



# THE Cornerstone

Summer 2018

Newsletter of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church

107 State Street, Albany, New York

## From the Rector

*And He said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3.)*

It is summer. We have sandcastles on the mind. I hope that you have many sandcastles this summer, in whatever form they take for your family. May the trip photos be good and your Facebook posts fun. In the summer context, we have an opportunity to see life in a different way.

Yet we must admit that this year has presented us with images of another kind; images that do not leave the mind easily, nor should they. We have found those images in news-feeds while looking for pictures of royal weddings or sports events. We have also seen images of the ravages of war. Mere children walking through the rubble, terrified of the next bomb or gas attack. We have seen refugees from terror and their little children at the border of every country in the free world, their eyes begging for our compassion. We have seen our own nation's children weeping once more and asking "Where are the adults?" after Parkland. It is the children who most cause us to see and feel the world as it is.

Simply put. the world of adults is causing misery for the world of children. The most fundamental of human responsibilities is the care, nurture, and protection of children. We are being confronted with our failure to do our duty at a level that forces us either to face our sin or avert our eyes. The issue before us is suffering. It is the suffering of the most innocent among us with life-long grievous traumas. It is my fear that we are becoming numb or soon will be.

Our souls are under siege in the world in which we live. The cumulative effect of toxic social media, the breakdown of the family, racial animus and fear, decline in religion, addiction, the coarsening of culture, and our political divisions are in the unhealthiest state in my lifetime. This is not about left or right, but light and darkness. It is about the soil in which we live and in which we are unknowingly raising our children. It is this unspiritual soil that increasingly informs our Christian lives and into which the Gospel must speak. Our way in is to begin with the children.

There is objective truth and a culture of spin is teaching our children that nothing is real. Another Parkland is teaching our children that nothing is safe. Addiction and suicide reflect a breakdown in meaning and hope in an anxiety-making world. Children can't cope with a lack of truth, moral order, meaning and faith. Nor can we. We need a sensible world to thrive and children especially so.

Our children deserve better than this. We know it. Yet a numbness and fatigue seem to be creeping daily into the adults. I know that it is easy to sentimentalize the "good old days" which had their problems too. But some things truly have changed for the worse. It is the moral and spiritual order of our lives. It is our sense of accountability to God and the teachings of Christ.

Jesus said that we must become as little children to enter the kingdom of God. We can ask ourselves some simple questions: Is what we are saying, doing, believing, modeling good for the children? Are we teaching our children that every human being is worthy of compassion, dignity, and love? Are we saying that children are the most precious of all to God, that we will do everything to keep them safe? We need to reassure the children that the adults will take care of them and do so with our every word and deed.

Seeing things through the eyes of children is to order our lives towards the kingdom of God. They are our gift to see clearly and to feel kingdom joy. Let us pray and act for a world for them that is stronger than sandcastles.

*Peace of Christ,*

*Fr. Hartt+*

## From the Associate Rector

***“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”*** (1 Cor 12:27)

This summer I'm reflecting on the teachings on Unity we find in the Holy Bible. The verse quoted above bears the heart of our call to unity. *“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”* If we are an actual body, one body, we know that its individual members cannot go off on their own; each member must consider the health of the whole body when it acts.

If we use our physical bodies as an analogy, how can one person's foot go east while the other foot goes west? Or how can one person's eye look to the right while the other eye looks to the left? I hope you get the point! Members of a body cannot separate themselves. They are tied together in Unity.

Paul writes much about this in several of his epistle letters. However, this teaching of Paul was not original to him. No, he is leaning heavily on what Jesus teaches about unity. Before his arrest, Jesus prays for all of us in his priestly prayer to God the Father, and prays this prayer centering on unity:

*“And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”* (John 17:11)

*“So that they may be one, as we are one.”* Yes, our call to Unity is rooted in the Unity of the Triune God. Just as the Father and Jesus are one, Christians are to be One Body, united together. This applies to us at the parish level (St. Peter's), the Diocesan level (Albany Diocese), the national level (The Episcopal Church), the worldwide level (The Anglican Communion), and the universal level (All Christians) as our Creed states belief in the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church.

Because we are a close-knit family at St. Peter's, we are often focused on our local level. And, I would say, we are doing a great job fostering unity here at St. Peter's Church. There is seldom division (even if there is at times disagreement), and when so, people are eager to reconcile and re-unite. That is our primary call and as clergy I am always thankful that we live it out so well here at St. Peter's.

I wish I could say the same for the other levels of our Church. Perhaps we don't pay too much attention to what is going on beyond our doors because we are focused on maintaining health and a strong Gospel witness right here in Albany. Although it is our primary focus, we can't completely disregard what is occurring elsewhere, even nationally and globally; especially as it might affect us in real, local ways. We are part of both The Episcopal Church and The Anglican Communion, even while the two maintain relationship that is in tension.

There may be events that occur this summer that either decreases or increases that tension. My prayer is that dialog and decisions made would be rooted in the Unity to which we are called: how can one person's foot go east while the other foot goes west? Or how can one person's eye look to the right while the other eye looks to the left?

The Daughters of the King have answered the request of Bishop Love to hold prayer vigil during the days of The Episcopal Church's General Convention (July 5-13 in Austin TX). Would you join us? I've included two prayers below (from the Book of Common Prayer) that may be helpful to us all:

*For a Church Convention or Meeting:* Almighty and everlasting God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in Austin of The Episcopal Church for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*For the Church:* Gracious Father, we pray for thy holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son our Savior. Amen.

It is true that only God can bring the Unity to which His church is called. Our part is to so unite ourselves to Him, that His will becomes our very own.

A Blessed summer rest to each of you,

Mtr. Sue

*“There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”* (Ephesians 4:4-5)

# Upcoming Events

## Summer Choir

During the summer months, we welcome parish members to sing with regular choir members for the 10:30am service. Beginning on June 24<sup>th</sup>, the summer choir will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:45am to prepare music for the 10:30am service. There is no audition, although the ability to follow musical notation is helpful. Come and join the music making!

## Coffee Hour

Coffee hour at the 8:30 service will conclude on June 17<sup>th</sup> and resume in early September. Everyone enjoy the summer months! If anyone would like to volunteer for this important stewardship out reach to our St. Peter's family – please contact Michele Vennard at 518-274-4989 or at [mlvennard@gmail.com](mailto:mlvennard@gmail.com)

### 2018 ST. PETER'S ANGELS SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

|            |        |         |              |                                   |                         |
|------------|--------|---------|--------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| April 22nd | Sunday | 3:00PM  | @ Mullen's   | Lost                              | 5-2                     |
| May 20th   | Sunday | 4:30PM  | @ Mullen's   | Rescheduled                       | (TBD)                   |
| June 3rd   | Sunday | 1:30PM  | @ Ridgefield | Won                               | 9-6                     |
| June 10th  | Sunday | 1:30PM  | @ Mullen's   | Won                               | 20-10                   |
| June 10th  | Sunday | 3:00PM  | @ Mullen's   | Tied                              | 15-15 (finish date TBD) |
| July 1st   | Sunday | 3:00PM  | @ Mullen's   | Collar City Concrete              |                         |
| July 8th   | Sunday | 3:00PM  | @ Ridgefield | High Maintenance                  |                         |
| July 15th  | Sunday | 1:30PM  | @ Mullen's   | Toyota of CP/Philly's Vipers      |                         |
| July 22nd  | Sunday | 12:00PM | @ Mullen's   | High Maintenance                  |                         |
| July 22nd  | Sunday | 1:30PM  | @ Mullen's   | Lorenzo's Café/Philly Bar & Grill |                         |

The games are played at either Mullen's Park located at 35 North First Street, Albany, NY 12204, Ridgefield Park located at 316 Partridge Street, Albany, NY 12208 or at Fireman's Field located at 20 Moore Street, Albany, NY 12202. All directions are available on the website. Please type in your browser <http://www.softball-24-7.com/ESS-SundaySoftball/>. On the website, we are listed as St. Peter's Angels. To check on rainouts call (518)269-1293.



## Vestry

There will be no Vestry meetings for the months of July and August. Meetings will resume in September.

## Outreach

There will be no outreach meetings for the months of July or August. Please join us at our next meeting in September to learn about Outreach ministries and hospitality events beings planned!



An Ecumenical Conference, October 2-3, 2018

Christ the King Spiritual Life Center

Come early for a pre-conference meet-&-greet on October 1

[www.stmaryseast.net/holiness-conference](http://www.stmaryseast.net/holiness-conference)  
518-692-3028



Keynote Speaker: The Most Rev. & Right Honorable George Carey, 103rd Archbishop of Canterbury (retired)



The Rev. Dr. Doug Collum, Dean Northeast Seminary, Rochester, NY



The Rev. Dr. Esau McCaulley Assistant Professor of New Testament & Early Christianity, Northeast Seminary, Rochester, NY



The Rev. Mark A. Michael, Rector, St. Francis' Episcopal Church, Potomac, MD



Deacon Ean Freeman, Ph.D. Lecturer in Liturgical Art St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary



Dr. Christopher Wells Editor, The Living Church



Mother Miriam, CSM, Superior Community of St. Mary, Eastern Province

## Youth Formation & Sunday School

# One more --- Con GRAD ulations!

**DAVID PUGLIESE** graduated from Siena College. (David is the son of Robin and David Pugliese and the grandson of Gertrude Schupp and the late Robert Schupp).

AGAIN, CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR 2017-2018 HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES

On June 17th we honored those who teach our children here at St. Peter's Church. We give thanks to God for the service of these individuals:

Director of Christian Education  
Laura Rulison

Teachers:  
Victoria Pautler  
Ashley Spath  
Sharon Vardabash  
Kelly Welch



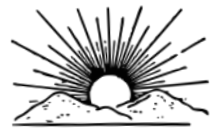
### St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen

**Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup> ~ 11:00am to 1:00pm**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### Beaver Cross Summer Camp

There are still a few openings left for campers to join in the fun! If you have children who might benefit from summer camp, call Daniel Hyde at 518-692-9550, Ext. 114.



**Grow in Christ!**

## Ministry News

|  | <u>July 1, 2018</u>                                     | <u>July 8, 2018</u>                             | <u>July 15, 2018</u>                         | <u>July 22, 2018</u>                             | <u>July 29, 2018</u>   |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| <b><u>8:30am</u></b><br><b><u>Lectors</u></b>  | John Sterrett<br>Gayle Hartz                            | Gordon Lattey<br>Robert Hull                    | Gordon Lattey<br>Ray Roohan                  | Gordon Lattey<br>Michele Vennard                 | John Sterrett<br>Janell Hobson                                 |
| <b><u>10:30am</u></b><br><b><u>Lectors</u></b> | Sally Jennings<br>Earl Stafford                         | Terry Flannery<br>Edith Allen                   | Moses Kamyia<br>Connie Powell                | Tim Murphy<br>Ashley Spath                       | Cathy Connors<br>Fred Hershey                                  |
| <b><u>Flower</u></b><br><b><u>Guild</u></b>    | Ann Collins   | Sally Jennings                                  | Nancy Creagan                                | Edith Allen                                      | Laura Grill  |
| <b><u>8:30am</u></b><br><b><u>Ushers</u></b>   | Clark Daggett<br>Fred Lincoln                           | Bernie Burnell<br>John Davis                    | Robin LaPlante<br>John Sterrett              | Robert Hull<br>Teddy Hull                        | Clark Daggett<br>Fred Lincoln                                  |
| <b><u>10:30am</u></b><br><b><u>Ushers</u></b>  | Sharon DeBonis<br>Julie Hotmer Drao<br>Catherine Schunk | William Collins<br>Kevin Creagan<br>Jeff Russom | Sherry Bishko<br>Moses Kamyia<br>Frank Spath | Chris Grill<br>Mark Lundberg<br>Michele Lundberg | William Collins<br>Kevin Creagan<br>Jeff Russom<br>Frank Spath |
| <b><u>Altar</u></b><br><b><u>Guild</u></b>     | Donna Hershey<br>Diana Martin<br>Cathy Schunk           | Donna Hershey<br>Cathy Schunk<br>Connie Powell  | Donna Hershey                                | Donna Hershey<br><br>Barbara Kelly               | Donna Hershey<br><br>Michele Lundberg                          |



Snapshots with our own Bishop William Love and with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry


Pictured with them, counter-clockwise from the left: Alexandra Whitcraft, Alice Sanigular, Holli Frazier, and Judy Burns



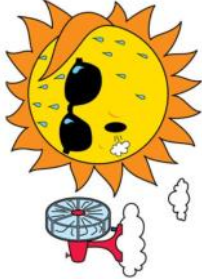
Above: Cole & Ava singing with the Convention VBS!

Left: Tim Murphy carrying the St. Peter's Episcopal Church banner during the procession.

# July 2018

| Sunday   | Monday                   | Tuesday | Wednesday   | Thursday | Friday | Saturday                            |
|--|--------------------------|---------|---|----------|--------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 The Sixth Sunday<br>after Pentecost<br><br>8:30am - Holy Communion<br>10:30am - Holy Communion   | 2                        | 3       | 4 Independence<br>Day<br><br>Office Closed  | 5        | 6      | 7                                   |
| 8 The Seventh Sunday<br>after Pentecost<br><br>8:30am - Holy Communion<br>10:30am - Morning Prayer | 9                        | 10      | 11<br>8:45am - Top of the Hill<br>12:05pm - Holy Communion                          | 12       | 13     | 14                                  |
| 15 The Eighth Sunday<br>after Pentecost<br><br>8:30am - Holy Communion<br>10:30am - Holy Communion | 16                       | 17      | 18<br>8:45am - Top of the Hill<br>12:05pm - Holy Communion                          | 19       | 20     | 21<br>11:00am Angels in<br>Training |
| 22 The Ninth Sunday<br>after Pentecost<br><br>8:30am - Holy Communion<br>10:30am - Morning Prayer  | 23 St. Mary<br>Magdalene | 24      | 25 St. James, Apostle<br><br>8:45am - Top of the Hill<br>12:05pm - Holy Communion   | 26       | 27     | 28                                  |
| 29 The Tenth Sunday<br>after Pentecost<br><br>8:30am - Holy Communion<br>10:30am - Morning Prayer  | 30                       | 31      |  |          |        |                                     |

# August 2018

| Sunday   | Monday                                   | Tuesday | Wednesday  | Thursday | Friday             | Saturday                         |
|--|--|---------|--|----------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
|                               |  |         | 1  | 2        | 3                  | 4                                |
| <b>5 The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost</b><br>8:30am - Holy Communion<br>10:30am - Holy Communion              | <b>6 The Transfiguration of our Lord</b> | 7       | 8<br>8:45am - Top of the Hill<br>12:05pm - Holy Communion                      | 9        | 10                 | 11                               |
| <b>12 The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost</b><br>8:30am - Holy Communion with Baptism<br>10:30am - Morning Prayer | 13                                       | 14      | 15 St. Mary the Virgin<br>8:45am - Top of the Hill<br>12:05pm - Holy Communion | 16       | 17                 | 18<br>11:00am Angels in Training |
| <b>19 The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b><br>8:30am - Holy Communion<br>10:30am - Holy Communion           | 20                                       | 21      | 22<br>8:45am - Top of the Hill<br>12:05pm - Holy Communion                     | 23       | 24 St. Bartholomew | 25                               |
| <b>26 The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b><br>8:30am - Holy Communion<br>10:30am - Morning Prayer           | 27                                       | 28      | 29<br>8:45am - Top of the Hill<br>12:05pm - Holy Communion                     | 30       | 31                 |                                  |

# St. Peter's Music



## Choir Awards - 2018



Choir Awards were given on Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup>.

We thank all the members of the choir and congratulate the recipients of named awards:

**Women of St. Peter's Award** to a girl treble for meritorious service: Elizabeth Powell

**The John M. Seiling Award** to a boy treble for meritorious service: Asher Madison

**The Rector's Medal** to an adult chorister for distinguished service: Josie Madison

Choir Mother Diana Martin was recognized with a certificate for her dedicated service.

James Adams was presented with a framed photo display in recognition of his 50 years of service in the Choir



**Friday Noontime Concerts:** St. Peter's organ concerts will not be offered during the summer months but will resume in September.

Boys and Girls, age 8 to grade 8  
Are invited to join this professional 4-part  
choir. Great music/musical training /  
performance experience / monthly salary  
Contact director Neil Keen for more  
information  
stpms@gmail.com or 518-339-0137



## Saint of the Month Club

William Wilberforce, 1833



The life of William Wilberforce refutes the popular notion that a politician cannot be a saintly Christian, dedicated to the service of humanity.

Wilberforce was born into an affluent family in Hull, Yorkshire, on August 24, 1759, and was educated at St. John's College, Cambridge. In 1780, he was elected to the House of Commons, and he served in it until 1825. He died in London, July 29, 1833, and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

His conversion to an evangelical Christian life occurred in 1784, several years after he entered Parliament. Fortunately, he was induced by his friends not to abandon his political activities after this inward change in his life, but thereafter he steadfastly refused to accept high office or a peerage.

He gave himself unstintingly to the promotion of overseas missions, popular education, and the reformation of public manners and morals. He also supported parliamentary reform and Catholic emancipation. Above all, his fame rests upon his persistent, uncompromising, and single-minded crusade for the abolition of slavery and the slave-trade. That sordid traffic was abolished in 1807. He died just one month before Parliament put an end to slavery in the British dominions. One of the last letters written by John Wesley was addressed to Wilberforce. In it Wesley gave him his blessing for his noble enterprise.

Wilberforce's eloquence as a speaker, his charm in personal address, and his profound religious spirit, made him a formidable power for good; and his countrymen came to recognize in him a man of heroic greatness.

**Prayer:**  
*Let thy continual mercy, O Lord, enkindle in your Church the never-failing gift of love, that, following the example of thy servant William Wilberforce, we may have grace to defend the poor, and maintain the cause of those who have no helper; for the sake of him who gave his life for us, thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen*



## St. Peter's Chimes, Organs and Organists



When a church is three hundred years old it has to have had quite a musical history! Early church music at St. Peter's consisted of hymn singing to the music of a bass viol or pitch pipe and later to an organ. It was in 1751, after the building of a bell tower on the first edifice, that a bell from the Whitechapel Bellfoundry of London was acquired. It gained the distinction of being the first bell in Albany to announce the passage of the Declaration of Independence. Later in 1875 the Tweddle chimes were installed in the bell tower of the third edifice of the church. Christmas carols were played on the new chimes to the delight of both the parishioners and citizens of Albany.

The first church organ for which there is an archival record was a Redstone organ, dated 1811. In 1834 Reverend Horatio Potter introduced better music into the services as well as a new organ. A contract was made with Mr. Hook, of Boston. The Hook Contract was for \$2000 and the old organ. The finished organ was set up on January 1836. Then, in 1880 the Reverend Battershall promoted an organ rebuilding project. The Archives has a list of the congregational subscriptions that were collected for this project. Today our current organ is a German organ called a Schlicker installed in 1977. Donald Ingram was instrumental in the purchase of the Schlicker organ and played its initial recital.

One organist and choirmaster and also composer of note was George Wiliam Warren who was with St. Peter's from 1846 until 1858. He left at the time that the third edifice of the church was being built. It was during the period of 1882 to 1886 that the organist and choirmaster was Gerritt Smith, one of the founders of the American Guild of Organists. A later and very famous organist and choirmaster who served many years (1892 to 1934) was Frank Sill Rogers. His choir performed many important works including the *Stabat Mater* by Rossini for the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Church. He was also the founder of the Mendelssohn Club, an organization of male singers which is still active today.

Closer to our own time the organists included: Donald Ingram (1969 to 1978), Andrew Clarke (1978-1980) and our own Neil Keen who has been with the Church since 1980. Neil has a distinguished history of choir performances including the annual *Messiah* by Handel at Christmas and the annual *Passion According to St. Matthew* by Bach, or equivalent oratorio, at Easter, as well as numerous summer performance trips to European Cathedrals.

E. C. Powell, Church Archivist

### Mystery in St. Peter's Church

Be careful not to let thorns grow in your hearts! This thorny plant is growing somewhere in St. Peter's Church. See if you can find it.

*Ground that drinks up the rain falling on it repeatedly, and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. But if it produces thorns and thistles, it is worthless and on the verge of being cursed; its end is to be burned over.* Hebrews 6:7-8



### Bidding you a fond farewell!

To the parishioners of St. Peter's Church:

It is with sadness that I must announce my resignation as the administrative assistant of this lovely parish. My husband has accepted the position of rector to an Episcopal church in Richmond, Virginia. My last day will be August 7<sup>th</sup>.

I am grateful for the opportunity of serving you and your wonderful clergy. It has been a blessing getting to know you.

Sincerely,

Angie Schlossberg

**MINUTES FOR THE VESTRY MEETING  
ST. PETER'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
May 8, 2018**

**Present:** Fr. Hartt, Mtr. Sue Waldron, D. Spath, J. Chenot, N. Creagan, C. Gordon, F. Hershey, S. Lencewicz, G. Scala, A. Spath

**Absent:** K. Cehowski, T. Murphy

Opening Prayer Led by Father Paul Hartt

**Approval of the Minutes of Vestry Meeting, April 10, 2018.**

The April 10, 2018, minutes were approved on a motion by M. Holden and seconded by F. Hershey. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

**Warden Report** –D. Spath and J. Chenot

As we move into May, we finish celebrating the sixth and seventh Sunday in the Easter season on the church calendar. We also will be celebrating Ascension Day this coming Thursday with an evensong service at 7:30 PM. This coming Sunday, the last Sunday in Easter is Mother's Day. The Sunday school children will be arranging small potted flowers to hand out after the 10:30 service. Thanks to all the Sunday school staff, as well as those in the nursery who work with our younger congregation throughout the church calendar year.

It has been very encouraging to see many new faces and families attending recently on a regular basis the past few months. As in past years, service attendance seems to fall off a bit after the Easter season and as we must try to commit ourselves to attend Sunday Service more often to support these new members.

Though we have not officially rolled out the entire fundraising campaign for the interior restoration project, it has been very encouraging to see donations and commitments sent in to the office after the letter of intention went out. As mentioned, we have a \$100,000.00 matching donation that needs to be reached so we can move forward with the first phase of the project repairing the walls in the church, painting and cleaning the stone work around the stained glass windows. A sample of the wall will be done in the next few weeks to give everyone an idea what the church will look like when we proceed with the entire restoration. Please stay tuned for more information regarding this exciting new project in the next few weeks.

Looking ahead, the Albany Diocese Convention is coming up in the beginning of June. We would like to thank Tim Murphy, Caitlin Cehowski, Alice Sanigular and Carly Crewell for representing St. Peter's as our delegates this year. Also, the 17<sup>th</sup> of June, Father's Day, the Choir and Sunday school will be ending their regular schedule for the year and will be marking their successes and milestones with awards. Following the service, the Sunday school will be hosting their annual ice cream social at coffee hour.

**Finance** – G. Scala - Treasurer's Report

George reviewed the Treasurer's Report for April. Offerings for April were \$23,919. Year-to-date offerings are \$75,887. This compares to a budgeted number of \$92,433. YTD Offerings through the same period in 2017 were \$89,352.

The investment/endowment accounts both showed losses for April. Merrill Lynch showed a positive return of +0.25%. YTD return of Merrill Lynch is +0.07%. The Key accounts showed a positive return of +0.20% for the month and is at -.27% YTD. This leaves us with a negative variance in this area YTD of (\$62,748). Both accounts performed favorably versus market indexes. Expenses YTD through April were \$2,370 over budget.

Pledges for 2018 remain at 42 pledging units for a total amount of \$119,720.

**Property** – None

**Outreach** – Mother Sue

The annual Spring Tea was Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds raised were \$390. Outreach added to that and donated a total of \$500.00 to the Homeless Action Committee (HAC) Van, which provides support to the homeless in the City of Albany.

Sunday May 6, 2018 was the Albany CROP walk. Thank you to our recruiters, Maria Holden and Tim Murphy, and all those who pledged and walked. We will provide a future update with total monies raised through our efforts. To date, we have raised \$600.00.

We received a \$600.00 donation from a parishioner to reimburse Outreach for one of the West Buganda Orphan scholarships made this year – thank you for your care and concern!

Outreach voted to donate \$1470 to cover (3) scholarships to this year's Beaver Cross summer camp. This will be donated under a matching grant program, thus providing six weeks' camp to youth in our Diocese. Thank you, St. Peter's, for your generosity!

**Old Business**

Church Restoration – The demo area for the restoration will begin next week. F. Hershey and M. Holden presented a restoration update, discussing that the announcement letter had been sent to the congregation and a brochure is in progress detailing the project. They also presented a draft of a Restoration Fund Pledge Card. A. Spath and C. Gordon presented a Fundraising Event Plan outlining 3 potential events to benefit the restoration fund.

## **New Business**

A concern was brought up about the information cards for newcomers not being clear enough. They will be worked on and revised so that the information can be easily received in the office.

## **Associate Rector's Report** – Mother Sue

Two parishioners have contacted me pledging towards the Church Restoration fund for the cleaning and painting of the church walls (and windows). One pledge was \$20,000 (payable upon a signed contract) and the other pledge was \$500.00. I am humbled by the devotion and commitment of our St. Peter's parishioners in the care of our church.

The Daughters of the King continue a study together: *Continuing the Journey: Spiritual Formation Guide*. We invite women of the parish to inquire if they are interested in learning more about joining the Daughters and their commitment to Prayer, Service and Evangelism. A new discernment class will take place next year.

The clergy joined our colleagues at the annual EDOA Clergy Conference at the Spiritual Life Center April 16-18. This was a time of great learning, connecting with fellow clergy and refreshment.

Registration for Diocesan Convention (June 8-10) is now open. The pre-convention meeting is tonight, May 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Cathedral of All Saints. Convention is open to anyone for all or part of the weekend. So far, over 700 people have registered, and this year's attendance is expected to be the highest in recent years. Our special guest is the Episcopal Church's Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry.

Pastoral care in the parish has been in high demand and yet shouldered beautifully by clergy and lay members alike. I am thankful to all of you who are caring for one another, calling and sending cards, providing rides or other helps and praying for the sick and homebound. We are a true spiritual family.

I have one week's vacation scheduled beginning May 21<sup>st</sup> – thank you!

## **Sunday Attendance** – Fr. Hartt – ASA: 127

## **Rectors Report** - Father Hartt

Father Hartt began by expressing appreciation for the fine letter sent to the parish concerning the interior restoration and painting. The letter was penned by Maria Holden. Jim Chenot and Fred Hersey contributed to the letter as well. The painting of the interior is a project long in incubation. Jack Waite's Historic Structures Report was the catalysis. We learned through his report the change from the original paint color as well as the intended color of the stone. The stone has darkened considerably through the years. The samples of paint taken by an expert confirmed the original color under the white paint. Molding around the windows had been removed and will need to be restored in the restoration project. The parish's financial support for the project at this very early stage is encouraging.

Father Hartt spoke of the upcoming Evensong for Ascension. The choir has been hard at work. Father Hartt commended the choir for its fine offerings during Easter. On Pentecost, one child will be Baptized.

Professor Jocelyn Goodwin will be coming to St. Peter's on May 17th to see the Queen Anne Silver on which he has written a scholarly article. The article will be of great value to the records of the Archives.

Following this evening's vestry meeting, Fr. Hartt will be attending the Pre-Convention meeting at the Cathedral. The meeting will also be attended by any delegates who can attend.

Father Hartt thanked Mtr. Waldron for the care of the parish during his retreat. Father Hartt will be on vacation during July.

Father Hartt shared with the Vestry a church financial health checklist that imparts the recommended guidelines of the Diocesan and National Canons.

Father Hartt thanked Judy and Christy Burn's for putting on the Spring Tea Fundraiser. Proceeds of \$390 went to the Homeless Action Committee's van service which operates during "cold blue." Father Hartt, Maria Holden, and Dr. Terry Flannery attended the CROP Walk on Sunday.

As Fr. Hartt has shared previously, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry will be our honored guest at Convention. Father Hartt also submitted the brief history of the parish requested for a booklet honoring our 150th Anniversary as a Diocese. We need to make a St. Peter's banner for the procession at the Diocesan Eucharist on Saturday.

Father Hartt thanked Chrisie Gordon, Ashley Spath, and Vicky Paulter for their continued work on social media for the parish.

Father Hartt noted the number of visitors of late. It is important that we be mindful to greet them warmly at coffee hour.

Father Hartt plans to run the ALPHA program in September. ALPHA is an evangelism program from the Church of England. The program has both adult and youth component. The increasing number of "unchurched" seekers need to be engaged and should find this program helpful.

## **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by C. Gordon and seconded by G. Scala, then was passed unanimously by the vestry.

## **Compline** - Father Hartt led Compline.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christie J. Gordon

## *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*

### Office Hours:

Monday -Friday

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Telephone: 518-434-3502

Fax: 518-462-4419

E-Mail:

[Receptionist@stpeterschurchalbany.org](mailto:Receptionist@stpeterschurchalbany.org)

Website:

[www.stpeterschurchalbany.org](http://www.stpeterschurchalbany.org)

## *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.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

