



THE Cornerstone

April 2016

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

From the Rector

The Empty Tomb continued

Alleluia. Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Our loud and joyous Easter morning acclamation is taken from Luke 24:34. The acclamation takes place following the post-resurrection appearance we know as "On the Road to Emmaus."

They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!"

I bring up the origin of our iconic Easter acclamation because it reminds us that Easter is not simply about the empty tomb. In fact, the experience of the women that Easter morning was largely one of alarm. They did not find the Lord, and in Mark and Luke the disciples were reluctant to give their story much of a hearing. It was, rather, the empty tomb *plus* the many post-resurrection appearances of their Lord over 40 days that led to the fullness of the disciples' Easter faith.

In other words, it is important to remind ourselves that the Easter Gospel is more than the Gospel of the empty tomb. Our faith rests on the subsequent appearances as well as the empty tomb of Jesus Easter morning. For this very reason, the services following Easter Sunday are most important. By the time we reach the 40 Days to our Lord's Ascension, the Gospels appointed for both Sundays and weekdays cover the several compelling and recurring appearances of our Lord after his crucifixion. Luke expresses this fact strongly in the Acts of the Apostles:

After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. (Acts 1:3.)

John also proclaims the same point in his Gospel, even suggesting more than we may know:

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:30-31.)

All of this encourages us to be present at all the Services through Pentecost. From Doubting Thomas to Breakfast on the Beach and more, the fullness of the empty tomb then becomes known.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen. The Lord is Risen indeed. Alleluia!

Blessed Eastertide, *Father Hartt+*

From the Associate Rector

Easter Greetings

Hallelujah, Christ is Risen!
The Lord is Risen Indeed, Hallelujah!

When I first looked ahead at the church calendar for 2016, I groaned a bit when I saw a March Easter date. At that time, I had visions of snow-covered fields preventing Easter egg hunts, and chilly winds preventing the wearing of our beautiful new Easter outfits. I was wrong on both accounts! We had a very gentle winter this year, and so Spring came as early as Easter came this year and I'm certain most of us were very thankful for that.

This brings to mind that much in life, for adults anyways, is experienced through a lens of pre-disposition. What I mean by this is that adults are notorious for assuming certain conditions will exist far in advance of an event, and then these assumptions can cloud one's expectations and even experiences. We can even fall into this danger in our religious life. Year after year, we long to follow our rich traditions so enjoyed in years past that we may "experience" the church liturgy before we actually attend it! But this isn't how God works. In fact, this is very far from how God works. God likes to supplement surprises even amidst the traditions that we long for and truly enjoy.

I was hit quite strongly with one of these God "surprises" on Easter morning. Having been asked to Celebrate the Holy Communion at the 8:30 am service, I truly experienced a grace from God that was both unexpected and overwhelming (in a wonderful way). During the *Angus Dei*, the reality of Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God – offered in sacrifice for my sins and the sins of every person gathered together that morning – came crushing down on my soul. This was an experience I had had hundreds of times before and yet was unique that morning. Right before me, on the corporal, lay the Real Presence of Jesus Christ – His Body – His Blood – given for me. I was moved to tears, quite literally. In fact, I shed tears from that point through the end of the recessional hymn because my soul was so filled with joy.

Why did it strike me so? I do not know. And yet I was so very blessed to have experienced that gift from God and his Blessing and Grace that came with it. In fact, I believe I fully experienced all of Holy Week and Easter in that one moment of time. It was a wonderful gift from God.

The first Easter must have been like that – and all the more – for the women and disciples that experienced it first hand. Can you imagine the devastation of Jesus' Crucifixion on the Cross? They, as adults, had pre-dispositions of what would follow: death, burial, loss and emptiness. They did in fact experience those very things for two days. But on the third day the miraculous happened. A God "surprise" of monumental proportions happened, first to the women and then to the rest. The stone before the tomb entrance was rolled away and the tomb stood empty! No body – no death to greet them – a new emptiness to ponder.

In the following days they moved beyond even the emptiness to the Resurrection – to new life – to Jesus appearing to them in the flesh! Real flesh – real wounds – a real body before them. This miraculous God "surprise" could never have been anticipated and must have knocked them for a loop. In fact, it was so miraculous, an entire faith grew out of the few who experienced it and thousands of years later we still gather to ponder the miraculous.

God Surprises....yes, they exist. I would ask if you are ready for them but I don't think that's how they work. They just sneak up on you when you are least expecting them and leave you wondering far after. But I would ask, are you open to God "surprises"? We may or may not be in varying degrees. Even so, we can look to the example of Thomas for one who needed a little help opening up to the God surprise of Jesus' Resurrection. All of the other disciples except Thomas had seen the Resurrected Christ. They told Thomas about Him, but he replied, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." Thomas was stuck in a pre-disposed thought. A dead man could not appear alive again. I will not believe despite all of these around me pleading otherwise.

God's answer to this doubt was not reprimand but rather a direct encounter that would confirm faith. John tells us, "Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.'"

The God surprise confirmed in the exact way that Thomas needed...that's how God works. So if you don't feel completely open to God "surprises", it's okay because God is completely in charge and knows how to work perfectly with each one of us. What we are responsible for, however, is the sharing of the miraculous: the telling to others.

Thank God the women told the disciples about the empty tomb. Thank God the disciples told Thomas about the Resurrected Christ. Thank God Thomas and the other disciples told others about Jesus' Resurrection appearances. Thank God Paul told many about his experience on the Road to Damascus, when Jesus appeared to him.

Hallelujah, Christ is Risen!
The Lord is Risen Indeed, Hallelujah!

This is one God "surprise" worth shouting from the rooftops! Who will you tell the Easter story to? Easter is not one day, but in church an entire season. In fact, we live Easter lives forever! So you still have time to tell the Easter story because it's still Easter today. Who will you tell?

May the joy and triumph of Jesus Christ's Resurrection be alive in you this day and always!

Eastertide Blessings, Mtr. Sue+

Mark your Calendar!

June 5, 2016 is the 17th 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/>

EDOA Clergy Conference

(April 17-19th) Fr. Hartt will join his colleagues at this Conference at the Spiritual Life Center. Please call the church office or Mtr. Sue for any pastoral needs that arise.

Crop Walk

Save the Date - Sunday May 1st! The Albany Crop Walk is one of the largest in our nation and raises funds for both local and national food programs. Locally, it supports the Capital District Food Pantries. Now is the time to begin collecting sponsors. Please see Maria Holden, St. Peter's Recruiter, for more information. We hope you will walk with us or consider sponsoring the St. Peter's team!

Daughters of the King

The April DOK meeting will be held on Sunday, April 10th at 9:35am in the vestry room.

Outreach

The April Outreach meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 12th at 4:30pm. Please join us to learn about Outreach ministries and hospitality events being planned!

Vestry Meeting

The April Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 12th at 5:15pm.

Holy Hikes

Come out and celebrate the arrival of Spring along with National Poetry month on Saturday, April 2nd on a hike at the Blueberry Hill Trail system, Elizabethtown, NY. Hikers will make their way through the woods and along a creek to an old Sugarhouse, enjoying scenic vistas along the way. They will celebrate the Eucharist at a lean-to, enjoying a view of Elizabethtown and Hurricane Mountain fire tower from the overlook. Bring a favorite spiritual poem or psalm to share. For more information, contact lay leaders Kathleen and Jim Blaisel by phone at 518-946-2622 or by email at <http://www.albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/contact/cform.php?kblaisel>.



Spring Tea

Our Annual Spring Tea will be held on Sunday, April 17th following the 10:30am service. Each year, this event raises funds for a worthy cause, with this year's proceeds to benefit the new Troop of American Heritage Girls being formed at St. Peter's Church. We hope to have some of the girls present and serving at the Tea. Please come meet them and support their growth and learning. Please see Judy Burns if you can help donate baked items.

Seek His Face Conference

Healing Spring Christian Ministries will be welcoming guests Jeremy and Connie Sinnott of Catch the Fire (Toronto, Canada) and Murray Dueck of Samuel's Mantle (Abbotsford, Canada) to for a conference entitled *Seek His Face*. Jeremy, Connie, and Murray will be teaching on topics such as the manifest presence of God, stepping into our destiny, living in the supernatural Kingdom, walking in greater Kingdom authority, hearing God, and more! There will be plenty of worship, plus opportunities for prayer, healing, hearing the Word, and soaking in God's presence. The conference begins **Friday, April 15th at 6:00 p.m.** with sessions held Friday night and **Saturday, April 16th**. There will also be a night of Prayer and Ministry on **Sunday, April 17th, beginning at 7:00 p.m.** The sessions on Friday and Saturday will be held at Pine Knolls Alliance Church, 614 Gansevoort Rd, South Glens Falls, NY 12803. The Night of Prayer and Ministry will be held at Church of the King, 685 Bay Rd, Queensbury, NY 12804. The cost for the weekend is \$49 until April 14th or \$55 after that, which includes Saturday lunch. To register, call Fr. Bruce and Shay Mason or Jen Griswold-Kuhn at (518) 746-4120.

Healing A Woman's Soul Retreat Reunion

On **Saturday, April 9th from 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.**, Healing a Woman's Soul is hosting a Spring well woman retreat reunion entitled *Come Meet Us At the Well* at St. Stephen's Church, 1229 Baker Ave, Schenectady, NY 12309. Reunite with or meet others who have attended past fall retreats. This one day retreat builds on the skills learned to become a well woman. The event includes a coffee and danish welcome and lunch. There is no cost to participate. For more information or to register, contact Healing a Woman's Soul at <http://www.albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/contact/cform.php?>

Adult Education

The Diocese of Albany is pleased to announce the offering of a new series of adult Christian Education courses developed by Trinity School for Ministry, an Anglican seminary near Pittsburg, PA. **Beginning immediately after Easter**, these courses will be offered in several locations throughout the diocese. The Full series from Trinity includes eight different courses. The Diocesan Pilot Program will begin with two course: *Discovering the Old Testament and Discovering the Faith* (a course in Anglican doctrine). Each course is a 12 week program requiring approximately 1 and a half hours of reading and homework each week and a 2 and a half hour class discussion session each week, for a total commitment of about four hours each week. The specific times and locations of each class will be mutually determined at each parish by the facilitator and courses participants. The only cost for each course is approximately \$30 for a loose-leaf binder containing the course content and discussion questions for the course.

One or Both of the Pilot courses will be offered through the following Parishes:

<u>Trinity Church</u>	<u>St John's</u>	<u>St Luke's</u>	<u>St Stephen's</u>	<u>Christ Church</u>
8 Maple St	146 1st St	50 William St	16 Elsmere Ave	70 Mansion St
Potsdam, NY 13676	Troy NY, 12180	Catskill, NY 12414	Delmar, NY 12054	Coxsackie NY, 12051
Fr. Christopher Brown	Fr. Stephen Schlossberg	Fr. Leander Harding	Fr. David Collum	Fr. Frank Lockwood
(315) 265-5754	(518) 274-5884	(518) 943-4180	(518) 439-3265	(518) 731-9883



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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?

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!"

To sign up & learn more, go to **Field-goods.com**

Email info@field-goods.com

Field Goods is located in Athens, NY





St. Peter's Angels Softball Team

The Angels' 10th season will begin on Sunday, April 24th. Games will still be played only on Sunday afternoons, and again this year they're part of the Empire State Sunday Softball League. Anyone interested in playing should contact Pete Benson at 269-1293. Their Annual Pass-the-Cap Fund-raiser Coffee Hour will be held in the near future. Caps and Tees will also be sold to raise money for the season. The game fields and schedule will be posted as soon as they are finalized.

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.

Sunday ~ 4:00PM Service:

The Sunday, 4:00pm Holy Communion service that has been in effect since last September has been suspended.



Free \$5.00 Gift Certificates are available at the church office for new customers only. If you have been thinking of trying this service - please call Kristin for a complimentary gift certificate towards your first order.

Youth Summer Camp

The 52nd year of Beaver Cross Ministries Overnight or Day Camp are receiving registrations April 24-29, or you may pick up a form at the church office, or register online at www.beavercrosscamps.org.

St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen

(a.k.a. Angels in Training)

On the 3rd Saturday of each month (April 16th) we invite 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 therefore many hands mean light work! Please call Laura for information or to let her know you are coming at 368-4284.

Disciples Making Disciples

This retreat is for high school students (9th - 12th grade) who truly want to go deeper in their faith through mission and service. There will be games, worship, and teaching, but much of Saturday will be spent serving with Oaks of Righteousness in Troy. The mission of this retreat is for campers to learn what it means to serve others with Christ's love both through teaching and through experience. The retreat will be held Friday, April 15th at 7:00 p.m. - Sunday, April 17th at 4:00 p.m. at Christ the King Spiritual Life Center. Cost is \$95 per person. More information at: <http://www.beavercrossministries.org/>.

Regional Food Bank Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed on Sunday, April 24th for the Regional Food Bank located off Route 7, on Albany Shaker Road. We need about 10 volunteers to help on that Sunday from 1pm to 3pm. Please ask a friend to join us in helping the community. For more information, please call Laura Saffares at 368-4284.



UPCOMING BEAVER CROSS RETREATS:

Cathedral Lock-In

April 1st-2nd

Cost: \$25

Grades 7-12

Disciples Making Disciples

April 24th-26th

Cost: \$95

Grades 9-12

Visit www.beavercrossministries.org to register


Cathedral Lock-In

Join the Christ the King Youth Ministry team for a night of awesome games, activities, snacks, worship, prayer, and teaching but mostly epic games, and no sleep! The annual Cathedral Lock-In is happening **Friday April 1st at 6:00 p.m. - Saturday April 2nd at 9:00 a.m.** at The Cathedral of All Saints, 62 South Swan St., Albany, NY 12210. All kids in 7th-12th grade should come out for this fantastic night of fun and games with a Clue theme at the Cathedral. This is a great retreat to bring a friend. Cost is \$25 per person. More Info at: <http://www.beavercrossministries.org>.



Coloring Easter Eggs - March 20th

April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			
3 Second Sunday of Easter 8:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Holy Communion	4 5:00 pm - Treble Rehearsal	5	6 8:45 am - Top of the Church 12:05 pm - Holy Communion
10 Third Sunday of Easter 8:30 am - Holy Communion 9:35 am - DOK Meeting 10:30 am - Morning Prayer	11 5:00 pm - Treble Rehearsal	12 4:30 pm - Outreach Meeting 5:15 pm - Vestry Meeting	13 8:45 am - Top of the Church 12:05 pm - Holy Communion
17 Fourth Sunday of Easter with Baptisms 8:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Holy Communion 12:00 pm - Spring Tea in the Parish Hall	18 5:00 pm - Treble Rehearsal	19	20 8:45 am - Top of the Church 12:05 pm - Holy Communion
24 Fifth Sunday of Easter Youth Sunday 8:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Morning Prayer w/ Children's Chapel 1:00 pm - Regional Food Bank	25 5:00 pm - Treble Rehearsal	26	27 8:45 am - Top of the Church 12:05 pm - Holy Communion

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 12:30 pm - Organ Concert 6:00 pm - Cathedral Lock-In	2
The Hill Communion	7 5:00 pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30 pm - Full Choir	8 12:30 pm - Organ Concert	9
The Hill Communion	14 5:00 pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30 pm - Full Choir	15 12:30 pm - Organ Concert	16 11:00 am - Angels in Training
The Hill Communion	21 5:00 pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30 pm - Full Choir	22 12:30 pm - Organ Concert	23
The Hill Communion	28 5:00 pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30 pm - Full Choir	29 12:30 pm - Organ Concert	30



FRIDAY NOONTIME ORGAN CONCERTS

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

**We have added a new feature on the St. Peter's website:
regular postings of music selections
from our Sunday services.**

Composer of the Month – Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

Louis Vierne studied at Paris Conservatory and was principal organist at the cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris from 1900 until his death in 1937. His organ compositions have found a secure place in concert and church repertoire, with a number of “toccata style” works heard very frequently. A successful concert tour of North America, which included major recitals on the famous Wanamaker Organ in Philadelphia, brought him acclaim in this country.

Although not completely blind, congenital cataracts rendered him what we would today call “legally blind.” His early works were written on very large manuscript paper, but he later made use of Braille for composing.

Vierne had an elegant, clean style of writing that respected form above all else. His harmonic language was romantically rich, but not sentimental or theatrical. His output for organ includes six organ symphonies, *24 Fantasy Pieces*, and *24 Pieces in Free Style*, among other works.

Vierne suffered either a stroke or a heart attack while giving his 1750th organ recital at Notre-Dame de Paris. As he played the first note of his concluding improvisation, he suddenly pitched forward and lost consciousness as the single note echoed throughout the church. He had thus fulfilled his oft-stated lifelong dream - to die at the console of the great organ of Notre-Dame.

In 2003 German progressive rock group *Inquire* recorded a version of Vierne's third organ symphony, remarking in the liner notes that "this symphony marks the beginning of a new movement, what we call 'rock and roll'."

Organist Vaughn Mauren in recital, April 22nd

On Friday, April 22nd our former organ scholar and chorister will perform a concert here at St. Peter's. His program includes Vierne's Third Symphony for organ, the work referenced elsewhere. We can all decide then whether it's rock and roll or not.

Vaughn's program will also include works of Bach and Mendelssohn. Please put the date on your calendar, and look for more information on this event as the date draws nearer. Vaughn is currently music director at St. James's Church in West Hartford, CT, and we are very excited to welcome him back to St. Peter's.

CHOIR

Choir rehearsals are on the following schedule:

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

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

5:30pm - 7:00pm Adult choristers

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

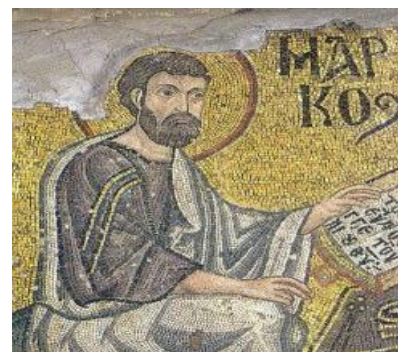
Please contact Neil Keen for more information at stpmus@gmail.com or 339-0137.

Saint of the Month Club

Saint Mark the Evangelist

Prayer:

Almighty God, by the hand of Mark the evangelist you have given to your Church the Gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God: We thank you for this witness, and pray that we may be firmly grounded in its truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*



A disciple of Jesus, named Mark, appears in several places in the New Testament. If all references to Mark are accepted as referring to the same person, we learn that he was the son of a woman who owned a house in Jerusalem, perhaps the same house in which Jesus ate the Last Supper with his disciples. Mark may have been the young man who fled naked when Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. In his letter to the Colossians, the Apostle Paul refers to “Mark the cousin of Barnabas”, who was with him in his imprisonment. Mark set out with Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey, but he turned back for reasons which failed to satisfy Paul (Acts 15:36-40). When another journey was planned, Paul refused to have Mark with him. Instead, Mark went with Barnabas to Cyprus. The breach between Paul and Mark was later healed, and Mark became one of Paul's companions in Rome, as well as a close friend of the Apostle Peter.

An early tradition recorded by Papias, Bishop of Hieropolis in Asia Minor at the beginning of the second century, names Mark as the author of the Gospel bearing his name. This tradition, which holds that Mark drew his information from the teaching of Peter, is generally accepted. In his First Letter, Peter refers to “my son Mark”, which shows a close relationship between the two men (1 Peter 5:13).

The Church of Alexandria in Egypt claimed Mark as their founder, first bishop and most illustrious martyr, and the great Church of San Marco in Venice commemorates the disciple who progressed from turning back while on a missionary journey with Paul and Barnabas to proclaiming in his Gospel Jesus of Nazareth as Son of God, and bearing witness to that faith as friend and companion to the apostles Peter and Paul.

Altars at St. Peter's Church

When the 3rd Edifice of the Church was consecrated in 1860 by Bishop Horatio Potter, the Memorial Altar and Reredos which is now at the front of our church had not yet been placed. A picture from the Church Archives of the church altar at the time of Bishop Doane's installation in 1869, showed the altar to be a simple table. The Rector stood behind the table for the Communion liturgy, facing the congregation. The Altar Rail for the use of Communicants was curved around the table.

The Memorial Altar and Reredos we see today was placed in 1885. Designed by Richard M. Upjohn, the son of Richard Upjohn our church architect, and executed by Messrs. Ellin & Co. of New York, it is in the style of decorated Gothic of the church. The straight altar rail which separates the Sanctuary from the Chancel is of a beautiful design by Robert Gibson. It is dedicated by John S. Perry in honor of his wife Mary Jane Perry.

One ascends to the Altar from the Sanctuary pavement using three stone steps. The chief sculpture of the altar consists of two angels with outspread wings kneeling in adoration of the cross. The angels were modeled by Louis St. Gaudens in the studio of his brother Auguste. The altar was the gift of church member and vestryman, Charles L. Pruyn in memory of his wife, Elizabeth. The north buttress of the Reredos bears the following inscription

*To the glory of God and in sacred and loving memory of
Elizabeth McClintock Pruyn,
Born Oct 31st 1853, evermore at Rest
Dec 20th 1884.*

In the far right front of the church there is a small chapel, St. Mark's Chapel, with its lovely white marble altar. The St. Mark's Altar was designated as a gift to St. Peter's Church when St. Mark's Church of Green Island was closed in 1979, with the only stipulation being that \$1,000 would be donated towards the moving of the altar. It was appropriate that St. Peter's Church was chosen for this gift. The junior architects for our church architect Richard Upjohn included: Richard M. Upjohn, Michael Upjohn and Emylan Lyttel. It was Emylan Lyttel who designed St. Mark's Church at Green Island. Thus the St. Mark's altar shared the same design and style as St. Peter's Church so that the addition of the St. Mark's altar to St. Peter's Church in 1980 seemed to be a natural fit. St. Mark's Chapel is now used regularly for mid-week services of Holy Communion.

The most recent altar in St. Peter's Church is a Children's Altar located in the Pumpelly Room. It is used monthly for a children's service of Holy Communion. The altar table and lectern were assembled by Pat Shortall. On the fourth Sunday of the month, the children bring in procession the elements of the Communion Service including: a Processional Cross, Candles and Candelabra, a Torch, Linens for the Communion Table, a Chalice for wine, and a Seborium for wafers, as well as wine, water, and the Rector's Stole. The children assist in setting the Communion Table. The service is a modified Rite I which includes a Rector's Homily and the Communion liturgy. Father Hartt reports that the children are enjoying the service and are expressing their interest. He welcomes all Sunday School children to join in this special Communion experience.

Estimate of Giving Cards

Estimate of Giving Cards for 2016 have been mailed out to all parishioners that did not attend the morning worship service on Consecration Sunday, October 18th. If you did not receive a card please call the church office. It would be greatly appreciated if you could please take a minute to complete your card and return it to the church office or place it in the offering plate during the service. You may also call the church office and we would be more than happy to complete a card for you. Thank you to those that have promptly completed and returned their card.

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.

Church Chuckles!



Minutes of the Vestry
St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church
February 8, 2016

The meeting was called to order, followed by an Opening Prayer by The Rev. Paul J. Hartt, Rector, at 5:20pm.

Motions:

1. Motion made to approve the minutes (as written) of the January 12, 2016 meeting; made by Tim Murphy, seconded by Maria Holden. Motion passed.
2. Motion made to contract with Thos. P. Egan Inc. for new (replacement) cushions for the pews in the sanctuary using donations received in prior years that had been earmarked for Capital Improvements for the total of [approximately] \$19,000.00; made by Jim Chenot, seconded by Maria Holden. Motion passed.
3. Motion made to accept the 2016 Parochial Report as prepared; made by Tim Murphy, seconded by Maria Holden. Motion passed.
4. Motion made to adjourn the meeting; made by Kevin Cehowski, seconded by Stephanie Lenewicz. Motion passed.

Reports Given:

SR. WARDEN'S REPORT – J. Chenot

Jim began his report by congratulating Nancy Creagan (1st term), Kevin Cehowski (1st term) and Maria Holden (2nd term) on their three year term to the vestry, all elected at our Annual Meeting in January. Jim also thanked George Scala for filling the remaining year of Jack Ratzel seat on the vestry. He also thanked the vestry and congregation for allowing him to continue as Senior Warden beginning his fourth, two year term serving on the vestry, with praise having a great vestry and clergy moving ahead this upcoming year with prayerful growth and success for 2016.

He also thanked those in the congregation who stayed after the Sunday service for the annual meeting, the meeting was well attended and received. Jim thanked all those who were involved who made the day a very successful and informative meeting, thanking Maria Holden, Jim Adams, Meghan Cooney and Mother Sue for their help with the PowerPoint presentation, as well as thanking those who prepared their reports from each guild, highlighting their ministries with all of us over the past year. Lastly, thank you to Janice and Meghan who compiled and printed all the reports and information for the guilds as well as the annual meeting report. As mentioned at the annual meeting, Meaghan has moved on to a new exiting job and we wish her the best as well thank her for all she has contributed to St. Peter's the past few years. A copy of the annual report was sent out in the beginning of February as part of our newsletter for those unable to attend and will be to review the reports.

We will start our Lenten season tomorrow, February 9th with our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner from 5 to 7 pm, followed by Ash Wednesday services and Evensong at 5:45pm each Friday during Lent.

FINANCE – G. Scala

George reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the month of January. Total offerings for the month were \$22,132 which is about average for the month.

The investment/endowment accounts showed losses for the month consistent with the national markets. Merrill Lynch was down -4.85% for the month and Key was down -3.74% for the month. This starts us off with a significant budget variance for the year of (\$194,921). We continue to hope the market will rebound and stabilize in the future. While the returns were disappointing, both accounts performed favorably versus market indexes. Since the unrestricted endowment (Merrill Lynch) is heavier in equities, it shows greater variances during market fluctuations than the Key accounts that are more concentrated in bonds. Expenses year to date are \$3,938 under budget.

George also reported on the updated stewardship numbers. To date 2016 pledges are 64 units at \$160,502. The average pledge amount is up from 2015 but the total number of pledging units and pledge dollars remains down. While pledges are still coming in, we were at 94 pledging units for \$197,342 for 2015.

George also talked briefly about the annual meeting.

PROPERTY - T. Murphy

Some minor repairs continue at the rectory.

There was also discussion about and motion made concerning replacement cushions for the Sanctuary pews.

OUTREACH – The Rev. S. Waldron

The annual Soup Sampler will be Sunday, March 6th following the 10:30 service. This year, Outreach proposes the proceeds to benefit the Food Pantries of the Capital District, Inc. Sign-up for soup will be posted this Sunday by Judy Burns who is coordinating the event along with Janice Chenot (thank you Judy and Janice).

The Outreach Committee will be providing (2) scholarships to the West Buganda Aids Orphan Girls totaling \$2,000. Carly Crewell brought some excellent new ideas for Outreach/Social opportunities for the Committee's consideration.

OLD BUSINESS

Delegates to Convention (June 10-12) were discussed with several individuals proposed. Jim Chenot will reach out to these individuals to secure their availability.

NEW BUSINESS

Jim Chenot thanked Judy Burns for her role as Clerk of the Vestry and welcomed individuals who might be interested in serving in this capacity to contact him.

The Parochial Report, as prepared and submitted, was reviewed and a motion was made to accept it. George Scala is now asked to certify the report for The Episcopal Church.

ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S REPORT – The Rev. S Waldron

Lent: It is nearly the start of our early Lent. Prior to that, we will have the Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper tomorrow evening at 5:00. Then Ash Wednesday services, with imposition of ashes at 7:30am, noon and 5:30pm.

Daughters of the King: The Daughters continued to be honored to hold the daily prayers and intercessions we are given. We are hosting a women's luncheon on February 14th (in lieu of our regular meeting) at Wellington's, immediately following the 10:30am service. We have other women of the parish joining us.

Women's Retreat: I am planning to attend, with several women of the parish, the retreat Loving Well, with teaching by Beth Moore, at the Spiritual Life Center in Greenwich NY on February 19-20. We encourage additional women of the church to consider joining us.

Lenten Women's Bible Study: The women of the parish are welcomed to join our book group during Wednesday's in Lent. We will be reading, and reflecting on, "Your Beautiful Purpose" by Susie Larson. Meeting each Wednesday at 1:00, the women are also invited to come early for the noon Eucharist service and bring a bagged lunch to enjoy before our group begins.

Guest Preaching: I've been invited as guest preacher at the Cathedral of All Saints on Sunday February 14th (the 1st Sunday in Lent).

Upcoming Events – registration opened now:

Parish Leadership Conference: Is Saturday March 5th at St. George's Clifton Park, and all leaders of the parish are encouraged to attend. The 2016 Parish Leadership Conference will focus on ministering to those with addictions. We engage this much in our ministry at St. Peter's and I am looking forward to attending with a group from our church. Please let us know if you'd like to register.

Men's Cursillo and Women's Cursillo: both weekends are scheduled during March. I'd be happy to sponsor anyone desiring to go and grow in their faith through these events. Please speak to me if you'd like to learn more.

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE – The Rev. P. Hartt

The Average Sunday Attendance, through the 6th Sunday of 2016, is 120.7

RECTOR'S REPORT – The Rev. P. Hartt

Annual Meeting - Father Hartt thanked the vestry for their considerable work in preparing for the Annual Meeting. The various reports and Sr. Warden's address were strong, informative, and prayerful. George Scala's financial presentation once again met with positive feedback. George's reports do wonders in explaining the parish's finances to those both well acquainted with investments and accounting and those more geared to the family budgets. Father Hartt also thanked Maria Holden and Mtr. Sue Waldron for their fine work on the Powerpoint slides. Fr. Hartt welcomed Kevin Cehowski, Nancy Creagan, and congratulations to Jim Chenot on his reelection as Sr. Warden.

Investments - Father Hartt spoke of the weak market and our worrisome dependence on the endowment. Despite the difficult market conditions, Jim Chenot and George Scala continue to guide us in ways that make the most of a tough situation. We can be especially grateful for their prior work on the Key Bank Trust to maximize returns historically not given us by these restricted accounts. Father Hartt and the vestry spoke about the interplay between pledges received and made and church attendance.

Children's Chapel - This initiative with our youth has been one of the most spiritually fruitful we have undertaken. The parish has begun to send postcard reminders of our monthly Children's Chapel. We believe that the postcards will help attendance. These postcards are also easily recognized by the kids themselves. The questions from our children during the instructed Eucharist reveal some sharp theological minds. It is all a great encouragement to the clergy and parish. Our next Children's Chapel is scheduled for February 28

Communication - Father Hartt spoke of how every parish struggles with communication. Part of the issue is the sheer number of communication vehicles on which our parishioners come to rely. The leaflet, the newsletter, word of mouth, church announcements, facebook, phone calls, parish website and emails are all in play. We continue to need email addresses in order to finish the Parish Directory. Mother Sue believes that we perhaps need to use text messaging more. There are some ways in which technology has made communication more challenging. Each generation has its preferred approaches.

Poetry Reading - Dr. Leonard Slade, Jr. is an extensively published poet and Professor at SUNY Albany. Professor Slade writes compelling about the Civil Rights movement and the black experience in America. We are fortunate to have such a respected scholar and brilliant poet come to St. Peter's for a poetry reading following Services on February 28th.

Attendance - Fr. Hartt and the Vestry discussed the Rector's Report at the Annual Meeting as it related to attendance. The Sr. Warden commended the report to the parish's careful reading.

Ash Wednesday Services - Our Lent begins February 10th. Ash Wednesday Services are at 7:30AM, Noon, and 5:30PM. Easter falls early on March 27th. Father Hartt bid us a holy and spiritually fruitful Lent.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned on motion at 6:45 pm, after which Compline followed, led by The Rev. P. Hartt.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. S Waldron

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
Kristin Robinson.....Administrative Assistant
Janice Chenot.....Office Volunteer
E. Constance Powell.....Historian & Archivist

Vestry

James Chenot.....Senior Warden
Deborah Spath.....Junior Warden
George Scala.....Treasurer
Kevin Cehowski, Nancy Creagan, Maria Holden, Moses Kamy,
Stephanie Lencewicz, Mark Lundberg, Tim Murphy, Earl Stafford

How to Contact Us

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Monday -Friday

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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.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

