



Cornerstone

October 2015

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

Children's Chapel

“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.)

Dear Parishioners,

Sometimes a couple of events occur in the course of a week that suggest God may be trying to get my attention. I would like to share those two moments, which speak to each other.

Last Sunday we launched our Children's Chapel. For those unable to be present, we gathered the children upfront at the start of the service as usual. However, we did so not for their homily but for a period of instruction about what we would soon be doing in the Pumpelly Room.

Laid out on a small table for their inspection were a chalice, paten, communion wafers, water and wine, a priest's stole, a torch for the candles, and a children's Bible. Nearby stood a processional cross. I explained the purpose of each and told our children that we would be processioning into the Pumpelly Room right after the second Lesson for their own Service of Holy Communion. They lit up at the idea. Likewise, as each worship item was explained, the children had been transfixed with interest.

At the appointed time, the children assembled in processional form. The crucifer was one of our older children. The other kids assembled behind him, each carrying one of the elements that we would be using during Children's Chapel – Bible, stole, chalice, bread, wine, and so on. Our Sunday School teachers fell in behind the children. The crucifer led us in a loop down the main aisle, then up the side aisle, and finally into the Pumpelly Room. There the children found their own Communion Table with a spread corporal and two candle sticks. A child lit the candles with the torch. The children then all sat down on the floor around the Communion Table.

We began the service with a Gospel reading from their children's Bible. It was the story of Zacchaeus who climbed the tree to see Jesus over the crowd. Again, their attention was rapt as the story and pictures were expounded. The Communion table was set next. One of the children used the lavabo bowl to rinse my fingers as we do in the church. She did so with great reverence. As best as I could, I then offered an “instructed Eucharist” for children of their age. We began with the inscription on the Communion Table, “Do this in Remembrance of me.” A particularly powerful moment was when I spoke of the meaning of “Lift up your heart. We lift them up unto the Lord.” As I raised my arms to say the words, so did the children.

Suffice it to say, the Service went well beyond our greatest expectations. It did so *because* of the children themselves. They were hungry to learn, captivated by the mystery and wonder of the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. They wanted to understand these things better. They already sensed the glory and significance, They only wanted more, to go deeper in understanding. The value of what we were doing was self-evident.

Two days later, I was with a small group of people who were speaking about their childhood impressions of God. One woman said that near her bed was a picture of Jesus with little children surrounding. We have all seen that picture many times. However, the accompanying Bible verse quoted from the King James Version: “*Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.*” (Mt. 19: 14.) The woman said that as a child she had taken the language literally, believing that Jesus wanted her “to suffer as a little child.” Each time that she was in pain or being punished, she thought it was Jesus' will for her.

What a tragic story of misunderstanding. The point is that we often do not know what is going through our children's minds. It is important for things to be explained, as best as possible, at their level. This is not a matter of “dumbing down,” but explaining the actual content appropriately. Children are very perceptive and intuitive. They don't need much in the way of explanation, but tone and wording matter a great deal. Children's Chapel brought out how valuable “instructed” worship can be for them.

Having said all of this, we adults now need to come full circle to Jesus' words. For our children revealed their meaning more profoundly than we ever can: “*Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*”

Peace of Christ, Fr. Hartt

From the Associate Rector:

October has long been my favorite month of the year! The air is crisp, the colors bright and beautiful and we enjoy at least a few days that offer one last hurrah of warm weather. This month precedes the long sleepy winter that is nearly upon us and provides time to 'get things ready' before the change in weather strikes.

At church, it feels more like a new year with the return to full programming that began in September. Even so, it is also time to 'get things ready' spiritually before the onset of the holiday season and all the changes that come with it. We are never busier than before and during the holiday season. There are many extra demands on our time and attention from shopping to baking and decorating to holiday gatherings. And although these are quite enjoyable most of the time, they are also demanding of our time and energy which is already so stretched. Without intentionality and good patterns in place, we might find our worship and service time sacrificed for these other demands. Where and how do we fit God into all of this?

We plant ourselves, anchor ourselves in the Summary of the Law:

“Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. God takes first place! First place in our heart, first place in our soul, and first place in our mind. This brings us to intentionality: Are we intentional about gathering weekly at church to give God our love, our time and our worship of him? This may require sacrifice of some other things so that we can honor God first. I know this is counter-cultural and can be difficult to live out. However, if we find our worship patterns slipping regularly away from weekly attendance at church services, we might ask ourselves what other demands on our time we are willing to replace God with? You may not have ever thought of it that way, but it is in essence what we are doing when we regularly choose other things over church worship services.

Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Second only to God, our neighbors come next! So just who are our neighbors? The individuals sitting in the pews around us are our neighbors. Those people in need that God puts in our paths are our neighbors. The people God sends to our church for help are our neighbors. If we love our neighbors as ourselves, we will consider how our other priorities might affect them. How do the people sitting in the pews around me feel when I'm not in church – how does this affect them? Who else will that person in need find if I don't go where God's path places me? Will the church be able to help others seeking need if my commitment doesn't arrive this week? Again, you may never have thought of these dimensions of church absence, but they are real to us when we regularly choose other things over attending church worship services.

Love God, love thy neighbor are the two things that God asks anchor our lives. Everything else we do is to fall within these, and behind these. But often the world beckons us in other directions. Each time this happens, we need to make a choice: Choose the world, or choose God. I know what your heart wants to do. Pray that God gives you grace to live that out!

A Blessed Autumn to each of you,

Mtr. Sue+

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday October 4th at 2:00pm! As is custom in celebrating the Feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, our church invites you to bring your pet to this church service for a blessing. The service of prayers and blessing will take place in the St. Francis Garden next to the sanctuary at 2:00pm allowing parishioners time to return home after morning services and return with their pet. We ask that you leash (or crate) your pet for their safety.



Neighborhood Prayer Walk:

Sunday October 11th 1:00pm-2:00pm. All members are invited to join the DOK with prayers throughout our neighborhood starting at 1:00pm. We will depart St. Peter's and pray throughout our downtown neighborhood, stopping at key sites with dedicated prayer at:

- Academy Park
- NYS Capitol
- Veterans Memorial
- Capital City Rescue Mission
- Bus Station



Parish Picnic!



Offering Envelopes for 2016:

We are in the process of preparing a final list for the printers of those parishioners who wish to receive weekly Offering Envelopes for the 2016 calendar year. Please review your envelopes for accuracy in your name and address. Should you wish to make any changes, or if you do not presently receive Offering Envelopes but would like to, or if you would like to discontinue your envelopes, please send your changes and/or information to Janice Chenot at office@stpeterschurchalbany.org

or call the church office at 434-3502. In order for you to receive your envelopes by the first of the year, your changes must be received by **Thursday, October 29th.**

New Service offering:

Holy Communion Service on Sunday's at 4:00pm!

Your clergy at St. Peter's church know that people may have work or other obligations on Sunday mornings that prevent them from attending worship services as often as they might like. If so – this new service is for you! A quiet and contemplative said service (with no music) will be offered, with readings and a brief homily, each week beginning at 4:00pm.

St. Peter's Music

CHOIR FALL START-UP



Choir rehearsals will begin the week of September 14th on the following schedule:

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

We are eager to welcome new members to the choir. Boys and Girls, age 8 to grade 8, are eligible to join the treble section, and there are opportunities for adult singers as well.

Please contact Neil Keen for more information at stpmus@gmail.com or 339-0137.

Capital City Rescue Mission Banquet & Silent Auction

We are excited to celebrate our 66th Annual Banquet & Silent Auction in a new location at the Italian American Community Center. We hope you can join us this year as we offer shelter and hope to women!

DATE: October 20 or 21, 2015

Silent Auction: 5:30pm

Dinner: 6:30pm

NEW LOCATION: Treviso, Italian American Community Center

COST: \$24.00/ea

Adult Education

Women's Bible Study:

Please see Mother Sue for more information.

Beth Moore's "John: 90 Days with the Beloved Disciple"

The women of St. Peter's, led by Mother Sue, are invited to join this 90 day journey with John the Beloved Disciple. "The young gospel writer followed Jesus all the years of His ministry, experiencing more miracles, displays of power, and perfect love than he could fathom. And just as Christ led John into the depths of His love, that same journey is here for us, His beloved." A \$15 donation is asked to cover the book with scholarships available.

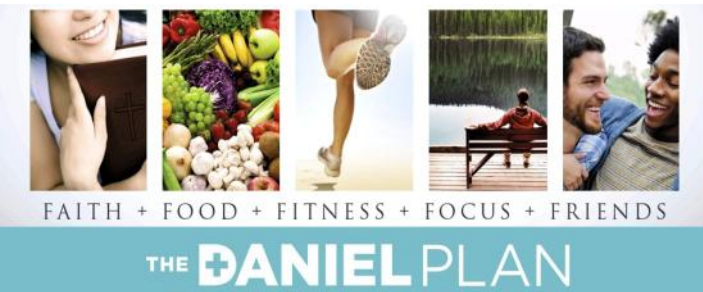
Adult Bible Study:

Sunday's from 12:00-1:00pm beginning September 27th!

Paul's Letter to the Galatians

Bring a cup of coffee with you following our 10:30 service coffee hour as we meet in Mother Sue's office for a video presentation from N.T. Wright on Paul's Letter to the Galatians, followed by questions and conversation. This New Testament epistle not only conveys an early church community's growth in the faith, but also conveys much Christian theology; all presented by one of the leading Anglican theologians of our day! Those wishing for deeper study may choose to obtain a copy of *Paul for Everyone: Galatians and Thessalonians*, Tom Wright (ISBN 0-664-22785-6) [book not required]

It's Health Awareness Month at St. Peter's!



FAITH + FOOD + FITNESS + FOCUS + FRIENDS

THE DANIEL PLAN

The Daniel Plan Broadcast, Saturday October 3
10:00am-1:00pm (registration 9:30)

We welcome Mac and Mary MacDonald to St. Peter's who will offer a video broadcast explaining **The Daniel Plan**. This plan is framed around The Essentials: Faith, Food, Fitness, Focus and Friends – life areas that all work together to restore and sustain your long-term health. Faith is the foundation with God as the source of the power and the energy behind all transformational change. As you follow *The Daniel Plan*, you will discover you have a part to play in getting healthier, but God will energize your efforts. We have learned that doing The Daniel Plan with a group of friends is the "secret sauce. People who do the program together lose 50% more weight.

The cost of the broadcast is underwritten by St. Peter's Church and so there is no individual fee to attend. The Daniel Plan books and other materials will be available for purchase during the Broadcast. Please come learn about this path to health and wellness!



fresh foods from
small farms™



Local produce delivered to

St. Peter's Episcopal
Church on Thursdays

How Does It Work?

Field Goods is a local produce subscription delivery service. Brilliant, right? Each week, you'll receive 5-8 different types of fruits and vegetables. Invaluable to a healthy lifestyle!

Field Goods chooses the items delivered and purchases them directly from over 60 different Hudson Valley farms. A subscription costs \$20, \$25, or \$30 a week depending on which bag you choose. All of the produce is non-GMO, much is organic, and all is grown by small farms.

In the Bag, our newsletter, gives you information about what you're eating and how to eat it: facts, recipes, and photos! We deliver 150+ varieties of fruits and vegetables, and more than a dozen types of local cheese and artisan bread, all grown by local small farms or local producers.



Field Goods offers great value and variety, convenient delivery, fresh and delicious produce, and supports local farmers.

What's not to love?

To sign up & learn more, go to

Field-goods.com

Email info@field-goods.com

Field Goods is located in Athens, NY



What our
customers
are saying

"I LOVE vegetable day."

"I am having so much fun
experimenting with new foods
and recipes."

"Excellent quality, value, variety."

"My kids like Baby Turnips
and Kale...who knew?"

"Great newsletter.
Makes me want to cook."

"THANK YOU for changing
the way my family eats!"

St. Peter's Church is now a pickup site! Every Thursday we will be getting a delivery of goods for people who select St. Peter's as their pickup location. Although the hours say Thursday from 12-4, you can still pick up your bag during choir hours while the church is open. We can also hold your bag for you if you call and let us know you can't pick it up on Thursday.

Youth Formation & Sunday School

Calling all Families to **Youth Sunday:**
The last Sunday of each month.
October 25th!

The clergy of St. Peter's are happy to announce this new ministry highlighting the youth of our church at the 10:30 service on every last Sunday of the month. We are proud of our youth and how they are growing into their future roles as members of St. Peter's Church. Because of this, we are inviting them to take special part in the service on the last Sunday of each month. The teens will fill important roles during the 10:30 service in the Sanctuary. Additionally, we will be offering **Children's Chapel** for our youngest members. In lieu of our traditional Sunday school offering, pre-Confirmation youth and Sunday school teachers will celebrate a Youth Eucharist in the Pumpelly Room during the 10:30am service. Children will begin worship with the parents in the main Sanctuary and following the second reading the children will be invited to process into Children's chapel for their own Gospel message, homily and instructed Eucharist service.

Youth Sunday will help our youth learn about and connect with our liturgy as well as take their place among us as St. Peter's Church members. Please speak to Fr. Hartt or Mtr. Sue if your child would like to have a special role during an upcoming Youth Sunday (i.e. reader, acolyte).

Equinox volunteers needed !

Novemeber 23rd at 5:45. We will meet at the church at 5:30 and walk over to the empire state plaza. If you have any questions, please call Laura Saffares at 3684284.

Prayer Pretzels



Prayer before listening to my child

Help me, O God, to listen to this thy child. Help me to hear what is said and what is unsaid. Help me to be fair-minded, honest, just and loving, that the truth may be spoken and received; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

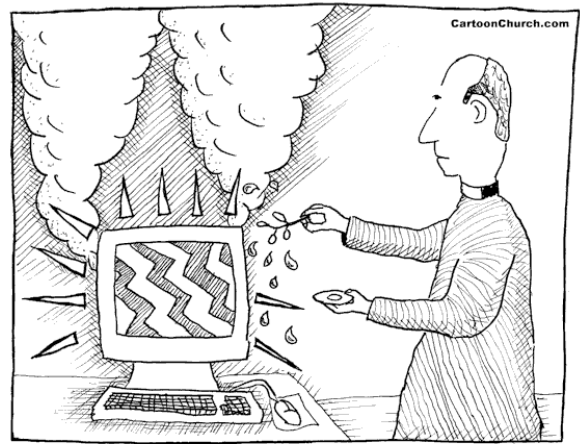
St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen

The 3rd Saturday of each month (October 17, 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 368-4284.

First Holy Communion

Baptized individuals wishing to prepare to receive their First Holy Communion are invited to attend preparatory classes beginning Sunday September 28th following the 10:30am service. The group will meet for three consecutive weeks (9/27, 10/4, 10/11), and prepare to receive their First Holy Communion on All Saints Sunday, November 1, 2015 during the 10:30am service. Please call the church office to let us know you (or your child) would like to take part in this class. For those seeking Holy Baptism, please speak to Fr. Hartt or Mother Sue.

Church Chuckles!



PERHAPS SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER WAS NOT THE BEST WAY TO LAUNCH THE CHURCH WEBSITE

October 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p>4 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Holy Communion 12:00pm First Holy Communion Class 12:00pm - Galatians Bible Study 2:00pm - Blessing of the Animals 4:00pm Holy Communion</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5pm - Treble Rehearsal</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:45 am - Top of t 12:05 pm - Holy C</p>
<p>11 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer 12:00pm - First Holy Communion Class 1pm - DOK Prayer Walk 12:00pm - Galatians Bible Study 2:00pm - Leonard Slade Poetry Reading 4:00pm Holy Communion</p>	<p>12 Columbus Day</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>13</p> <p>4:30 pm - Outreach Meeting 5:15 pm - Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:45 am - Top of t 12:00 pm - Holy C</p>
<p>18 Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost Consecration Sunday</p> <p>9:30am Holy Communion 12:00pm - Galatians Bible Study 4:00pm Holy Communion</p>	<p>19 St. Luke the Evangelist</p> <p>5pm - Treble Rehearsal</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:45 am - Top of t 12:05 pm - Holy C</p>
<p>25 Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost Youth Sunday</p> <p>8:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Morning Prayer Service with Children's Chapel in Pumpelly Room 12:00pm - Galatians Bible Study 4:00pm - Holy Communion</p>	<p>26</p> <p>5pm - Treble Rehearsal</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 St. Simon and</p> <p>8:45 am - Top of t 12:05 pm - Holy C</p>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 5 pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30 pm - Full Choir	2 12:30 pm - Organ Concert	3 9am - Trinity Church Harvest Fair 10am - Daniel Plan Broadcast
the Hill Communion	8 5 pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30 pm - Full Choir	9 12:30 pm - Organ Concert	10
the Hill Communion	15 5 pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30 pm - Full Choir	16 12:30 pm - Organ Concert	17 11am - Angel's in Training 9am - St. Luke's Craft Fair 6pm - Healing a Woman's Soul Fundraiser
the Hill Communion	22 5 pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30 pm - Full Choir	23 St. James of Jerusalem 12:30 pm - Organ Concert	24
and St. Jude the Hill Communion	29 5 pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30 pm - Full Choir	30 12:30 pm - Organ Concert	31 Halloween 

The New Presiding Bishop



The Right Reverend Michael Curry

The General Convention of the Episcopal Church has the duty of selecting the Presiding Bishop, who will serve the church for a term of nine years. Acting as the President of the House of Bishops, and the Chief Pastor of the national church and its nine ecclesiastical provinces, the Presiding Bishop provides leadership in initiating, developing, and articulating the church's policies and strategies.

The first American Presiding Bishop was William White, Bishop of Pennsylvania who served first in 1789 and again from 1795-1836. One of his important contributions was a pamphlet in which he spelled out how the emerging American Episcopal Church would function after the Revolutionary War.

The current Presiding Bishop is Katharine Jefferts Schori, Bishop of Nevada who was elected in June 2006, and invested and seated in November of 2006. She is a pathfinder as the first woman Presiding Bishop. In 2011 she visited the Albany Diocese. In her homily at the Cathedral of All Saints she expressed her concerns for the church's mission priorities, including the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, issues of domestic poverty, climate change and care of the earth, as well as the ongoing need to contextualize the gospel. At the Cathedral she came across as a lovely and gracious lady.

She will complete her term on November 1st 2015 and will be replaced by Bishop Michael Bruce Curry, Bishop of North Carolina. Like Bishop Schori he will be a pathfinder as the first African American Presiding Bishop. Bishop Curry has already expressed his support for evangelism, public service, and social justice. As we did with Katherine Jefferts Schori, we wish him well.

Daughters of the King

Our October meeting on Sunday 10/11 will be substituted with the DOK hosting the Coffee Hour. We will have the annual Prayer Walk after the coffee hour on 10/11 as well.

Healing a Women's Soul Fundraiser:

Saturday October 17th from 6:00-8:30pm at St. Paul's Church Albany NY. There will be appetizers served with speakers and a silent auction, with funds raised to assist victims of domestic violence.

School of Healing Prayer

Next Class: Level 1: Oct. 29 — Nov. 1, 2015 at the Spiritual Life Center

Introduction to the foundations for healing Topics include: The History of Healing in the Church, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Becoming a Prayer Minister, and more. Register online: www.ckcenter.org

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.

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.

Outreach

This month's Outreach meeting will be on Tuesday 10/13/15 at 4:30 pm. Please join us to learn about Outreach ministries and hospitality events beings planned!

Saint of the Month Club

Francis of Assisi

Friar (1226)



Prayer: Most High, omnipotent, good Lord, grant unto thy people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may for love of thee delight in thy whole creation with perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Francis, the son of a prosperous merchant of Assisi, was born in 1182. His early youth was spent in harmless revelry and fruitless attempts to win military glory.

Various encounters with beggars and lepers pricked the young man's conscience, and he decided to embrace a life devoted to Lady Poverty. Despite his father's intense opposition, Francis totally renounced all material values, and devoted himself to the poor. In 1210 Pope Innocent the Third confirmed the simple Rule for the Order of Friars Minor, a name Francis chose to emphasize his desire to be numbered among the "least" of God's servants.

The order grew rapidly all over Europe. But by 1221 Francis had lost control of it, since his ideal of strict and absolute poverty, both for the individual friars and for the order as a whole, was found to be too difficult to maintain. His last years were spent in much suffering of body and spirit, but his unconquerable joy never failed.

Not long before his death, during a retreat on Mount La Verna, Francis received, on September 14, Holy Cross Day, the marks of the Lord's wounds, the *stigmata*, in his own hands and feet and side. Pope Gregory the Ninth, a former patron of the Franciscans, canonized Francis in 1228, and began the erection of the great basilica in Assisi where Francis is buried.

Of all the Saints, Francis is the most popular and admired, but probably the least imitated; few have attained to his total identification with the poverty and suffering of Christ. Francis left few writings; but, of these, his spirit and joyous faith comes through most truly in the "Canticle of the Sun," which he composed at Clare's convent of St. Damian's. The Hymnal version begins:

Most High, omnipotent, good Lord,
To thee be ceaseless praise outpoured,
And blessing without measure.
Let creatures all give thanks to thee
And serve in great humility.

Craft Fair

St. Luke's on the Hill, 40 McBride Rd, Mechanicville, NY 12118 will be hosting a Craft Fair on Saturday, October 17th from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. The fair will include handcrafted items exclusively, along with a bake sale and ten themed baskets.

Harvest Fair

On Saturday, October 3rd, Trinity Church, 585 4th Ave, Troy, NY 12182 will be hosting a Harvest Fair from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. There will be baked goods, holiday crafts, a silent auction, and a gift basket raffle, attic treasures and a turkey raffle. The Breakfast & Lunch Cafe will be open all day! Come rain or shine do some shopping and have lunch or breakfast!

Reception for the McGregors

Come and listen to Bishop Todd and Patsy McGregor talk about their ministry in Madagascar and the many ways they are securing the future in this country. The reception will be on Sunday, October 4th from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's Church, 16 Elsmere Ave, Delmar, NY 12054. Refreshments will be served.

Christian Community Wisdom

A traditional silent retreat weekend Led by Mother Miriam, CSM at St. Mary's Convent, Greenwich NY, October 9-11, 2015 Cost: \$138 Commuter Rate: \$75 (meals & program only) Count it all joy when you meet various trials. As the Sister's Sesquicentennial Year ends, spend some time with us reflecting upon the mystery of God's love fostered in community. Contact the Sisters at 518-692-3028 or COM-PUNUN@AOL.COM.

Interfaith Service Honoring Perinatal Loss

St. Paul's Church, 58 Third Street, Troy, NY 12180 will be holding an interfaith service honoring perinatal loss on Saturday October 3 at 1:30 p.m.. Fr. Michael Gorchov of St. Paul's will assist in the service. The goal is to offer a safe and sacred gathering to honor babies that were longed for and lost. The service will allow for remembrance, community support and healing. Music, prayer, and a candle lighting ceremony will be offered. After the service, the Women of St. Paul's will host a reception with light refreshments in the Guild House on State Street. Perinatal loss encompasses all loss associated with pregnancy and the first year of life, including dreamed of pregnancies (no conception), miscarriages, termination, stillbirth, and infant death. Anyone affected by perinatal loss is invited to attend.

Minutes of the Vestry
St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church
June 9, 2015

1. Approval of the minutes of Vestry Meeting, May 12, 2015- The minutes were approved on a motion made by J. Ratzel and seconded by P. Gerfin.

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

Jim began his report by expressing his gratitude to the congregation, clergy and vestry for making the first half of 2015 run smoothly financially as well spiritually. On Trinity Sunday we had two children baptized with many family and friends attending, one at the 8:30 service and the other at 10:30. It is always encouraging to see these new young families baptized in the future life of our congregation. On the financial side Consecration Sunday was a success last year with a substantial increase of pledging families and individuals this year. Also we have been blessed by some who have gone on to our Lord leaving St. Peter's financial gifts in their wills which we are so grateful for.

The Diocesan Convention was held this past weekend at Speculator. Special thanks to our delegates, Jack Ratzel, Earl Stafford and Carly Crewell for representing St. Peter's at this year's convention as well as our clergy, Mtr. Sue and Father Hartt.

Our Choir Director Neil Keen has informed our choir that we have been invited to sing a week in Chishester Cathedral, England in the summer of 2017. He will be looking to individuals to serve on an organizing committee, also mentioning this is a great opportunity and recruiting new individuals to join the choir. Again I want to thank the choir for all their musical talents rehearsing and performing exceptional music enhancing our Sunday services as well as all their work for additional concerts they performed during the year.

This coming Sunday we will be honoring the Choir and Sunday school with awards, both groups marking their successes and milestones.

Following the service there will be an ice cream social at coffee hour hosted by the Sunday school. The vestry and clergy would like to thank both of these important ministries for their continued service and dedication to the spiritual life at St. Peter's.

Jim finished his report by wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

3. Finance-G. Scala

George S. reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the month of May. Total offerings for the month were \$17,711. Year to date total offerings (excluding the Daley bequest) are an even \$85,000. The investment/endowment accounts showed gains for the month. Merrill Lynch was up 1.01% and Key was up +.39%. Year to date Merrill is up +3.47% and Key is up +3.26% which results in a total gain in investments of \$119,553 which is \$9,073 over budget. Expenses year to date are \$9,536 under budget.

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

4. Property- T. Murphy

Jim Chenot and Maria Holden are meeting with Lydia Littlefield regarding paint colors. They are going to obtain colors on foam boards so they can be moved around the church and seen in different lights.

5. Outreach- J. Burns

In regards to the Overflow Shelter, Denise Moore suggested that we come up with different themes for the nights. It was thought that this may be helpful in getting more volunteers.

The outreach Committee voted to sponsor 4 children for Beaver Cross. In the fall, St. Peter's will be hosting a Daniel Plan Workshop.

6. **Old Business-** There was no old business.

7. New Business-

A. Jim Chenot is looking for someone to rebind some of the books in the archives.

B. Website- St. Peter's is looking to change to a new website that is easier to manage in house. MyChurchwebsite.net is used by 20 other parishes in the diocese who report being happy with it. It costs \$299. a year with a \$49. start up fee. With the user id and password, anyone can update it. With the old website, it is difficult to update and get information out in a timely manner.

8. Associate Rector's Report- Mtr. Sue

Memorial Day Celebration: I was blessed to offer the Invocation and provide the Benediction at the Oakwood Cemetery Memorial Day observance on Saturday May 23rd 2015.

Ordinations: Deacon Denise's ordination at the Cathedral of All Saints on May 30th was a great celebration for her, this parish and diocese. Her formation among us during this past year was instrumental to her development and I know blessed many of us here at St. Peter's. We had a very strong turnout of folks from St. Peter's which was wonderful support for Deacon Denise.

Corpus Christi: A few of us from St. Peter's attended the Corpus Christi (Body of Christ) service and dinner on June 3rd at Christ the King Spiritual Life Center. This is a 1,000 year old service that celebrates the gift of the body of Christ to all believers in the Holy Communion. Archbishop Lord George Carey blessed us with a fine sermon as well.

EDOA Convention: I attended convention June 5th-7th and give thanks to the delegates who attended for St. Peter's. Many thanks to Meghan Cooney for her work on the Overflow Homeless Shelter display board that was part of the Convention exhibits. I helped the Diocese by working the Clergy Registration desk on Friday afternoon. Convention was a great spiritual weekend and it was very exciting to hear from Bishops from around the world (including the 103rd Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord George Carey and Bishop Darren McCartney, Diocese of the Arctic, Bishop Grant LeMarquand, Bishop of Egypt, Bishop Harold Miller, Diocese of Down and Dromore Ireland, Bishop Love, Diocese of Albany, Bishop Daniel Herzog, retired Bishop of Albany, Bishop Fanuel Magangani, Bishop of Northern Malawi, Bishop Todd McGregor, Bishop of Madagascar) The worship, plenary sessions and workshops, not to mention the facilities at Camp of the Woods and even the weather, were truly spectacular all weekend.

Acolytes and LEM's: Thank you, Jack Ratzel, for developing summer rotas for these key altar ministries. We are hoping to continue to build this ministry by adding additional people to the 10:30am service.

DOK: Will have their last meeting this month on 6/14 and then break for the summer. However, we continue to receive Confidential Prayer Requests and commit ourselves to these prayers all summer long. In September, our Julia chapter celebrates it's 10th anniversary (our chapter was chartered on 9/18/05). Planning is underway for this celebration and also a new member drive in the Fall.

Beaver Cross Scholarships: Following an appeal from the Albany Diocese Youth Ministry Director for donations towards Beaver Cross scholarships for children from the Burmese community and also Oaks of Righteousness, the Outreach Committee voted to provide (4) scholarships this year by providing \$1,520.00 from our 2015 budget. I am thankful for the people of St. Peter's who always respond generously.

9. Sunday Attendance-Fr. Hartt

The average Sunday attendance is 133.3.

10. Rector's Report- Fr. Hartt

State Library: Connie Powell and the rector paid a visit to the State Library for research on St. Peter's beginnings. Fr. Hartt was intrigued by a box of material referenced in an index which had been prepared by an intern in 1993. One box of our records was entitled "Vestry Minutes, Church Books, Reports, and Correspondence 1708-1888. It is Father Hartt's principal aim to pin down the life of the congregation that would enter our first church building in 1715. The letters of the Reverend Thomas Barclay from 1708-1722 reveal much, but also encourage us to dig deeper. The most important thing which our research would seem to confirm is an active congregational life quite early on, years before the first church building. We know that the congregation was meeting in a Lutheran Church outside of the Fort in 1712, if not a couple of years earlier. The first church building is not the proper way of dating the beginning of our parish, but rather the congregation which will come to inhabit it. Connie Powell has returned for a subsequent visit and has been exploring many key names. We should next look at records from the Fort that may hold early church service records.

Convention: Father Hartt discussed the Diocesan Convention June 6th-8th. He thanked Earl, Carly, and Jack for their service as delegates. The Convention was honored to have the 103rd Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey in attendance. Both Archbishop Carey and Bishop Magangani of Northern Malawi were present also to attend the 150th Anniversary of the Community of St. Mary's. The Episcopal Sisters have a new convent in Bishop Magangani's Diocese. Father Hartt spoke of the history of the Sisters of St. Mary, several of whom are commemorated by our Church for their martyrdom in Memphis during outbreaks of Yellow Fever.

Baptisms: Oliver Sterrett Crisafulli & Anna Elizabeth Barnes were baptized May 31st, 2015.

Marriage: Robert & Jennifer Thomas were married on May 23rd, 2015.

Summer Attendance: Father Hartt spoke of our attendance patterns in the summer as unfortunate. The parish has many visitors in the summer, including potential members, who sense a less than vital church. Such an experience does not encourage their return. Our summers ought to be fun, but the Commandment to keep the Sabbath Holy does not take the summers off.

Parish Picnic: Father Hartt discussed plans for the parish picnic.

Sacraments/ASA: Father Hartt shared the number of Confirmations, weddings, and baptisms since 2009.

Confirmations 38

weddings 23

Baptisms 56

If those baptized, married, and confirmed since 2009 were in attendance with their spouse or parents regularly, our Average Sunday attendance would be about 298. Our core problem is not interest in St. Peter's or claiming of the parish as spiritual home, but being routinely present on Sunday. Our attendance problem is fundamentally a commitment and priority problem. It makes little sense to "recruit" to fill the seats of existing members. Church growth cannot occur without enhanced congregational investment.

Extra Sunday Service in Fall: Father Hartt spoke of plans for an additional Service of Holy Communion beginning in September. The Service will be at 4pm.

Children's Service Monthly: The clergy are excited to begin this September a Children's Chapel on the last Sunday of the month. The children's Service will be an instructed Holy Communion and held in the Pumpelly Room. The children anticipated will be those under the age of Confirmation. Children's Chapel will take place during the 10:30AM Service. In the main Church, the older children will also be more active in the liturgy. Overall, there will be a sense of a family/youth service on the last Sunday of the month.

Blessing of Backpacks : The clergy will invite children returning to school to receive a blessing on the day of the Parish Picnic. Bring your backpacks!

Confirmation : According to parish records, 23 children age 12-16 are eligible to receive Confirmation. If your teenager has not yet been confirmed, please have them speak to the clergy.

Bishop Ball Golf Tournament: Father Hartt encouraged the vestry and parish to support the Bishop Ball Golf Tournament this month.

Beaver Cross Scholarships: The parish is supporting scholarships to Beaver Cross Summer Camp. We are targeting the children of the inner-city of Troy and the children of St. David's refugee community.

Ordination: Denise Moore was ordained to the Sacred order of Deacons, May 30, 2015! We were indeed blessed to have her serve as an intern as she prepared for Holy Orders. Fr. Hartt thanked the vestry and parish for their strong support of Deacon Moore.

Interior Restoration/Paint: Fr. Hartt thanked Maria Holden and Jim Chenot for their continuing work of research.

Condition of Building: Fr. Hartt spoke of the overall condition of our buildings and rectory. There is a general need for painting and minor repairs.

Sunday School: Fr. Hartt thanked Laura Saffares and the Sunday School staff for a wonderful year. The clergy will be meeting with Ms. Saffares to discuss the plans for Children's Chapel.

11. **Adjournment-** The meeting was adjourned on a motion made by T. Murphy and seconded by P. Gerfin.

12. **Compline-** Mtr. Sue led Compline.

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 Scala..... Treasurer

Pam Gerfin, Stephanie Lencewicz, Maria Holden, Moses Kamyra, Mark Lundberg, Earl Stafford, Jack Ratzel, Tim Murphy

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

Website:

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.

Wednesday

Holy Communion 12:05 p.m.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

