



Cornerstone

June 2015

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

Local Pentecost

"And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting." (Acts 2:2)

So begins the familiar reading from Acts appointed for Pentecost. It tells that Pentecost, which celebrates both the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the universal Church through its power, began at the local level. The house in which the disciples were staying was filled with a sound like a violent wind.. First the disciples heard something, then came tongues like fire resting upon each head. They spoke in languages which they did not know, proclaiming "God's deeds of power." These disciples were being given a sign of their calling to spread the Gospel to all nations. Yet, it begins at the most local level. The Spirit falls upon this particular house in which they are staying.

Several years back, an English clergyman and his wife visited St. Peter's. They were people of great faith, abundant in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and full of goodwill. The day before they were to return home, they asked to meet with me in the church. It was a Saturday morning. The couple wanted to pray for our parish. The prayers that followed were powerful in scope and content. But then something happened that I had not witnessed before.

The priest's wife rose and began to walk the aisles throughout the church, singing "in the Spirit." It was beautiful in tone. This song was not in words, but felt like the opening of heaven. From time to time as she traveled, there was a sound from the rafters above – a sound like they were moving by a strong wind. I felt at that moment that the church could stand or not stand by the wind of God, and yet the power was clearly for our good. Holiness descended from on high, It hit the house. Our house.

It is undeniable that one can tell a church that has been the place of earnest prayer. No matter the beauty of the structure, it is the prayers of God's people that lead to the sanctification of place. Scripture tells us that this sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit. It is not for sale. We must pray for it. It must be given from above.

The gift of the Holy Spirit comes to a particular place, as it did the house of the disciples on Pentecost. We might ask: What of our family's house? Is it a sanctified home? What is true of the church must be true of our homes. If our homes are prayed in, holiness sought, forgiveness extended, the honoring of parents and loving care of children taking place, such can be felt as in a church. Of course, our inner being is the most local level of all. For we ourselves are the house of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, *"Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them."* (John 14:23.)

It is my prayer that this Pentecost will spread into every home; the home of our church, the homes of our families, and the temple of the Holy Spirit, our very bodies. I will always remember and give thanks for those two visitors from another nation that came to us in holiness, peace, and prayer. It was a "mini" Pentecost for us.

Then again, perhaps there is no such thing as a "mini" visitation from the Holy Spirit!

Blessed Pentecost to all,

Fr. Hartt+

From the Associate Rector:

Have you had a Check-up Lately?

We all know how important it is to have a physical check-up from time-to-time. To go to the doctor's office, not when one is ill or suffering from some atypical symptom, but primarily for a basic health evaluation. The doctor might check one's weight, blood pressure and sometimes testing is ordered. The results of these can indicate someone is right on track, or the need for specific medical treatment, something one may not have been aware of.

Spiritually, it is also good to conduct a “check-up” from time-to-time. Just like with a physical exam, there are particular markers one might reflect on to gauge their “spiritual health”. I'd like to explore three of them below:

Worship: This is probably the first marker that comes to most Christian's minds. After all, worship (going to church service) may be the primary action of many Christians. Our Catechism* echoes this by stating “The duty of all Christians is to follow Christ; to come together week by week for corporate worship; and to work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God.” I'm struck by the words “week by week”. Yes, corporate worship happens week by week. Ask yourself, “am I part of it?” We are experiencing a trend, more and more lately, of less frequent attendance by some. Some come weekly, others once monthly or even more infrequently. There are always reasons for this and some are unavoidable (work schedules, travel, etc.) However, one can ask, “Do I prioritize week by week worship in my life? What equals, or even surpasses, my priority of gathering to worship at church?”

Prayer: follows next and is closely linked to worship as our worship is corporate prayer. And yet, a full Christian prayer life is even more. The Catechism* of our church states “Prayer is responding to God, by thought and by deeds, with or without words.” Responding to God...How and how often should one respond to God? There are many kinds of prayers: “adoration, praise, thanksgiving, penitence, oblation, intercession, and petition”. These cover the many circumstances of life experiences. And yet, these experiences don't occur on Sunday alone...there are six other days during which the Christian can 'Respond to God'. I know many of you are deeply prayerful individuals. Others might expand their times, frequency or types of prayer. One might reflect on how often they 'Respond to God' in prayer, with or without words....

Service: The Ministry of the church, as within the Catechism*, asks: “Who are the ministers of the Church?”; and answers: “The ministers of the Church are *lay persons*, bishops, priests and deacons.” Lay persons – that's most of you reading this now. It continues, “The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.” In the sermon on Pentecost, I invited each person to reflect on what spiritual gift(s) God has blessed them with, and how the gift(s) should be exercised. One might ask, “How am I a Minister of the Church?” Also, “Am I exercising the spiritual gift(s) God has given me?” Lastly, “How do I proclaim, in word and deed, Jesus' Gospel message to the world?”

You may wonder why I chose to reflect on these three spiritual markers? Combined, they form the outline of the very Mission of every Christian. The Catechism* reminds us, “The Church pursues its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.” This season of Pentecost celebrates the imparting of the Holy Spirit to each believer to continue the work began by Jesus Christ. With our spiritual health in good order, we will be equipped in every way for the Mission before us!

Yours in Christ,

Mtr. Sue+

Con GRAD ulations !

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR 2014-2015 HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES

JOSHUA GURWITZ graduated from the University at Albany (SUNY) with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Math, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Vocal Performance (Music). He will be pursuing a Master of Music Degree in Vocal Performance at the Aaron Copland School of Music (Queens College). (Josh sings Bass in the St. Peter's Choir).

JACKSON B. LEON will graduate from Albany High School with a Regents Diploma. At the present he is undecided on what college he will be attending but will pursue a major in Marketing. (Jackson is the son of Laura and Stephen Leon).

MALCOLM MORAN graduated from The College of Saint Rose with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music. (Malcolm sings Tenor in the St. Peter's Choir).

SUSAN SMITH graduated from Hudson Valley Community College with a Certificate in Bereavement Studies. (Susan is one of St. Peter's Lay Eucharistic Ministers).

JOSEPH SPATH graduated from Binghamton University (SUNY), The Watson School of Engineering and Applied Science with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering. (Joe is one of St. Peter's Lay Eucharistic Ministers and the son of Frank and Deb Spath).

NICHOLAS SPATH graduated from Northeastern University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering. (Nicholas is the grandson of Frank and Deb Spath).

MOLLY BRONSON TUCKER will graduate from Saratoga Springs High School with a Regents Diploma. She will be attending The School of the Art Institute of Chicago pursuing a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Studio Arts with a concentration in Photography. (Molly is the granddaughter of Diana Martin).

VICTORIA LYNNE WALDRON graduated from Dickinson College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History Cum Laude with History



Thank You

I wish to thank the people of St. Peter's for hosting my diaconal internship these past 9 months. Coming from a small suburban parish to the "big city" and much larger congregation, initially I was a bit apprehensive; however, your warmth, support and encouragement immediately changed that! It has been an incredible time of learning and personal growth. I was particularly impressed with your many outreach ministries, especially to the homeless and those who walked through the doors during the week.

Thank you for the thoughtful and practical gift of a beautiful communion kit, which will last a lifetime of ministry. This gift displays your love of one of the diaconal ministries given to me by our Lord. I will fondly think of you each time I visit the sick and shut-ins.

I feel particularly blessed to have been placed at St. Peter's.

-Deacon Denise Moore

Denise was ordained a Deacon of the church by Bishop Love on Saturday, May 30th.

Those who have entered into REST:

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God:

Stephen Applin 5/22/15

Adult Education

The Diocese of Albany is One Church fulfilling the Great Commandment and the Great Commission, moving from membership to discipleship; equipping, emboldening, and sending disciples to make disciples.



*Three Persons, One God
Three Streams, One Church*

Friday, June 5th through Sunday, June 7th, 2015
Camp of the Woods, Speculator NY

There are workshops and plenary sessions, worship, fellowship, and fun! And we'll welcome our special guest, the 103rd Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey of Clifton as preacher at the Convention Eucharist and the Healing Service on Saturday! Please call Meghan in the Church office for additional information and/or to register!

Outreach

This month's Outreach meeting will be on Tuesday 6/9/15 at 4:30 pm. Please join us to learn about Outreach ministries and hospitality events beings planned!

Daughters of the King

The DOK meeting this month will be Sunday June 14, 2015 at 9:35am in the second floor classroom.



2015 St. Peter's Angels Softball Schedule

May 31	Sunday	4:30pm	@Mullens	(Straight Ballin')
June 7	Sunday	1:30pm	@Mullens	(Recovery Room)
June 14	Sunday	1:30pm	@Mullens	(Team Pepsi)
June 14	Sunday	3:00pm	@Mullens	(Feelin')
July 12	Sunday	3:00pm	@Mullens	(John C's Team)
July 12	Sunday	4:30pm	@Mullens	(Straight Ballin')

All games will be played at Mullen's Park located at 41 North 1st Street, Albany, NY 12204. To check rain outs call 269-1293.

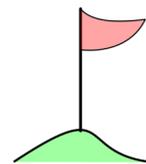
Diaper Drive for the Albany Refugee Resettlement Ministry

The Albany Refugee Resettlement Ministry (ARRM) is holding its fourth annual Diaper Drive at Convention. All diapers donated will go directly to Burmese Refugee families living in the cities of Albany and Rensselaer who live below the poverty line. Diapers are not covered under any social service programs and diapers are not cheap. Last year's Diaper Drive helped to keep hundreds of babies clean and dry and healthy for months. Please help to re-stock the St David's Episcopal Church Diaper Bank.

The sizes of diapers that the ARRM is requesting are 2, 3, 4, and/or 5. You can also donate "Dollars for Diapers." Just make out a check in the amount you would like to donate, payable to St. David's Church with Diaper Ministry written in the memo area. *All* money donated will go directly to purchasing diapers for families in need. *All* donations, diapers and "dollars" will be collected at Convention Registration at the Purdy Center at Camp of the Woods on both Friday and Saturday.

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 434-3502.



Mark your Calendar!

June 14, 2015 is the 16th Annual **Bishop Ball Golf Tournament** at Western Turnpike Golf Course, Guilderland NY. Registration for Golf teams as well as those attending Dinner will be available soon! Additional information available at: <http://www.thecathedraloffallsaints.org/>

Youth Formation & Sunday School

Awards "Sundae": June 14, 2015

Please come celebrate and give thanks to our esteemed choir members and dedicated Sunday school teachers! The Sunday school will be blessing us with make-your-own sundae's after the service!

St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen

The 3rd Saturday of each month (June 20, 2015) (Angels in Training), invites you to join Laura Saffares and others from St. Peter's to prepare and serve lunch at this Episcopal church on Clinton Avenue, Albany. Generally, over 100 adults and children come for lunch so many hands mean light work! Please call Laura for information or to let her know you are coming at



Beaver Cross Camp Dates!

2015 Overnight Camp Dates

Beaver Bound	Wed, July 1 – Fri, July 3	k-2
Grade		
Discoverers	July 5 – July 10	3-5 Grade
Adventurers 1	July 12 – July 18	6-8 Grade
Adventurers 2	July 19 – July 25	6-8 Grade
Pioneers 1	July 26 – Aug 1	9-12
Grade		
Pioneers 2	Aug 2 – Aug 8	9-12
Grade		

*Dropoff is Sunday, 2-4PM and Camper Pickup is Saturday at 10:00 followed by a closing ceremony and cookout for campers and their families.

2015 Day Camp Dates

Daycamp 1	June 29 – July 3
Daycamp 2	July 6 – July 10
Daycamp 3	July 13 – July 17
Daycamp 4	July 20 – July 24
Daycamp 5	July 27 – July 31
Daycamp 6	Aug 3 – 7
Daycamp 7	Aug 10 – 14
Daycamp 8	Aug 17 – 21

*A Day Camp Week runs Monday-Friday from 8:00-5:00 every day. An early 7:30 drop-off with breakfast is available for an extra

2015 Youth Bible Studies

Herkimer

Christ Episcopal Church, 300 N. Main Street
1st & 3rd Monday, 6-8 PM

Amsterdam

St. Ann's Church, 37 Division St.
2nd & 4th Monday, 6-8 PM

Ballston Spa

Christ Church, 15 West High St.
1st & 3rd Tuesday, 6-8 PM

Delmar

St. Stephen's Church, 16 Elsmere Avenue
2nd & 4th Tuesday, 6-8 PM

Glens Falls

Church of the Messiah, 296 Glen St.
2nd & 4th Thursday, 6-8 PM

Schenectady

Christ Church, 970 State Street
2nd & 4th Sunday, 5-7 PM

Oneonta

St. James Episcopal, 305 Main St.
4th Thursday, 6-8 PM

Potsdam

Trinity Church, 8 Maple St.

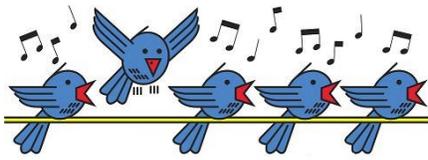
Church Chuckles!



LEPERS ... I HEAL LEPERS

June 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary 5 pm - Treble Rehearsal	2	3 8:45am - Top of the Hill 12:05pm - Holy Communion	4 5 pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30 pm - Full Choir	5 12:30 pm - Organ Concert Diocesan Convention	6 Diocesan Convention
Proper 5 11 am - Holy Communion 12 pm - Holy Communion Diocesan Convention	8	9 4:30 pm - Outreach Meeting 5:15 pm - Vestry Meeting	10 8:45 am - Top of the Hill 12:05 pm - Holy Communion	11 St. Barnabas	12 12:30 pm - Organ Concert	13
Proper 6 11 am - Holy Communion 12 pm - DOK Meeting 1 pm - Morning Prayer w/ Holy School & Choir awards 2 pm - Ball Golf Tournament	15	16	17 8:45 am - Top of the Hill 12:05pm - Holy Communion	18	19 12:30 pm - Organ Concert	20 11 am - Angels in Training
Proper 7 11 am - Holy Communion 12 pm - Holy Communion	22	23	24 The Nativity of St. John the Baptist 8:45 am - Top of the Hill 12:05 pm - Holy Communion	25	26 12:30 pm - Organ Concert	27
Proper 8 11 am - Holy Communion 12 pm - Morning Prayer	29 St. Peter and St. Paul	30				



Summer Choir

During the summer months , we welcome parish members to sing with regular choir members for the 10:30 service. Beginning on June 21st, the summer choir will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:45 to prepare music for the 10:30 service. There is no audition, although the ability to follow musical notation is helpful. Come and join the music making!

St. Peters Music

CHOIR

Choir rehearsals will be on the following schedule:

- Mondays: 5:00 - 6:15pm Trebles
- Thursdays: 5:00 - 6:30pm Trebles
5:30 - 7:00pm Adult choristers
- Sundays: 9:30 rehearse for the 10:30 service

There are several new treble choristers poised to join us, and we would love to welcome more. Please contact Neil Keen for more information at stpmus@gmail.com or 339-0137.

Saint of the Month Club

Basil the Great

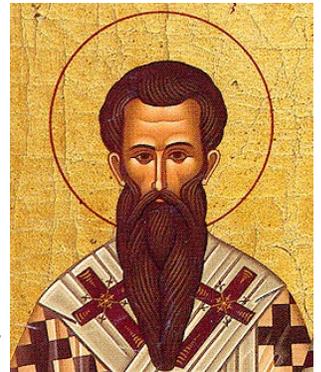
Bishop of Caesarea, 379

FRIDAY NOONTIME ORGAN CONCERTS

Free half-hour recitals each Friday at 12:30

PRAYER: Almighty God, who hast revealed to thy Church thine eternal Being of glorious majesty and perfect love as one God in Trinity of Persons: Give us grace that, like thy bishop Basil of Caesarea, we may continue steadfast in the confession of this faith, and constant in our worship of thee, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; who livest and reignest for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Basil was born about 329, in Caesarea of Cappadocia, into a Christian family of wealth and distinction. Educated in classical Hellenism, Basil might have continued in academic life, had it not been for the death of a beloved younger brother and the faith of his sister, Macrina. He was baptized at the age of twenty-eight, and ordained a deacon soon after.



Macrina had founded the first monastic order for women at Annesi. Fired by her example, Basil made a journey to study the life of anchorites in Egypt and elsewhere. In 358 he returned to Cappadocia and founded the first monastery for men at Ibora. Assisted by Gregory Nazianzus, he compiled The Longer and Shorter Rules, which transformed the solitary anchorites into a disciplined community of prayer and work. The Rules became the foundation for all Eastern monastic discipline. The monasteries also provided schools to train leaders for Church and State.

Basil was ordained presbyter in 364. In the conflict between the Arians (supported by an Arian Emperor) and orthodox Christians, Basil became convinced that he should be made Bishop of Caesarea. By a narrow margin, he was elected Bishop of Caesarea, Metropolitan of Cappadocia, and Exarch of Pontus. He was relentless in his efforts to restore the faith and discipline of the clergy, and in defense of the Nicene faith. When the Emperor Valens sought to undercut Basil's power by dividing the See of Cappadocia, Basil forced his brother Gregory to become Bishop of Nyssa.

In his treatise, On the Holy Spirit, Basil maintained that both the language of Scripture and the faith of the Church require that the same honor, glory, and worship is to be paid to the Spirit as to the Father and the Son. It was entirely proper, he asserted, to adore God in liturgical prayer, not only with the traditional words, "Glory to the Father through the Son in the Holy Spirit," but also with the formula, "Glory to the Father with the Son together with the Holy Spirit."

Basil was also concerned about the poor, and when he died, he willed to Caesarea a complete new town, built on his estate, with housing, a hospital and staff, a church for the poor, and a hospice for travelers.

Designing St. Peter's Church

The 3rd Edifice of St. Peter's Church contains the work of famous designers. They include among others: Richard Upjohn, Richard Mitchell Upjohn, Louis St. Gaudens, Henry Holiday, Robert Gibson and J. A. Holzer.

Richard Upjohn – Architect of the Church

In 1857 the Reverend Thomas Pitkin, selected Richard Upjohn to design of the 3rd Edifice of St. Peter's Church. Upjohn was already famous for his designs of the St. Thomas Church and the Trinity Church, both in New York City. The 3rd Edifice, designed in French Gothic style, was dedicated in 1860. Upjohn's son Richard Mitchell Upjohn designed the 3rd Edifice Tower which was completed in 1876. He also designed the beautiful Pruyne Altar and Reredos installed in 1885.



The winged angels on the altar were created by the famous sculptor, Louis St. Gaudens and

Robert Gibson and J. A. Holzer – Designers of the Mosaic Flooring of the Church

The chancel mosaic floor was created after the designs of Robert Gibson.

The mosaic flooring of the nave was created from the work of J.A. Holzer and laid by Tretel Brothers and company. Both Holzer and the Tretel Brothers were from New York City. The flooring of the nave incorporates various medallions and designs of the Christian church.

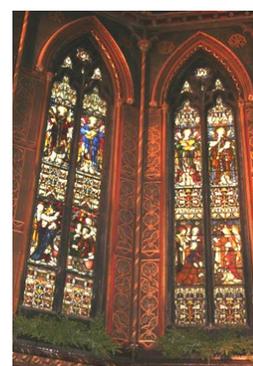


On the right aisle floor are depictions of the animals around the sacred tree of life. The animals represent the qualities of Christian character. There are birds, deer, rampant lions and other animals. These floor mosaics have been copied and made into banners which now hang on the right aisle of the church above the corresponding mosaic flooring. The banners were traced by



Henry Holiday – Designer of Stained Glass Windows of the Church

Henry Holiday was a British artist who designed several of our beautiful stained glass windows including: the Wells Window (depicting the three Marys); the Owens Window (depicting the Baptism of Christ); the Kidd window (depicting the infancy and boyhood of Christ); the Dexter Window (depicting Faith, Hope and Charity); and the Lansing Window (depicting scenes from the Night of the Nativity).



Holiday belonged to the pre-Raphaelite school which was known for beautiful women. In the Wells Window one of the three Marys has hair so long that she is carrying it over her arm.

Flower Memorials

During the year, our Flower Guild arranges flowers to bring beauty to our sanctuary and joy to our congregation. Those wishing to make a donation for flowers for a memorial, thanksgiving or celebration should call the Church Office to confirm available dates. During Advent, we use only greens; during Lent, the altars are bare. Other Sundays, we welcome contributions. Cost of flowers: Main Altar is \$50, St. Mark's Altar is \$35, and the Tower Altar is also \$35. All requests are payable in advance.

Minutes of the Vestry
St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church
April 14, 2015

1. Approval of minutes of the Vestry Meeting for March 10, 2015

The minutes were approved on a motion by P. Gerfin and seconded by J. Ratzel.

2. Sr. Warden's Report - J. Chenot

First and foremost, Jim wanted to welcome Father Hartt back from his recent sabbatical and also thank Mother Sue for all her help, love and support to the vestry and congregation while he was away. Father's return was on Palm Sunday and led us all into Holy week with guidance from Mother Sue's tireless preparation during Lent and up to Easter. Palm Sunday and both Sunday Easter services were well attended and we were happy to see new as well as former parishioners return for those services.

The Sunday school colored Easter eggs on Palm Sunday for the Easter egg hunt that followed the following Saturday at the Rectory. Many braved the cold and blustery day but it ended up to be a beautiful day with many showing up, young and old. Many thanks to Laura Saffares and all the other Sunday school staff for all their work each Sunday as well as helping at these special events.

Thanks and recognition needs to be expressed to our organ and choirmaster Neil Keen as well as the choir for all their work during the six weeks of Lent leading up to Easter, including evensong each Friday. Their schedule is a small undertaking to say the least, and we want to thank each and every one of the choir members for their talent and gifts they share with all of us. Also I would like to thank our choir Mom, Diana Martin who coordinated the brunch in between the Easter Services for the Choir as well as making sure the Choir looks their best at all times for the services.

Jim also wanted to thank all those involved in the logistics of all these services. He thanked the altar guild for all their preparation for the Maundy Thursday evening service, followed by preparing the altars for both services on Easter Sunday and making sure everything was clean and in order. Their time and ministry does not go unnoticed. We are also blessed to have the talents that come from the flower guild and this Easter was no exception with their labor and love beautifying our church with the flower arrangements throughout the church. Many thanks to the ushers as well who offer hospitality to all the newcomers as well as to our parishioners each and every Sunday. Also a big thanks to Pat and Bobby for keeping the Church and physical plant clean and in order. Finally we need to thank both Meghan and Janice working tirelessly in the church office during the Lenten season. It is incredible how much work is produced in the office during this time – all the printed items for the extra services as well as all the record keeping for the Easter Lilies memorials. We are so fortunate to have both of them and sincerely thank them for all their tireless work.

The homeless overflow shelter which we hosted for this season officially closed for the winter season, Sunday, March 29th. This year it was so important for these gentlemen to have a warm place to stay in the evening with the snow and temperature unprecedented in quite some years. Jim also wanted to thank the congregation for all their support with food and monetary donations as well as the volunteers who helped host each night helping the staff in the parish hall. Again, many thanks of appreciation to Judy Burns, Mother Sue and Denise Moore for all their help in this endeavor.

Looking ahead, this Sunday the Outreach Committee will be putting on an afternoon tea luncheon. Proceeds will benefit the Homeless Action Committee.

3. Finance-G. Scala

George S. reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the month of March. Total offerings for the month were \$24,246. Year to date total offerings are \$1,054,734 (\$54,734 excluding the bequest). The investment/endowment accounts showed varying returns for the month. Merrill Lynch was down -0.52% and Key was up +1.30%. Year to date Merrill is up +2.06% and Key is up +2.37% which results in a total gain in investments of \$60,506 which is (\$5,782) under budget. Expenses year to date are \$6,443 under budget.

George also reported on the stewardship for 2015. The givings for 2015 to-date are 95 units for an annual giving amount of \$198,382.

4. Property-T. Murphy

J. Chenot reported on some repairs at the rectory.

5. Outreach- J. Burns

There was no outreach meeting this month. The tea and CROP walk were discussed at vestry.

6. Old Business- The Diocesan Convention will be held June 5th to June 7th at Camp of the Woods in Speculator, NY.

7. New Business-

Fr. Hartt announced that the clergy will be attending a conference from April 27 to 29th. He also stated that the General Convention in Salt Lake City will be electing a new Presiding Bishop.

8. Associate Rector's Report- Mtr. Sue

I am happy to welcome back Father Hartt. I am excited to see him full of God's Blessing and look forward to what he brings back to us from his sabbatical. Jim Chenot, Neil, Laura, Meghan, Janice, Pat, Denise, Arch Deacon Harvey and the entire Vestry were such strong support during his absence – thank you everyone for pulling together as a family.

Lent/Easter: We had a very strong Holy Week and a glorious Easter celebration and I thank the many volunteers: altar and flower guilds, ushers, readers, altar servers, choir members and musicians. I would also like to thank Arch Deacon Harvey Huth and intern Denise Moore for helping lead Evensong services during Lent.

Adult Education: Nouwen's *The Return of the Prodigal* and Lenten Bible study completed on Sunday March 15th. This study group will now be on break...stay tuned for additional study opportunities!

DOK: continues to meet monthly with our daily prayers upholding and supporting the church. We have moved our meeting time to begin *after*

Outreach:

Overflow Homeless Shelter: We received a wonderful thank you letter from the Capital City Rescue Mission (please see packet). This was yet another successful year of service to Albany's homeless! Thank you to everyone who supported this ministry, now completing it's sixth season! Special thanks to our intern, Denise Moore, for her strong contribution to the administration of the ministry and also to Pat Shortall who does much to support the men we serve.

The Albany CROP Walk is Sunday May 3rd. Maria Holden has volunteered to be our Recruiter – thank you Maria! We are hoping for many walkers and pledgers this year.

April 14-19, 2015 I will be taking vacation – thank you!

April 27-29, 2015 Fr Hartt and I will join the EDOA Clergy Conference

June – Mark your calendars!

EDOA Convention June 5-7, 2015 Camp of the Woods, Speculator NY

Bishop Ball Golf Tournament is Sunday June 14 2015 – golf teams wanted! Dinner registrations will also be taken soon...

9. Sunday Attendance-Fr. Hartt

The average Sunday attendance is 138.9.

10. Rector's Report

Fr. Hartt thanked Mother Waldron for her faithful coverage of the parish during his sabbatical. Many parishioners have approached him to speak of Mtr. Sue's excellent pastoral and administrative work during his time away. The increased responsibilities for the vestry and Wardens during his absence were gratefully acknowledged. It speaks to the health of the parish that all went smoothly.

Fr. Hartt spoke of the many recent blessings that have come to St. Peter's. The most generous bequest of Mr. William Daley has been received by the Vestry. The parish can only be humbled by the devotion and love for St. Peter's that such a gift represents. Fr. Hartt expressed gratitude to Mr. Geoffrey Bullard for his Christian witness and faithfulness which brought his good friend Bill among us. Mr. Daley offers a profound example of the promise of Christian devotion and grace at all stages of life.

The Consecration Sunday stewardship program has been astonishingly fruitful. Parish giving has increased considerably as well as the total number of pledges received. We give thanks for the faithful response of the parish and the hard work of the stewardship team. Fr. Hartt believes that the program has aided the parish in clarifying the biblical foundation for our use of God's provision.

Through much diligence, George Scala and Jim Chenot continue to secure enhanced performance from our Key Bank trust account.

Congratulations to our Confirmation Class of February 1, 2105:

Leslie Brown, Christy Fish, Catherine Schunk, Julian Clark Kovacs, Nicole Lencewicz, Nancy Lundberg, Riley Connors, and visitors: Valeria Bryant, Myles D. Clark, Imani Bryant

We had strong Easter and Holy Week attendance. Our combined Easter attendance was 386. Palm Sunday was 171. Maundy Thursday attendance was 58. Good Friday attendance was 75. (Christmas attendance was 449.) Major Services continue to be well attended. Routine Sunday attendance is the concern. Our relationship to attendance trends in the broader Episcopal Church can be found in the Annual Report.

Father Hartt shared with the Vestry the Disciple Bible Study program which impressed him during his sabbatical. He also shared with the Vestry ideas from *Ten Steps for Church Growth*. Fr. Hartt believes that these subject areas are worthy of exploration, even if some of the strategies in the book may seem dated.

The First Step: Discovering Church Growth Principles

Churches Grow As They Respect Biblical Principles

Churches Grow As They Yield Themselves To God's Unswerving Purpose

Churches Grow As Priorities Are Given to Effective Evangelism

Churches Grow As They Rightly Discern The Body

Churches Grow As They Rightly Discern The Community

Churches Grow As They Find New Groups And Ways to Disciple

Churches Grow As They Reproduce Themselves

Churches Grow As They Structure For Growth

Churches Grow As They Risk For Growth

Clergy Conference: April 27-29, 2015. Diocesan Convention: June 5-7, 2015. General Convention: June 25th – July 3rd. A new Presiding Bishop will be elected at the upcoming General Convention.

Denise Moore has been an effective and faithful servant of the Gospel at St. Peter's. Denise prepares now for her ordination to the Deaconate on May 30th. We have been blessed by her many gifts in pastoral care, administration, and preaching.

Fr. Hartt expressed his appreciation for the fine work of Connie Powell with our Archives. Fr. Hartt spoke of loan/use procedures for the Vestry, parish, and outside institutions such as the Albany Institute.

The rector spoke of his thanksgiving for the continued success of the overflow shelter. It has been another hard year for Albany's homeless. The witness of our shelter goes beyond a night out of the cold. It is a place in which our volunteers seek through hospitality to affirm the dignity of fellow children of God. We received a most gracious letter from the City Mission thanking us for this ministry.

The English Tea fundraiser for the Homeless Action Committee will be held this Sunday. We thank Judy Burns and Christy Fish for the grand tea they always prepare and their commitment to outreach at St. Peter's.

We thank Maria Holden for organizing this year's CROP walk.

Some items need maintenance at the rectory after our hard winter. **11**

Congratulations on the Baptisms of Olivia and Timothy Mastro on II Easter.

Clergy & Staff

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

Vestry

James Chenot.....Senior Warden
Deborah Spath.....Junior Warden
Judy Burns Clerk
George ScalaTreasurer
Pam Gerfin, Tim Murphy, Maria Holden, Moses Kamyra, Mark
Lundberg, Earl Stafford, Jack Ratzel, Stephanie Lencewicz

How to Contact Us

Office Hours:

Monday -Friday

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Website:

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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

