



# THE Cornerstone

## June 2016

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

### From the Rector

**If a child is trained up in the right way, even when he is old he will not be turned away from it.  
( Proverbs 22:6.)**

The weekend of June 10th, the Diocese of Albany will be holding its 148th Convention. It has been on my mind, but not because there is a pending controversy or ecclesiastical intrigue in the works. Rather, our convention has been on my heart because of what it represents. It represents health, spiritual and ecclesial health.

It may surprise you to know that over 700 people come to the Diocesan Convention. This number includes clergy and parish delegates, speakers, visitors, and honored guests. It also includes many, many young people. The "Youth Rally" takes place throughout the weekend and culminates in Sunday worship in which the kids are both active participants and the focus of our attention with thanksgiving to God. It is difficult to convey in words the encouragement these young people bring to the delegates. We sense in them not only our future but our glorious future. These kids are spiritually mature, informed, joyful to be Christian, and unashamed. They are counter-cultural in the best sense of the term.

I often wish that more parishioners could see what takes place at Convention. It happens in a camp and conference center in Speculator, N.Y. Convention has the feel of "camp" but with the modern conveniences. It is possible to swim, hike, canoe, and attend workshops. Lively worship grounds all. We always host at least one bishop from somewhere in the broader Anglican Communion. Often it has been Bishop Miller of our companion Diocese in Down and Dromore, Ireland or Bishop Justin of Maridi in South Sudan. Many will remember Bishop Miller from our Confirmation service at St. Peter's last February. He is a powerful preacher and especially so with the youth.

The point that I am trying to convey is that genuine vitality exists in The Episcopal Church and in this Diocese. Indeed, it is robust. With respect to youth, it is particularly so. I understand well that parish based youth ministries are not what they once were for those of us who remember "back then." It is often difficult to get "critical mass" for parish youth events. However, at the diocesan level, youth ministry is strong. In the newsletter are camp dates and contact information for Beaver Cross. If you have found difficulty in conveying the Faith to your children, please let them experience camp at Beaver Cross. It opens a whole new world to our youth in numbers and depth. The camp is located in nearby Greenwich, forty minutes from Albany. Much of the impressive presence of faith in our young people at Convention traces to camp experiences. Even the camp food is good! Meet the staff at <http://www.beavercrossministries.org/>

Let me be candid. Our youth do not need more resume building activities. What they need is the feeding of their souls. I implore our families to explore what is available through the Diocese. These are critical years. We are made to be whole people in mind, body, and soul. Those who have attended Beaver Cross or Convention weekend can bear witness to the power of peer Christian community.

Guests are welcome at Convention. Come up on Saturday or Sunday morning and see for yourself. I promise that you will be encouraged.

Faithfully, Fr. Hartt+

## From the Associate Rector

“God Bless You!”

As you may know, my weekdays are now spent in a high-walled cubicle, surrounded by many other cubicles, in a State office building. This setting seemed very strange to me at first. I had not yet met many of the people who surrounded me in the other cubicles and yet could hear their voices from time to time (although our office is generally rather quiet).

One of my first “ministries” at my secular job is sharing God's Blessing when someone sneezes! Yes – you heard right! From these cubicles around me I hear sneezes from time-to-time and love to reply “God Bless You!” I do this not knowing who sneezed or what their religious affiliation or thoughts might be. I know that others do so as well, perhaps with the same or a different intent. But, when I reply “God Bless You”, I am also quietly praying God's Blessing on that person.

This “ministry” has caused me to reflect on the many ways that our faith can intersect life in very common ways. God Bless You after a sneeze, praying thanks for a meal in public, asking for others to “pray” that things will work out are all little ways that we can earnestly share our faith with others around us.

Some of us might be shy about doing these things and I can understand. Most of us do not know what the religious affiliation or attitudes are within the people that surround us in our secular jobs, our neighborhoods or our other hobbies and activities. We certainly don't want to seem obtrusive or make anyone else uncomfortable, or “force” our religion on others.

However, my little “God Bless You's” haven't seemed to do that at all. At first, they were sometimes met with silence which I admit was awkward. However, now, just a couple of months into this ministry, I most always hear, “Thank you!” I've also noticed more people around me joining in the practice and saying “God Bless You” towards others. Isn't that great! A whole group of people learning to pray God's Blessing over each other in the midst of State office cubicles!

I believe that most of us get quite nervous when we began to speak about Evangelism – sharing our faith with others. But we need not react that way. One of the best evangelistic practices is to share one's faith incrementally through one's very personhood. In other words, we don't need to go up to people and ask, “Would you like to know more about Jesus?” (Although please do so if God leads you to!) Responding to a sneeze near you with “God Bless You” shares your faith in a personal and also genuine way. Over time, more opportunities might come along to share other small parts of faith and eventually a solid conversation about Jesus might be able to take place.

The thing to remember is to take your Evangelism in baby steps, one step at a time! If you haven't already done so, start with “God Bless You!” and really mean it, say it and pray it! Recognize this as true ministry to those around you. As you share your faith, God will begin to change your life in amazing ways!

So, God Bless You; even if you didn't just sneeze!

Yours in Christ,

Mother Sue+



# Con GRAD ulations !

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR 2015-2016 HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES



**KATIE ALEXANDRA CUMMINGS** graduated from the Curry College in Milton, MA with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology. (Katie is the granddaughter of Joseph and Cynthia Gabriels).

**THOMAS DAME** graduated from the United States Air Force as an Airman First Class. (Thomas is the grandson of Earl and Carol Stafford).

**LEAH DONLON** will graduate from Providence High School in Charlotte, NC. She will be attending LSU majoring in Pre-Veterinary Medicine. (Leah is the granddaughter of Joseph and Cynthia Gabriels).

**OLIVIA K. HEALY** will graduate from Bethlehem Central High School. She will be attending the University of Vermont - College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences. (Olivia is the daughter of Jack and Kim Healy).

**THOMAS O. MAGGS** received a Doctorate of Public Services Honorary Degree from the Sage Colleges.

**SEAN T. MURPHY** will graduate from Guilderland Central High School with a Regents Diploma. He will be attending Utica College majoring in Business Finance. (Sean is the son of Tim Murphy and Julie Hotmer Drao).

**CAMERON NEIL** graduated from Georgia Tech with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aerospace Engineering. He will be pursuing his master's degree this fall at Georgia Tech. (Cameron is the grandson of Joseph and Cynthia Gabriels).

**CASEY NEIL** will graduate from York High School in Seaford VA. He will be attending Virginia Tech. (Casey is the granddaughter of Joseph and Cynthia Gabriels).

**ASHTEN NICOLE OLDAKER** graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Marketing and Human Resources. (Ashten is the granddaughter of Joseph and Cynthia Gabriels).

**EVAN THOMAS OLDAKER** will graduate from Bainbridge High School in Bainbridge, GA. He will be attending Miles College majoring in Biochemical Engineering. (Evan is the grandson of Joseph and Cynthia Gabriels).

**EMMA PLATEK** graduated Summa Cum Laude from Boston University with a Bachelor of Science Degree. Emma is moving to Los Angeles, CA to work at Whitehouse Productions. (Emma is the daughter of Catherine Schunk and Michael Platek).

**ELIZABETH R. PUGLIESE** will graduate with High Honors from Averill Park High School with a Regents Diploma. She will be attending Wheaton College in Norton, MA majoring in Bio-Chemistry. (Elizabeth is the daughter of David and Robin Pugliese and the granddaughter of Robert and Gertrude Schupp).

**CONNOR SCALA** will graduate from Columbia High School with a Regents Diploma. He will be attending the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach majoring in Aerospace Engineering. (Connor is the son of George and Karen Scala).

**ALLEN RB SCHULT** graduated from George Washington University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering with an Aeronautic concentration. (Allen is the grandson of Edith Allen).

**MORGEN (MINNIE) ELIZABETH SCHUPP** will graduate from Shaker High School. She will be attending Hartwick College. (Minnie is the daughter of Morgen Aalto and Edmund J. Schupp and the granddaughter of Robert and Gertrude Schupp).

### Abide In Christ, Bear Fruit, Glorify God

The 148th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany, is June 10th - 12th! Join the fun at Camp of the Woods in Speculator. There will be a plenary session on how to approach Bible Study and a session on the DASH event. What's a DASH event? Come to Convention and find out! There will be workshops on how to abide in Christ, how to bear fruit by using spiritual gifts, how to glorify God, how to increase your spiritual maturity, and many more. And of course there will be ice cream at the Teepee! But this year's Convention will be especially joyful as we honor The Rt. Rev. David Ball on the occasion of his 90th birthday. So don't wait! Register before it's too late

### Outreach

The June Outreach meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 14th at 4:30 pm. Please join us to learn about Outreach ministries and hospitality events being planned!

### Welcome Home Initiative© Team Training

The Healing Center at CtK is offering a Teaching/Training Conference entitled Praying for Traumatized Combat Veterans June 17th - 18th at Christ the King Spiritual Life Center. Prayer Ministers, therapists, Military Chaplains and clergy are encouraged to attend. The cost is \$150 for the weekend. For more information, contact the Healing Center at (518) 692-9550 x 201.

### Mark your Calendar!

June 5, 2016 is the 17<sup>th</sup> 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.thecathedralofallsaints.org/>

### Vestry Meeting

The June Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 14th at 5:15pm.



### Awards Sunday and Ice Cream Social:

This year the Sunday School and Choir Awards and Ice Cream Sundae Social will occur on two different dates. The Awards will be presented on Sunday, June 5th during the 10:30AM Service. The Ice Cream Social will be on Sunday, June 19th following the 10:30 service. Please join us in celebrating our esteemed choir members and Sunday school teachers.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Full choir and Sunday School will continue through Sunday, June 19th.

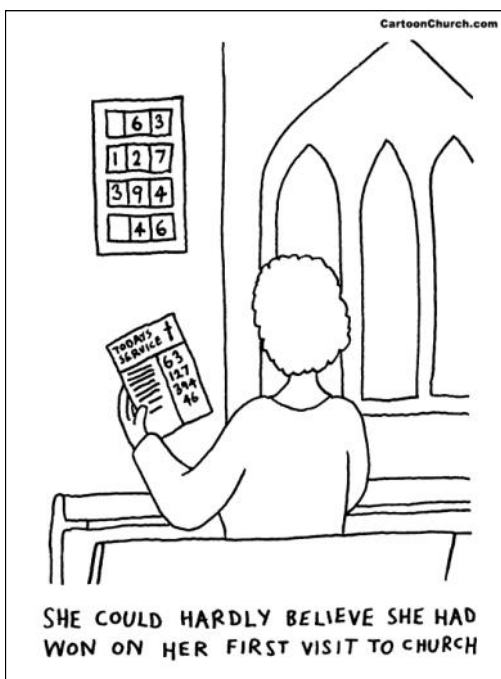
### Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King do not meet during the months of June, July and August. Meetings will resume in September. We continue to receive and pray your intercessions daily.

### The Diaper Drive Returns

The Albany Refugee Resettlement Ministry is holding its sixth annual Diaper Drive at Convention. All diapers donated will go directly to Burmese refugee families living in the cities of Albany and Rensselaer. These newly arrived refugees live far below the poverty line. Diapers are not covered under any social service programs and as all moms and dads know, diapers are not cheap. Please help to re-stock the St. David's Diaper Bank. Diaper sizes 2, 3, 4, and 5 are needed. Your donations are a blessing to so many moms and dads and their babies. To donate diapers, please bring to St. Peter's Church by June 5th and your clergy/delegates will deliver them to this ministry at Convention.

### **Church Chuckles!**



### 2016 ST. PETER'S ANGELS SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

June 5th	Sunday	1:30PM	@	Arbor Hill	(Tops in Bottoms)
June 12th	Sunday	3:00PM	@	Arbor Hill	(Scissors III & Co)
June 12th	Sunday	4:30PM	@	Arbor Hill	(Café Hollywood)
June 26th	Sunday	12:00PM	@	Mullens	(Mohawk Honda)
June 26th	Sunday	1:30PM	@	Mullens	(Vipers)
July 10th	Sunday	6:00PM	@	Mullens	(Keller Williams)
July 17th	Sunday	1:30PM	@	Arbor Hill	(Il Faro)

Games will be played at either Mullens Park located at 35 North First Street, Albany, NY 12204 or the Arbor Hill Softball Field located at the corner of Lark Street and Manning Blvd., Albany, NY 12207 (across from the Arbor Hill Fire Dept.). Directions are available on the website. Please type in your browser <http://www.softball-24-7.com/ESS-SundaySoftball/index.html> do not Google search it as it will not appear. On the website, we are listed as St. Peter's Angels. To check on rainouts call 269-1293.



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# Youth Formation & Sunday School



## Youth Sunday

Children's Chapel and Youth Sunday will return in the fall.

## St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen (a.k.a. Angels in Training)

On the 3rd Saturday of each month (June 18th) 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.



We would like to Congratulate Malcolm Moran on making his Confirmation on May 16, 2016 at St George's in Clifton Park.



God took the strength of a mountain,  
The majesty of a tree,  
The warmth of a summer sun,  
The calm of a quiet sea,  
The generous soul of nature,  
The comforting arm of night,  
The wisdom of the ages,  
The power of the eagle's flight,  
The joy of a morning in spring,  
The faith of a mustard seed,  
The patience of eternity,  
The depth of a family need,  
Then God combined these qualities,  
When there was nothing more to add,  
He knew His masterpiece was complete,  
And so, He called it ... Dad

## Beaver Cross Camp Dates!

### **2016 Overnight Camp Dates**


Beaver Bound	July 6 - July 8	K-2 Grade
Discoverers	July 3 - July 8	3-5 Grade
Adventurers 1	July 10 - July 16	6-8 Grade
Adventurers 2	July 17 - July 23	6-8 Grade
Pioneers 1	July 24 - July 30	9-12Grade
Pioneers 2	July 31- Aug 6	9-12Grade


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

### **2016 Day Camp Dates**

Day camp 1	July 4 - July 8
Day camp 2	July 11 - July 15
Day camp 3	July 18 - July 22
Day camp 4	July 25 - July 29
Day camp 5	Aug 1 - Aug 5
Day camp 6	Aug 8 - Aug 12
Day camp 7	Aug 15 - Aug 19
Day camp 8	Aug 22 - Aug 26

# June 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			1  8:45 am - Top of the Cross 12:05 pm - Holy Communion
<b>5 Third Sunday after Pentecost</b>  8:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Holy Communion w/Sunday School & Choir Awards  Bishop Ball Golf Tournament	6	7	8  8:45 am - Top of the Cross 12:05 pm - Holy Communion
<b>12 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</b>  8:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Morning Prayer  Diocesan Convention	13	14  4:30 pm - Outreach Meeting 5:15 pm - Vestry Meeting	15  8:45 am - Top of the Cross 12:05 pm - Holy Communion
<b>19 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>Father's Day</b> 8:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Holy Communion  Ice Cream Sundae Social following the 10:30am service	20	21	22  8:45 am - Top of the Cross 12:05 pm - Holy Communion
<b>26 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost</b>  8:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Morning Prayer	27	28	<b>29 Saint Peter &amp; Paul</b>  8:45 am - Top of the Cross 12:05 pm - Holy Communion

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
The Hill Communion	2  5:00 pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30 pm - Full Choir	3  12:30 pm - Organ Concert	4
The Hill Communion	9	10  12:30 pm - Organ Concert  Diocesan Convention	11 <b>Saint Barnabas</b>  Diocesan Convention
The Hill Communion	16	17  12:30 pm - Organ Concert	18  11:00 am - Angels in Training
The Hill Communion	23	24 <b>The Nativity of St. John the Baptist</b>  12:30 pm - Organ Concert	25
<b>Saint Paul</b>  The Hill Communion	30		



## 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](mailto:stpmus@gmail.com) or 339-0137.

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:** Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Herbert Howells is one of the 20th century's most respected composers of church music. Howells was born in Gloucestershire, England, the son of the organist in the local Baptist church. At age 16 he became an articled pupil of the organist of Gloucester Cathedral, where the Three Choir Festival brought him under the influence of Ralph Vaughan Williams and of the Tudor composers.

After study at the Royal College of Music, London, Howells became Assistant Organist a Salisbury Cathedral, a post he held for only a few months due to poor health. In 1920 he was appointed to the faculty of the Royal College of Music, where he taught until 1979. After the tragic death of his son Michael in 1935, he worked on a large scale choral work and masterpiece, Hymnus Paradisi, a Requiem, and also wrote the music for the hymn "All my hope on God is founded" (#665 in our Hymnal) in memory of his son. In the 1950s and 60s Howells wrote several sets of church service music, named for and inspired by particular churches or cathedrals. At St. Peter's we sing settings from the set Collegium Regale, written for King's College, Cambridge. Howells organ pieces, particularly his six Psalm Preludes, have also found a place in organists' standard repertoire.

## Saint of the Month Club

### Enmegahbowh

*Priest and Missionary, 1902*

Prayer:

I Almighty God, thou didst lead thy pilgrim people of old with fire and cloud: Grant that the ministers of thy Church, following the example of blessed Enmegahbowh, may stand before thy holy people, leading them with fiery zeal and gentle humility. This we ask through Jesus, the Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.



John Johnson Enmegahbowh, an Odawa (Ottawa) Indian from Canada, was raised in the Midewiwin traditional healing way of his grandfather and the Christian religion of his mother. He came into the United States as a Methodist missionary in 1832. At one point Enmegahbowh attempted to abandon missionary work and return to Canada, but the boat was turned back by storms on Lake Superior, providing him a vision: "Here Mr. Jonah came before me and said, 'Ah, my friend Enmegahbowh, I know you. You are a fugitive. You have sinned and disobeyed God. Instead of going to the city of Nineveh, where God sent you to spread his word to the people, you started to go, and then turned aside. You are now on your way to the city of Tarsish....'"

Enmegahbowh invited James Lloyd Breck to Gull Lake, where together they founded St. Columba's Mission in 1852. The mission was later moved to White Earth, where Enmegahbowh served until his death in 1902. Unwelcome for a time among some Ojibway groups because he warned the community at Fort Ripley about the 1862 uprising, Enmegahbowh was consistent as a man of peace, inspiring the Waubesaquot (Chief White Cloud) mission, which obtained a lasting peace between the Ojibway and the Dakota peoples.

Enmegahbowh ("The One who Stands Before his People") is the first recognized Native American priest in the Episcopal Church. He was ordained deacon by Bishop Kemper in 1859 and priest by Bishop Whipple in the cathedral at Faribault in 1867. Enmegahbowh helped train many others to serve as deacons throughout northern Minnesota. The powerful tradition of Ojibway hymn singing is a living testimony to their ministry. His understanding of Native tradition enabled him to enculturate Christianity in the language and traditions of the Ojibway. He tirelessly traveled throughout Minnesota and beyond, actively participating in the development of mission strategy and policy for the Episcopal Church.



## Architecture and Symbolism in St. Peter's Church



### The architecture of St. Peter's Church can be divided into six parts:

1. The Vestibule - The entrance to the church from the street.
2. The Narthex - The space between the Vestibule and the Nave. On the right side of the Narthex is a room housing our War Chapel and our Columbarium.
3. The Nave – The main part of the church where the congregation gathers. It contains the pews and aisles.
4. The Chancel – The place where the Choir sits. It is usually three steps up from the Nave.
5. The Sanctuary – The front part of the church containing the altar from which the Holy Communion Service is conducted. It is usually three steps from the Sanctuary floor to the altar.
6. The Sacristy – The place of storage of the robes of the Rector and those who assist. Also the place for the storage of the Communion vessels and linens.

### Mosaic Floor

In the Sanctuary there are many beautiful symbols. For example the mosaic floor contains representations of the gospels of the first four evangelists of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These gospels are represented in the mosaic floor as winged figures. (See picture above.)

*Gospel of Saint Matthew* - Going from left to right on the Sanctuary floor, the first figure represents the gospel of Saint Matthew as a winged man, emphasizing Jesus' human nature. This gospel begins with Jesus' genealogy and ends with the fulfillment of prophesy that he is the son of God.

*Gospel of Saint Mark* - The second figure going from left to right represents the gospel of Saint Mark. This gospel is depicted as a winged lion. It represents the voice of John the Baptist crying in the wilderness, making way for the Lord. The lion also symbolizes both royal dignity, and Christ's resurrection. Christ's resurrection (rebirth) is depicted as the newborn lion, who at first appears dead, but is awakened by the breath, the tongue and the roaring of its sire.

*Gospel of Saint Luke* - The third mosaic figure represents the gospel of Saint Luke as an ox, the beast of sacrifice for the atonement of sin by God's blood.

*Gospel of Saint John* - The last figure represents the gospel of Saint John as a winged eagle. The eagle in this context depicts God's Word coming down from Heaven. This Word is made flesh in Jesus. As Saint John's gospel soars in spirit upward to the heaven of heavens, it brings back revelations of its sublime and awful mysteries. Note that these same four winged figures are also depicted in the stained glass windows of our Sacristy.

Between the second and third evangelists' gospels in the Sanctuary, there is a mosaic monogram containing the Latinized version of three Greek letters *IHS*. These are the first three letters of the name of Jesus. This symbol is generally interpreted as The Holy Name of Jesus.

### Pruyn Altar

The Sanctuary contains the Pruy Altar and Reredos with its beautiful angels reverencing the cross. The altar is supported by four pillars between which are following symbols: *Chi Rho*, *IHS*, *Alpha Omega*.

*Chi Rho* - Going from left to right, the first symbol is Chi Rho which is formed by superimposing the two Greek capital letters *Chi* and *Rho* (*XP*) as the Greek word for *Kristos* or Christ, invoking the authority of Jesus as well as symbolizing his status as the Christ. The symbol looks like the letter P placed above a series of spokes.

*IHS* - On the second symbol below the altar is a representation of the cross of Christ with the *IHS*, depiction of the Holy Name of Jesus, in the center of the cross.

*Alpha Omega* - The third and final symbol between the altar pillars superimposes the first Greek letter *alpha* (as a large *A*) superimposed on the last Greek letter *omega* (as a large *O*). The *O* is incomplete at the base. The *alpha omega* (*AO*) symbol is interpreted as meaning, that Christ, in all things, is the beginning and the end, a concept found in the Bible in the Book of Revelations.

### Sanctuary Carpet and Chairs

There are also symbols on the carpet and on the chairs in the Sanctuary. The edges of the carpet have the same vine and branches motif as the mosaic decoration at the front of the Nave.

The symbols on the carpet leading up to the altar include an *Anchor*, a symbol of safety, meaning Christ is a symbol of unfailing hope for all who believe in him. Other symbols on the carpet are *Hearts* representing Jesus' sacred heart in his divine love for humanity, and *crosses* representing Jesus' death on the cross as the atonement for our sin. There is a symbol of an Upside Down Dove representing the descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus after his baptism.

There are various *Chi Rho* symbols on chairs in the Sanctuary. One final symbol is on the back of the Bishop's Chair. It is the *Corporate Arms of St. Peter's Church*, which includes a crossed Key and Bishop's Staff superimposed on the upside down Cross of Saint Peter. A Bishop's Mitre also is superimposed on the cross. Decorative branches grace the area below the corporate arms, making it an especially noteworthy symbol of St. Peter's Church.

MINUTES FOR THE VESTRY MEETING  
ST. PETER'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
April 12,2016

Present: Fr. Hartt, J. Chenot, G. Scala, D. Spath, M. Holden, M. Lundberg, E. Stafford, N. Creagan, M. Kamyra, K. Cheowski  
Absent: Tim Murphy, Mtr. Sue Waldron

Opening Prayer Fr. Hartt

**1. Approval of Minutes of Vestry Meeting , April 12, 2016**

The March 8,2016 minutes were approved on a motion made by M. Lundberg and seconded by M. Holden. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

**2. Senior Warden Report - J. Chenot**

Jim reported, since our last meeting we were all looking forward to Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday Day services. On Palm Sunday both the 8:30 and 10:30 services incredibly were well attended compared to past years and it was great seeing the choir do its traditional Ride On procession at the end of the 10:30 service. Easter Sunday services were well attended as well at both services and it was great to see parishioners we normally don't see on a regular basis return for those services.

Also on Palm Sunday the Sunday school children decorated Easter eggs for the Easter egg hunt for the following Saturday at the Rectory. It was a great day for both young and old for morning coffee and treats as well as the many children that showed up for the Easter egg hunt. Many thanks to Laura Saffares and all the other Sunday school staff for all their work each Sunday as well there help at these special events.

As they have done in the past, the choir did incredible job with all the music that was performed during the six weeks of lent including evensong each Friday evening. Their performance of the St. Matthew Passion on Good Friday was a magnificent performance that included orchestra. Many thanks and recognition to our organ and choirmaster Neil Keen as well as our choir. The Easter Sunday music was top notch and we thank each and every one of the choir members for their musical talents and gifts working so hard at all the rehearsals to perform all this wonderful music. Also I would like to thank our choir Mom, Diana Martin who coordinates the brunch in between the Easter Services for the choir as well as to make sure the Choir is looking their best at all times for all the services.

On another "note" – Vaughn Mauren, former choir member who is now organist and choirmaster at St. James's Episcopal Church, West Hartford, Ct. will be performing an organ recital on April 22nd at 7:30 pm. There will be a wine and cheese reception before at 6:30. All proceeds that evening will support our choir's England trip next year as they will be residence at Chichester Cathedral, summer of 2017.

Jim also wanted to thank the altar guild for all their preparation for the Maundy Thursday evening service and the preparation of the altars for both services on Easter Sunday. We are also blessed to have the talents that come from our flower guild and this Easter was no exception with their labor and love beautifying our church with their 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 thanks to Pat and Bobby for keeping the Church and physical plant clean and in order. We also want to recognize and thank both Janice and Kristen for working tirelessly in the church office during the Lenten season. Again, the amount of work that is processed in the office during this time is an incredible task – the printed items for the extra services as well as all the record keeping for Easter Lilies memorials. We are sincerely thankful for both of them for all their tireless work during this busy season.

Lastly, Jim wanted to thank our devoted and loving clergy, Father Hartt and Mother Sue for all their preparation for all the services during the Lenten season and the Sunday services that led us to Easter Sunday. From sermon preparation to ministering those in need in our parish, I cannot say enough on how much both of you are so loved and appreciated by all, the vestry and congregation of St. Peters.

**3. Finance - G. Scala**

George S. reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the month of March. Total offerings for the month were \$21,924 and YTD we are at \$59,915. This is (\$19,198) below budget projections.

The investment/endowment accounts had positive months. Merrill Lynch was up 4.93% for the month and Key was up 4.72% for the month. YTD Merrill Lynch is down (-0.88%) and Key is up 0.37%. This keeps us with a budget variance for the year of (\$48,572) which is much less than previously with the gains we experienced this month. We continue to hope the market will stabilize in the future. Both accounts performed favorably versus market indexes. Expenses year to date are \$9,250 under budget.

George also reported on the updated stewardship numbers. To date 2016 pledges remain at 65 units at \$160,502. George presented an analysis statistically of pledging units between 2015 and 2016 at the April meeting. Discussion occurred concerning "lost" pledging units.

Motion to approve the budget was made by E. Stafford and seconded by D. Spath. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

**4. Property**

No Report

**5. Outreach - Mother Sue**

No Report

**6. Old Business**

Delegates for Convention were discussed

## 7. New Business

### 8. Associate Rector's Report - Mother Sue

No Report

### 9. Sunday Attendance

The average Sunday attendance is currently 136.

### 10. Rector's Report - Fr. Hartt

Father Hartt felt that our Holy Week Services were especially powerful this year. He remarked that the strength of our Lenten and Holy Week devotions was greatly aided by the choir's extraordinary performance of Bach's St. Matthew Passion and the Sunday anthems Mr. Keen selected. Father Hartt commended Mr. Keen and the Choir for their contribution to the parish's worship through Easter.

With respect to Good Friday, Fr. Hartt mentioned receiving an anonymous email lamenting the time of the Passion performance as inconvenient to the public. Fr. Hartt does not usually respond to anonymous emails and letters, but made an exception in this case. He shared with the writer that our observances on Good Friday corresponds to the traditional three hours of our Lord's crucifixion and death. This period is observed throughout the Episcopal Church. It is regrettable that our culture has become so distant from allowing Good Friday to be time off for religious observance. It is another mark of growing cultural disregard for people of faith.

Easter attendance was strong, as was Christmas this year. Fr. Hartt pointed out that our true membership is reflected on these days. Fr. Hartt believes that the single most effective mode of pursuing parish growth is to encourage those who attend primarily on those two major Feasts. There is at this time already a significant incorporation of our new members.

Father Hartt shared the number of Baptisms, Confirmations, weddings, and funerals since his coming in November 2004.

Baptisms: 106. Confirmations: 66. Marriages: 55. Funerals: 113.

Father Hartt referred to a previously distributed and discussed publication by The Episcopal Church, "New Facts on Episcopal Church Growth and Decline." National trends are clear that attendance patterns are changing downward in frequency. That is, the number of Sundays per month observed has declined for many church-goers.

In last October's vestry meeting, the minutes reflect: "Father Hartt returned to the subject of our attendance patterns. He showed the flow of the church year by periods. What the patterns reveal is not an attendance pattern in which many merely "take the summer off." It actually reveals a shockingly short church year in terms of steady attendance.

From the parish picnic of 2014 through Easter 2 of 2015, the average Sunday attendance was 141.1 (30 Sundays total). From Easter 2 to the Sunday School/Choir awards, average Sunday attendance dropped to 121. From the Sunday School/Choir awards to August 30, the Average Sunday attendance dropped to 83.5. The numbers reveal that decent attendance occurred for only 58% of the year. Fr. Hartt wishes to put aside the idea that "we merely take the summer off." It is not true. We see solid attendance only from the parish picnic through Easter. We must remedy these patterns by our own personal commitment and reaching out to family and parish friends. The issue is essential to our parish's hope of growth. Empty pews breed empty pews. We cannot appeal to newcomers without a robust presence on Sunday morning and a visible commitment to being here every possible Sunday. A discussion ensued:

How do we respond to cultural changes in which even many churchgoers are attending less often? We first need to accept that the "attractational model" of parish growth is ineffective. Christmas and Easter attendance figures and the quality of what is offered reveal that we are already "attractive" to visitors and members alike. If being "attractive" alone were effective for growth, we would have significant presence in the Sundays following Easter and Christmas. We do not. For example, we went from 394 at our Easter Service about which people raved to 92 the following Sunday. This suggests that we need to move to a commitment and formation model. It is unfaithful to ignore that keeping the Sabbath is a simple Commandment.

We cannot "attract" our way to presence. This truth was affirmed again by the failure of the 4:00PM Sunday Service to yield attendance. The clergy offered the Service for convenience, but still on many Sundays no one came. For this reason, it has been canceled. Fr. Hartt supplied parish directories to the vestry. A committee will be formed for follow up. The Vestry also looked at charts and graphs from the Episcopal Church headquarters. The graphs took up the Diocese as a whole and some local conditions.

Father Hartt spoke of the upcoming Diocesan Convention June 10-12. There is also a clergy and spouse retreat April 17th-19th.

The Beaver Cross Camp schedule for the Summer 2016 is available. The Diocesan youth ministries are top notch. Fr. Hartt hopes that all our children will be given a chance to attend.

Fr. Hartt is delighted by the upcoming organ recital of Vaughan Moran. The Choir's fund raising for the 2017 trip to England is going well.

Father Hartt noted some needed repairs at the Rectory. Fr. Hartt included in our packets a letter relinquishing our charter of an American Heritage Girl's Troop. The CROP Walk will be May 1st. Fr. Hartt thanked Maria Holden for Co-coordinating the walk again this year.

We rejoice in the Baptism of Cadence Evans this coming Sunday.

### 11. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Kevin Cheowski and seconded by Nancy Creagan. It was passed unanimously by the vestry.

### 12. Compline

Fr. Hartt led Compline.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Deborah Spath

## *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*

### Office Hours:

Monday -Friday

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

Telephone: 518-434-3502

Fax: 518-462-4419

E-Mail:

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

Website:

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

## *Services*

### Sunday

Holy Communion 8:30 a.m.

Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

(1st & 3rd Sundays)

Morning Prayer 10:30 a.m.

(2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

