mysterious self-giving to us. It sets first Eternity and then History before us, as the things that truly matter in religion; and shows us a humble and adoring delight in God as the first duty of the believing soul."

"God as the first duty of the believing soul". Pause with that, if you will...

The pause of Lent allows us to deeply ponder "God as the first duty of the believing soul." As stated above, it stops our own self-direction and readies us for God's. And although we might be doing this all of our Christian lives, it is even more apparent we should be doing this during Lent; the season in which we return with steadfastness to the Lord and ready ourselves for the most Holy time of year: Holy Week and Easter.

One more thought: Much of Lent is thought of today in regards to what we do or what we don't do. People take on Lenten disciplines. People confess sin, repent and return to the Lord. People fast from certain things. People add spiritual practices or service to others. Again, much of Lent is about what we do or what we don't do. These might be called our works.

But, Lent is also about internal acts that build faith: reflection, prayer, transformation, grace and so on. One thing I like about Evelyn's writings that we are reading this Lenten season is the intertwining of the two: works (external) with faith (internal). We know that James, brother of our Lord wrote, "So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead." We also know that St. Paul proclaimed to the Ephesians "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." It is important to remember that the Christian life is not an either/or but rather both: belief - works - grace - service - prayer - study and so on. A true Lent, just as a true Christian life, weaves all of these into a beautiful tapestry for God and because of God. It is our response when we live out "God as the first duty of the believing soul".

So take the pause dear Christians and weave that tapestry for God full of faith and good works. And may he richly bless you this Lenten season.

Yours in Christ,

Mtr. Sue+



Upcoming Events

Daylight Savings



We “spring ahead” on Sunday, March 11th! Don't forget to set your clocks ahead the night before so that you are prompt for church services that morning.

The Season of Lent at St. Peter's Church

- ◆ Friday Lenten Evensong:
Every Friday during Lent at 5:45pm
- ◆ Lenten Study:
March 6th & 20th, and April 3rd at 5:00pm
- ◆ Lenten Quiet Day:
Sunday, March 11th, 12:00pm - 4:00pm

Lenten Evensong

Remaining Fridays: March 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd. Please join us for our Lenten Evensong services which are held every Friday evening during Lent beginning at 5:45pm. We invite you to conclude your work week with this opportunity for worship and reflection.

Lenten Quiet Day

The parish is invited to our Lenten Quiet Day immediately following services on Sunday March, 11th. After a lunch provided by the Daughters, we will return to the sanctuary for a series of meditations and readings with time for reflection led by Fr. Hartt and Mother Sue. The Quiet Day will complete with Stations of the Cross ending at 4:00pm.

Easter Lily Requests

Parishioners and friends wishing to place lilies on the altars at Easter to honor, show thanks, or remember loved ones are asked to complete the enclosed form and return it to the church office with your donation no later than Palm Sunday, March 25th. The suggested donation is \$25.

Chrism Mass

On Monday, March 26th at The Cathedral of All Saints, Bishop Love will bless the oil used by our church and the clergy of the Diocese renew their ordination vows. All members of St. Peter's and the Diocese of Albany are invited to attend the service beginning at 6:00pm.

Daughters of the King

DOK Meeting: The Daughters meeting will occur over lunch during the Lenten Quiet Day on March 11th, 2018. Our prayer list will be updated and other important matters will be discussed. If any Daughter can provide a lunch item for the Quiet Day, please email our President, Julie Hotmer Drao. Thank you.

Outreach Meeting

The March Outreach meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13th at 4:30pm. Please join us to learn about Outreach ministries and hospitality events being planned!

Vestry Meeting

The March Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13th at 5:15pm.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 25th: **Palm Sunday**

- ~ 8:30AM Holy Communion Service
- ~ 10:30AM Choral Holy Communion Service

March 26th: **Monday in Holy Week**

- ~ 12:05PM Noon Holy Communion

March 27th: **Tuesday in Holy Week**

- ~ 12:05PM Noon Holy Communion

March 28th: **Wednesday in Holy Week**

- ~ 12:05PM Noon Holy Communion

March 29th: **Maundy Thursday**

- ~ 7:30PM Holy Communion,
Stripping of the Altar

March 30th: **Good Friday**

- ~ 12:00PM Liturgy;
- 1:00PM ~ *The Seven Words of Christ* by Franz Joseph Haydn performed by The St. Peter's Choir with Chamber Orchestra

March 31st: **Holy Saturday**

- ~ 8:00AM Service;
- 11:00AM Egg Hunt at the Rectory

April 1st: **Easter Sunday**

- ~ 8:30AM & 10:30AM ~
Choral Holy Communion Services

Ministry News & Opportunities

Healing Prayers

On the first Sunday of every month, prayers for healing will be offered *during* Holy Communion in the Tower Altar at the rear of the church. If you desire prayers and/or anointing, please join us in the Tower Altar after you have received Holy Communion.

Thank you to all who purchased Hannaford Reusable Bags during the month of January. In total, 148 *Fight Hunger Bags* were purchased along with a number of *4-Pack Beverage bags*. St. Francis Soup Kitchen, the beneficiary during the month of January, was given a check for \$145 from Hannaford!



The First Lutheran Church Shelter Dinners

The Capital Area Council of Churches runs a 20-bed shelter at First Lutheran Church (on Western Avenue in downtown Albany). During the cold months (November through April) when other shelters fill up quickly with women and children, the men can come to this overflow shelter and receive a hot meal and a good night's sleep. The Outreach Committee of St. Peter's Church invites you to volunteer in both cooking and/or delivering meals for the Overflow Homeless Shelter. We are committed to providing a complete dinner for 20 people, cooked and delivered, every Thursday evening to the Overflow Shelter. We are asking that you sign-up to cook a complete dinner. Please sign your name next to the date on the board in the Pumpelly Room and take an instruction form. Please include a phone number that we can contact you at. Containers will be in the Pumpelly room to take home to cook in. If you cannot deliver the meal, please return the meal **frozen** to the church on the **Sunday before** the date you signed up for. Pat will put the dinners in the freezer for delivery during the week. If you are delivering the meal you can call Deb Spath at 518-478-9389 for directions.

If you are a New Parishioner or are looking to update our church records please fill out the section below and drop in the offering plate or mail to the Church Office.

PARISHIONER REGISTRATION / UPDATE

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____

ZIP _____

HOME
PHONE _____

CELL
PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

BUSINESS
EMAIL _____

Please Check:

New Registration

Change of Address / Phone Number

Remove from Mailing List

Need Envelopes

Name Change

Overflow Homeless Shelter draws to the close of its ninth season this month. There are still openings on the March calendar if you'd like to volunteer. We consider this year a great success and know that the homeless women we housed are blessed beyond measure. The Capital City Rescue Mission greatly appreciates our space, donations and volunteers and how we strengthen their ministry to the homeless in Albany. To sign up to volunteer, please call Judy Burns at 518-441-7538 or email the church at stpeterschurch.albany@gmail.com.



Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Are you looking to increase your religious experience? We are looking for members of St. Peter's who might be interested in becoming a Lay Eucharistic Minister. Experience the joy of serving God by assisting at both the Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharistic Sunday Services. If interested please call the parish office at 518-434-3502.

Youth Formation & Sunday School

Hello to all and Happy "Almost" Spring~

We have lots planned in the St Peter's Sunday School, so please mark your calendars

Sunday, March 18th: We will have a reenactment of the Last Supper, this will include the story of Jesus and his disciples, washing of our feet and taking part in the Most Holy Bread and Wine (juice). Please come and take part in this wonderful activity.

Sunday, March 25th: The children of the Sunday School will be coloring over 700 hard boiled eggs, so please make sure the children are dressed in old clothes, smocks are available

Saturday, March 31st: The Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the rectory (Fr. Hartt's home), 8 Loudon Heights South, Loudonville, NY at 11:00am sharp ~ rain, shine or snow! Refreshments will be served.



Please note: We will be coloring Easter Eggs on the Last Sunday in March, rather than participating in our usual Youth Sunday Children's Chapel.

Please dress for the mess!

St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen

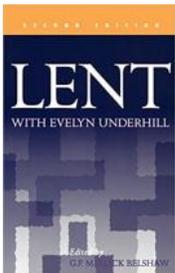
Saturday, March 17th ~ 11:00am to 1:00pm

On the 3rd Saturday of every month St. Peter's Church is committed to preparing and serving lunch to 100+ people at the St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen (formerly known as Grace and Holy Innocents) located at 498 Clinton Avenue in Albany. We invite you, and the youth of our church (the Angels in Training) along with their friends, to join Laura Rulison (our Director of Christian Education) in helping with this outreach program that is in such desperate need of volunteers. For information or to let her know you are coming please call Laura at (518)368-4284.



Registration for **Beaver Cross Summer Camp** is officially open! Get ready for the summer by securing your place at the Diocesan summer camp. Beaver Cross has been *Building Community in Christ* since 1964. Camp activities include: Christian teaching, high ropes & low ropes course, swimming, worship, crafts, archery, sports, camp-wide games and more! For more information, www.beavercrossministries.org.

Adult Education



LENTEN STUDY: *LENT with Evelyn Underhill*, edited by G.P. Mellick Belshaw

There's still time to travel through Lent with spiritual guidance from Evelyn Underhill, a leading Anglican author! Daily readings take place at home and bi-weekly gatherings will meet in the Vestry Room of the Church Guild House on Tuesday evenings. Please see Mother Sue for more information or to reserve a copy of the book through the church office. Suggested donation: \$13. The group's bi-weekly gatherings will continue on the following Tuesdays at 5:00pm: March 6th, March 20th, and April 3rd.

Comfort For Those Who Mourn – This is a 6 week grief support group for all who are mourning the death of a loved one at St. Luke's on the Hill in Mechanicville beginning Wednesday, March 7th, 2018, from 4:30-6:00pm. Please call St. Luke's office at 518-664-4834 to register.

Men's Cursillo will be Friday, April 27th through Sunday, April 29th. Sponsorship and advanced registration is required. If you are interested or would like more information, please speak with the clergy.

March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedn
			
<p>4 Third Sunday in Lent Healing Prayers</p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal</p>	<p>6</p> <p>1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's 5:00pm - Lenten Study Group</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:45am - Top o 12:05pm - Holy C 5:45pm - Histor</p>
<p>11 Fourth Sunday in Lent Spring ahead 1 hour! 🕒</p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer 12:00pm - Lenten Luncheon & Quiet Day</p>	<p>12</p> <p>5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's 4:30pm - Outreach Meeting 5:15pm - Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:45am - Top o 12:05pm - Holy C 5:45pm - Histor</p>
<p>18 Fifth Sunday in Lent</p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion</p> <p>Sunday School - Last Supper Reenactment</p>	<p>19 Saint Joseph</p> <p>5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's 5:00pm - Lenten Study Group</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:45am - Top o 12:05pm - Holy C 5:45pm - Histor</p>
<p>25 Palm Sunday The Sunday of the Passion</p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion</p> <p>Sunday School - Easter Egg Coloring</p>	<p>26 Monday in Holy Week</p> <p>12:05pm - Holy Communion 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal w/ orchestra</p>	<p>27 Tuesday in Holy Week</p> <p>12:05pm - Holy Communion 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's</p>	<p>28 Wednesday</p> <p>8:45am - Top o 12:05pm - Holy C</p>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	2 12:30pm - Organ Concert 5:45pm - Evensong	3
of the Hill Communion Bible Study	8 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	9 12:30pm - Organ Concert 5:45pm - Evensong	10
of the Hill Communion Bible Study	15 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	16 12:30pm - Organ Concert 5:45pm - Evensong	17 St. Patrick's Day 11:00am - Angels in Training
of the Hill Communion Bible Study	22 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	23 12:30pm - Organ Concert 5:45pm - Evensong	24
in Holy Week	29 Maundy Thursday 5:30pm - Full Choir 7:30pm - Holy Communion with Stripping of the Altar	30 Good Friday 12:00pm - Good Friday Liturgy 1:00pm - <i>The Seven Words of Christ</i>	31 Holy Saturday 8:00am - Holy Sat. Service 11:00am - Easter Egg Hunt at the Rectory

St. Peters Music



Good Friday Music at St. Peter's

This year our choir, with orchestra will present Haydn's *Seven Words of Christ on the Cross* at 1:00pm, following the old Friday liturgy at noon. These movements were written by Haydn for Good Friday mediation, and the composer considered it his finest oratorio. All are welcome to attend as your schedules allow, free of charge.

FRIDAY NOONTIME ORGAN CONCERTS

Free half-hour recitals each Friday at 12:30pm

CHOIR

Choir rehearsals are on the following schedule:

Mondays: 5:00pm - 6:15pm Trebles

Thursdays: 5:00pm - 6:30pm Trebles

5:30pm - 7:00pm Adult choristers

Sundays: 9:30am rehearsal for the 10:30am service

Please contact Neil Keen for more information at

stpmus@gmail.com or 339-0137.

Handel Organ Concertos at St. Paul's, Hackett Blvd., Albany. On Saturday, March 3rd, our Organist, Neil Keen, will join four other organists from our local chapter of the American Guild of Organists to present a program of Organ Concertos by George Frederick Handel. The fine pipe organ in St. Paul's and a chamber orchestra will be featured in these performances. Neil will be playing the Concerto Op 7, No.2 in A Major. \$10 for admission, at the door.

Composer of the Month

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)



Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) was an Austrian composer, whose contributions to musical forms earned him the epithets "Father of the Symphony," and "Father of the String Quartet." He wrote music of nearly every genre, including piano works, choral Masses, opera, oratorio, and varieties of chamber music. His catalog is huge, with some 120 symphonies, 15 masses, dozens of string quartets and keyboard sonata barely scratching the surface. Haydn left home at an early age to receive training at a choir school and sang as a chorister for nine years. The bulk of his musical career was spent in the service of the Esterhazy family at their remote estate. In spite of this isolation, Haydn's music was widely distributed and well known. He spent significant time in England, where he continued to compose and conduct. His music, which has maintained an honored place in the concert and church repertoire, is characterized by inventiveness and often overt humor.

Saint of the Month

Cyril Bishop of Jerusalem, 386

Cyril is the one we have most to thank for the development of catechetical instruction and liturgical observances during Lent and Holy Week. Born in Jerusalem about 315, Cyril became bishop of that city probably in 349. In the course of political and ecclesiastical disputes, he was banished and restored three times. His Catechetical Lectures on the Christian faith, given before Easter to candidates for Baptism, were probably written by him sometime between 348 and 350.

The work consists of an introductory lecture and eighteen Catecheses based upon the articles of the creed of the Church at Jerusalem. All these lectures (the earliest catechetical materials surviving today) may have been used many times over by Cyril and his successors, and considerably revised in the process. They were probably part of the pre-baptismal instruction that Egeria, a pilgrim nun from western Europe, witnessed at Jerusalem in the fourth century and described with great enthusiasm in the account of her pilgrimage. Many of the faithful would also attend these instructions.

It is likely that it was Cyril who instituted the observances of Palm Sunday and Holy Week during the latter years of his episcopate in Jerusalem. In doing so, he was taking practical steps to organize devotions for countless pilgrims and local inhabitants around the sacred sites. In time, as pilgrims returned to their homes from Palestine, these services were to influence the development of Holy Week observances throughout the entire Church. Cyril attended the Second Ecumenical Council at Constantinople, in 381, and died at Jerusalem on March 18th, 386.

Prayer: *Strengthen, O Lord, we beseech thee, the bishops of thy Church in their special calling to be teachers and ministers of the Sacraments, that they, like thy servant Cyril of Jerusalem, may effectively instruct thy people in Christian faith and practice; and that we, taught by them, may enter more fully into the celebration of the Paschal mystery; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

From the Archives

ALBANY'S EARLIEST CHURCHES

Three of the earliest churches founded in Albany were: First Church, a Dutch Calvinist church, the Lutheran Church, which at first was Dutch and later German, and St. Peter's Church which was composed primarily of persons of English descent.

First Church

The very first church organized and built in Albany was Dutch Calvinist. This is not surprising when we consider that both Henry Hudson and the first patroon, Killian Van Rensselaer of the Dutch West India Company were Dutch or Dutch affiliated. First Church was built in 1642 in the shape of a blockhouse (see the picture to the right). It was a squarish, severe, wood framed building. The church Archives contains a framed picture of this church.



First Church was located at the Hudson River in the middle of State Street. Thus it was in the center of the new metropolis but also subject to floods. As a consequence, in 1798 the church was moved to its present location on Clinton Square. The new church was designed by Philip Hooker and included two towering cupolas each with a Roman numeral clock. The interior had main floor, pews, and a balcony. Since then, there have been additions, including an ornate woodwork, ceiling arches, gold stenciling around the altar, and Tiffany windows. It remains today as an active house of worship in downtown Albany. The current organist is Mary Bon wife of our own organist and choirmaster Neil Keen.

First Lutheran Church

The First Lutheran Church is the oldest Lutheran Congregation in the United States and the second oldest church in Albany. It was founded in 1649 as the Ebenezer Lutheran Church. It did not adopt the name First Lutheran Church until 1871. In addition to being the oldest congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), it is the only congregation in the ELCA to be founded while New York was under the control of the Dutch.

The First Lutheran Church was built between the years of 1670 and 1680 at approximately the area of Howard and South Pearl streets. After early pastors, the first permanent pastor was Pastor Arnzius. The church building was not well maintained so that during the pastorate of Justus Falckner, from 1709 to 1715, when St. Peter's Episcopal Church used the Lutheran church while they were building a church of their own, the Lutheran facilities were described as dilapidated. It was not until after the American Revolution that the Lutheran Church made progress toward real organization. At that time the new pastor was Reverend Heinrich Moller. He served from 1784 to 1790 and later 1802 to 1806. During his pastorate the congregation was incorporated, permanent records began to be kept, a new church building was erected, and in it was organized a new synod. All these events happened between the years of 1784-1786, the latter being the centennial year of the City of Albany. The church Archives holds the book titled Swan of Albany by Henry H. Heins that covers the history of the First Lutheran Church of Albany.

Saint Peter's Church

Saint Peter's Church was organized in 1708 under Reverend Thomas Barclay. Barclay was originally called to minister to the soldiers at Fort Frederick, but he soon found his calling was also in teaching the Indians and preaching to the townspeople. In 1712 British Governor Hunter allowed the collection of funds for the building of the first St. Peter's Church. In 1715 after overcoming protests for building of the church, the church was completed. It was dedicated in 1716. A steeple was not constructed until 1751. After the church was completed for some unknown reason Thomas Barclay whose stipends had been paid by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in England was suddenly cut off from funding. This was an impossible situation for Reverend Barclay. Even after his funds were restored, he lost his sanity and died. The next pastor was Rev. John Milne 1726-1737. In 1738 Barclay's son Henry became the church rector and was able to successfully carry on the work of his father. In 1746 he was selected to become the Rector of Trinity Church in New York City. There is a portrait of Henry Barclay in our Pumpelly Room.

St. Peter's Church was rebuilt twice, first in 1802 and later in 1860 to create the edifice we have today. In 2012 the congregation celebrated its 300th anniversary. This was to honor its designation as a peculiar parish i.e. it was placed directly under the Rt. Reverend Henry Compton, Bishop of London. Today we are under the direction of Bishop Love of the Cathedral of All Saints here in Albany.

**MINUTES FOR THE VESTRY MEETING
ST. PETER'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

January 9, 2018

Present: Fr. Hartt, Mtr. Sue Waldron, J. Chenot, D. Spath, G. Scala, M. Lundberg, T. Murphy, K. Cehowski, C. Gordon, N. Creagan, M. Holden

Absent: E. Stafford, S. Lencewicz

Approval of the Minutes of Vestry Meeting, December 12, 2017.

The December 12, 2017, minutes were approved on a motion by C. Gordon and seconded by T. Murphy. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

Senior Warden Report –J. Chenot

Jim began his report by wishing everyone a Happy New Year. Christmas Eve morning was the last Sunday in Advent and was celebrated at the 8:30 service. That evening we celebrated our traditional Christmas Eve services at 4:00 pm and 10:00 pm with a choral prelude at 9:30 by the choir. Both services were well attended and on Monday we celebrated Christmas Day with one service.

As mentioned in my December notes, we opened our doors in the parish hall sheltering women in need of a warm place to stay at night. This is our ninth year hosting this shelter for the homeless in conjunction with the Capital City Mission in Albany. There is a great need for women looking for shelter in the Albany area during the winter months and last year's transition from the men to women sheltered has gone very smoothly. We continue to look for women willing to volunteer a few hours during the evening helping the Capital City Mission staff make these women feel a bit at home. Many thanks to those who have already volunteered their time as well as those donating food and monetary gifts designated to this worthy cause. Thank you all for your support.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our choir director, Neil Keen and the choir for all their hard work and dedication with all the preparation of music performance as well as all the music during the Advent season.

On Sunday December 17th we had a service of Lessons and Carols at the 10:30 service, followed with the Hanging of the Greens. I want to take this opportunity to thank our choir director, Neil Keen and the choir for all their hard work and dedication with all the preparation of music performed for this choral service as well as all the music prepared for the Advent season. The Hanging of the Greens was well attended with many helpers, young and old. Each year it so encouraging seeing everyone help beautify the Church, which has been a large part of St. Peter's tradition for many years. We would like to thank Jeff Russom and Janice Chenot who headed the luncheon as well as those who helped in the kitchen afterwards for cleanup. It was truly a great day had by all.

I want to thank both Father Hartt and Mother Sue for the preparation and spiritual leadership they offer each year leading up to and during the Advent season. Their love and commitment to all of us at St. Peter's means so much to all our parishioners and we are blessed to have such a wonderful clergy. Also, many thanks to all on the altar guild, flower guild, the ushers, acolytes, and clergy for making this past Advent season a meaningful and joyful time for all of us. A special thanks to Janice, Angie, Pat and Ian for all their work and preparation before and after all the services.

Our annual meeting will be on the fourth Sunday of this month, January 28th after the 10:30 service. Committee reports need to be submitted to the church office by Wednesday, January 17th. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mark Lundberg for all his service on the vestry as he steps down serving his two three-year terms. Vestry nominations have been posted - Deborah Spath will be running for senior warden as I have completed my four two-year terms. Ashely Spath will be running for her first three-year term. Tim Murphy and Stephanie Lencewicz will be running for their second three-year term. Earl Stafford will be stepping down and Fred Hershey will be running to fill his remaining term of two years. I want to thank George for all his dedication and his hard work on the finance committee as well as last year's stewardship drive. The work he does for the church is immeasurable. Lastly, I want to thank the clergy, vestry and congregation for all your support during my eight years serving as senior warden.

Looking ahead, Lent begins February 14th and we'll again have our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner on February 13th. Blessings and a Happy New Year to all.

Finance – G. Scala - Treasurer's Report

George S. reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the month of December. Offerings for December were \$33,750. Total offerings YTD were \$240,893. This compares to a budgeted number of \$273,650. YTD offerings through the same period in 2016 were \$241,719.

The investment/endowment accounts both showed gains for December. Merrill Lynch showed a positive return of +.77%. YTD the Merrill Lynch account shows a positive return of 14.20%. The Key accounts showed a return of +.57% for the month. YTD the Key accounts show a positive return of +14.77%. This leaves us with a positive budget variance in this area YTD of \$496,910. Both accounts performed favorably versus market indexes. Expenses YTD through December were \$56,613 over budget. YTD we show a gain of \$220,240, primarily as a result of performance of the investment accounts.

George discussed the final offering and expense numbers for 2017 versus the previously approved budget. George stated that he felt the offering number should stand as budgeted even though it is higher than actual 2017 numbers. The offering budget was reduced significantly a couple of years ago and we should as a congregation and parish be able to meet the number budgeted. In regard to expenses a similar issue exists. Expenses were over budget for 2017 but George is confident in the expense number budgeted – it is higher than the 2017 budgeted number but lower than the 2017 actual. There were some non-recurring staffing changes in 2017 and capital expenses that both had an impact on expenses for the year.

Pledges for 2018 are at 40 pledging units for a total amount of \$119,020. We should continue to receive pledges through the annual meeting.

Property – None

Outreach – Mother Sue

Christmas Blessings: Thanks to Siena's College Franciscan Center, we were able to provide gifts to the women staying in the CCRM Overflow Homeless Shelter. The Daughters assembled 61 Blessing bags, also for the women of the shelter. Thank you, St. Peter's parishioners, for providing

the personal care and food items for the bags. St. Peter's also provided approximately 50 Christmas gifts for recently arrived Burmese refugees who attend St. Francis Mission Center (an Episcopal congregation on Clinton Avenue). The spirit of generosity was in abundance at St. Peter's this year!

The Overflow Homeless Shelter continues its ninth season and is housing up to (8) women nightly. Thank you to those who have contributed, volunteered and prayed for the women served by this ministry. We also thank Mary McDonald of CCRM who is leading the women's ministry this year and is not only doing a wonderful job but does so with a Servant's heart and the love of the Lord leading her.

Outreach has set a date for this year's Soup Sampler which will be on Sunday March 4, 2018, following church services. We thank Judy Burns for coordinating this event. Please let Judy know if you can make and donate soup!

Old Business

New Business

Annual Meeting Sunday January 28th

Shrove Tuesday February 13th

Soup Sampler March 4th

Associate Rector's Report – Mother Sue

Christmas services were spectacular again – even Christmas morning service which occurred during a snowstorm with 9 hearty souls present! We welcomed many guests and newcomers into our sacred space this Holiday season. The frigid temperatures continued throughout the Christmas season resulting in our worshipping in the Pumpelly and Choir Rooms one frigid Sunday morning. I have received very positive feedback from those who were present at these intimate worship experiences.

The DOK began a new Discernment Class on December 17th. We had four women take part (indicating interest in joining our Chapter) and will have 2-3 new Daughters from the group. The new daughters will be Installed during Bishop Love's Visitation to St. Peter's on February 11, 2018.

Confirmation Classes continue with two youth members preparing for a February 11, 2018, confirmation (also during Bishop Love's Visitation to St. Peter's.)

This year's Diocesan Leadership Conference focuses on celebrating the many and various lay ministries across the Diocese and will explore ways to strengthen and expand them, enabling all orders of ministry to carry out their calling as fully as possible. It would be wonderful if St. Peter's could send a contingent of lay leaders on January 27th, 2018, to Christ the King Spiritual Life Center, Greenwich, NY, to take part in the Leadership Conference.

A Lenten Study program is planned for the parish to begin Ash Wednesday, February 14th, 2018. We will read *Lent with Evelyn Underhill* daily at home with gatherings on Tuesday evenings at church, throughout the Lenten Season, to reflect and discuss. I hope many will join us as we reflect on these Spiritual insights.

Sunday Attendance

ASA for 2017: 129.8

Rectors Report - Father Hartt

Father Hartt began by thanking Jim Chenot, Mark Lundberg, and Earl Stafford for their service on the Vestry. The Vestry will take the occasion of the Annual Meeting to speak to their service to the parish.

Father Hartt spoke of the Christmas Services. The combined total attendance was 415. We had 18 souls at the 4th Sunday of Advent Service which fell on Christmas Eve morning. There was greater attendance at the 4:30PM Christmas Eve Service than the later service again this year. It is possible that concern over snow was a factor this year. However, Fr. Hartt is hearing that the earlier service is also growing elsewhere.

Father Hartt thanked Janice Chenot, Angie Schlossberg, and Mother Waldron for their great work preparing us for Christmas. Mother Sue organized Lectors and servers. Gordon Lattey, Jack Ratzell and Susan Smith were our LEM's. Jack and Gordon worked multiple slots. Moses Kamya organized our Ushers. Julian Kovacs and John Barna were our Acolytes. Altar Guild was carried by Sharon DeBonis, Cathy Schunk and John Davis working many shifts. Janice and Angie produced countless leaflets and helped with the gifts for the Burmese refugee families. This year's outreach work was especially strong for both the Women's Shelter and Burmese families.

Father Hartt thanked Mtr. Waldron greatly for taking Christmas morning service. Due to the snow, Mtr. Sue spent the night on a couch at church! Nine people made it in for Christmas morning service.

There has been bitter cold for many days. Pat Shortall and Ian Mike have been laboring hard with snow and ice. Father Hartt spoke of Ian's coming in on a day off. Fr. Hartt is concerned that the torch of the snow removal and other heavy work pass to Ian. Our beloved Pat is retired and working part-time.

Our Services January 7th were celebrated in the Pumpelly Room at 8:30 and the Choir Room at 10:30. It was 50 degrees in the church. People responded positively to the intimacy created by our coming together in a smaller place. It was a reminder that the church is indeed the people.

Father Hartt spoke of the Annual Meeting preparations and elections. He thanked the vestry for the important work they do for this parish which is often unlauded.

Father Hartt's Church History course resumes on January 17th.

Our two Confirmands, Sydney Hardy and Molly Russom, are making fine progress. Bishop Love will be coming to the parish on February 11th. Father Hartt spoke of the need for a reception. We look forward to Bishop Love's visitation, which occurs once every three years.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by M. Lundberg and seconded by N. Creagan, then was passed unanimously by the vestry.

Compline - Father Hartt led Compline.

Respectfully Submitted, Kevin M. Cehowski

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Paul J. Hartt..... Rector
The Rev. Susan Waldron.....Associate Rector
Neil K. Keen, F.A.G.O.....Organist & Choirmaster
Laura Rulison..... Director of Christian Education
Ian Mike..... Sexton
James P. Shortall.....Assisting Sexton
Angie Schlossberg.....Administrative Assistant
Janice Chenot..... Office Volunteer
E. Constance Powell.....Historian & Archivist

Vestry

Deborah Spath.....Senior Warden
James Chenot.....Junior Warden
George Scala..... Treasurer
Kevin Cehowski, Nancy Creagan, Christie Gordon, Fred Hershey,
Maria Holden, Stephanie Lencewicz, Tim Murphy, Ashley Spath

How to Contact Us

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Services

Sunday

Holy Communion 8:30 a.m.

Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

(1st & 3rd Sundays)

Morning Prayer 10:30 a.m.

(2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Holy Communion 12:05 p.m.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

