

THE Cornerstone

January 2017

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

A New Year for Love

In the secular calendar, now is the time for resolutions. Perhaps you have made a few already. The famous New Year's resolution often centers on self-improvement. Maybe we need to get back to the gym or take care of some task we have been putting off. Occasionally, we even resolve to work on a character defect, perhaps anger or being late. All of these resolutions have their varying degrees of virtue. But what if we were to resolve to love more?

If love is our goal, our Patron Saint Peter has these words for us: *"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." (1 Peter 4: 8.)* Based upon this verse, we could say that love will cover our failed resolution list from top to bottom. Peter also tells us the character of this love: *"Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart." (1 Peter 1:22.)*

Secular New Year's resolutions are also matters of the heart, but we struggle to live them out. We soon get discouraged. The thing about love is that we can return to it again and again as sure and certain ground. Love makes beginning again possible, as love has hope at the core. Although ethicists love to debate the fine points, we also know love isn't complex. Saint Paul certainly seems to think that love is straightforward enough to be our guide.

"Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbor, therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law." (Romans 13:8-10.)

Returning to St. Peter, I think that our beloved Peter had a Proverb in mind when he spoke of the covering

quality of love. *"Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs." (Proverbs 10:12.)* In our own experience, isn't that so? Love enters any situation for its betterment. Love alone persuades the heart and overcomes the barriers to peace. As we are able to fulfill all of the commandments through love, the blessing of inner peace will be ours as well.

It goes without saying that our love is to be patterned on the love shown by our Lord. Thus, love will forgive, love will reconcile, love will show mercy, kindness, generosity, and acceptance of others as our brothers and sisters. Such love will be a daily practice and very concrete. It will be about real people in our lives and real situations that can be improved.

So, how can we make this resolution to love stick? It begins with Christian community. Evelyn Underhill famously called the Church "the school of charity" or "school of love." Church is where we meet the concrete, where we first practice and hone our loving. Most of all, we will need to stay close to Jesus.

Thinking of this need to stay close to Jesus brought an image to me. It is Christmastide. We have the Baby Jesus much in our minds. What do babies need? Well, holding and carrying are fundamental. What if we spend this holy season imagining that we are carrying Him into the concrete situations of our lives. As Christian, we do indeed bring Him into every situation. To "carry" Him is our baptismal identity. It's just a thought, but perhaps the image of actually holding Jesus will help us to keep our voices sweet and our love gentle and true.

"So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13: 13.)

Love of the Holy Child, Jesus. Fr. Hartt+

From the Associate Rector:

Starting anew...

We begin each New Year with an air of excitement and anticipation. Many are happy to see the old year end and look forward to better times to come. Others are getting closer to a long awaited celebration and the turn of the calendar makes it that much closer. Most of us view the New Year as a clean slate of sorts: time to leave bad habits in the past, set new goals, and develop a New Year's Resolution...

Starting anew...

Our Christian life offers our souls a way to this “clean slate” and it offers it regularly, not just once yearly. It is found in the Holy Eucharist (or Holy Communion) celebrated by us on Sunday mornings. How so, you might ask?

The Holy Eucharist is a time of celebration and a time of thanksgiving. In fact, the word Eucharist is the Greek word for Thanksgiving. It is a time when we remember and give thanks for the saving work of Jesus Christ, occurred in the past, but also current for our lives today. Part of this saving work was His putting to an end the penalty for sin in our lives.

When Jesus died on the Cross, he died for “the sins of the whole world”. No matter if they are large, or they are small – Jesus offered himself for them. Don't ever think that you, or your life, or your problem is too big OR too little for God. Jesus died for “the sins of the whole world” - all of them – even yours!

We might view this sin as our old “bad habits” that we can leave in the past because His Cross offers our souls a “clean slate” for our future. Our part is leaving them in the past. His part is the clean slate offered. Surely, we have the easier part?

This New Year, I pray that you will join me in a New Year's Resolution with eternal reward. Before receiving The Holy Eucharist in 2017, first spend some time reflecting on the past and acknowledging any sin in your life. Having reflected on it, and making a sure commitment to not only remorse about it but also the desire for change, tell God you're sorry and will begin a new way of living. Afterwards, rest assured in His promise of forgiveness. Then, approach the altar with a new, bold confidence in your Lord Jesus Christ. Reach out your hands with joy! Receive the Holy Eucharist in thanksgiving for His redeeming work! Start anew your Christian life...

This can be done whenever you need that “clean slate” for your soul. In fact, Sunday services provide just the time and space for it in our General Confession. It is well situated directly before the Holy Eucharist for this very reason. Take the opportunity to start anew...

I have been so very blessed to travel through 2016 with all of you; through our joys and our heartache. I greet this New Year with joy and anticipation of good things to come to us at St. Peter's! I wish you, and your loved ones, a very Blessed and Happy New Year!

With Love,

Mtr. Sue+

Daughters of the King Meeting

The DOK Julia Chapter welcomes all women of the parish to our meeting on Sunday, January 8, 2017 following the 10:30am service. We meet in the 2nd floor front classroom. At the meeting, we will be talking about our prayer list and planning the next discernment class for new members. We will also be assembling Blessing Bags for women of our Overflow Homeless Shelter.

DOK Discernment Class

We have several women who are joining the next discernment class to learn more about Daughters of the King. All women of the parish are welcome to join us beginning Sunday January 15, 2017. The classes will be in the 2nd floor front classroom following the 10:30am service for approximately one hour most Sundays of January and February (a full schedule and material will be provided the first class).

Annual Meeting: January 22nd is the St. Peter's Annual meeting with two worship services at 8:30am and 10:30am with meeting following!

Annual Meeting

Dear Parishioners,

After much prayer and reflection, the Vestry has nominated the following parish members to serve on Vestry:

Debra Spath will be running for her 4th two-year term as Jr. Warden.

Earl Stafford will be running for his 2nd three-year term on the vestry. He is running to fill his present seat.

Christie Gordon will be running for her first three-year vestry term to fill the seat formerly held by Moses Kamyia.

George Scala will be running for his first three-year term on the vestry, seat formerly held by Jack Ratzel. George filled Jack's seat last year to complete Jack's term when he stepped down.

Other nominations must be submitted to the office in writing by Wednesday, January 18th, 2017, in order to appear on the ballot.

From time to time, we are asked about how one qualifies as a parish member and thus able to vote. The qualification of voters is by Canon and law determined by the rector, if there be one. The relevant language is as follows: "Persons of full age belonging to the parish, who have been baptized and are regular attendants at its worship and contributors to its support for at least twelve months prior to such election or special meeting or since the establishment of such parish, shall be qualified voters at any such election or special meeting. ..." RCL Section 43, 6.

Thank you for your faithfulness to St. Peter's and may God Bless you in 2017.

O God, from whom all good proceeds: Grant that by your inspiration we may think those things that are right, and by your merciful guiding may do them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

(BCP, 229.)

God Bless,
Father Hartt
James Chenot

Vestry Meeting

The January Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10th at 5:15pm.

Boundaries in Marriage

Beginning on **Wednesday, January 14th from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.** and continuing for eight weeks, St. George's Church, 912 NY-146, Clifton Park, NY 12065 will be offering *Boundaries in Marriage*. This course is for all married people and those seriously contemplating marriage. It will show how boundaries - how people develop and maintain a sense of individuality, freedom, and personal integrity - can be established and maintained in marriage for both partners, drawing on Biblical principles. The course will be using the book *Boundaries in Marriage* by Cloud and Townsend. The book can be purchased through the church for \$10, and is also available on Amazon and Christianbook.com. The course will be led by Fr. Tom and Mtr. Elizabeth Papazoglakis.

Blessing Bags

To assist and offer comfort for the women who stay in our overflow shelter the Daughters of the King will be assembling Blessing Bags on January 8, 2017. These are small (quart size) bags of good will and hospitality that are given to people who may need some cheer and comfort. Please consider bringing an offering of women's care products such as tooth paste, tooth brush, a comb, scented lotion, hair rubber bands, mints, candies, wipes, granola bars, travel deodorant, lip balms, band aids, cotton swabs small cracker packets, slim Jim snacks, menstrual pads/wipes, small tissue packets, small note pads and pens can also be useful. Products that contain alcohol such as mouth wash and hand sanitizer should not be included (hand sanitizer wipes are ok).

Outreach Meeting

The January Outreach meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10th at 4:30pm. Please join us to learn about Outreach ministries and hospitality events being planned!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I invite you to join me at one of this year's Parish Leadership Conferences (PLC). This year, the PLC's will provide an *Introduction to Healthy Congregations*. Clergy, parish staff, church wardens, vestry members and other parish leaders, along with members of each congregation will have an opportunity to learn how to detect and avoid unhealthy patterns of living together in community, along with learning about ways to positively influence the health of a congregation.

The *Introduction to Healthy Congregations* workshop uses the insights of family systems theory to help church leaders become more effective stewards of their congregations. The workshop was developed by Dr. Peter Steinke and is based on the work of Dr. Edwin Friedman, author of *Generation to Generation: Family Process in Church and Synagogue*. The presenters for the PLC's will be the Revs. Tom and Elizabeth Papazoglakis, Priests-In-Charge at St. George's, Clifton Park, who bring extensive training and experience with Healthy Congregations.

Each Parish Leadership Conference begins with sign-in at 8:30 a.m. The program will begin at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided, and the day will close with the celebration of Holy Eucharist, which should wrap up by 3:45 p.m. PLC's are offered regionally, and you may attend whichever PLC is most convenient for you. The details for the PLC's are as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Nearest Deaneries</u>
Saturday, February 4th	<u>Christ the King</u> <u>Spiritual Life Center</u> 575 Burton Road Greenwich, NY 12834	Hudson, Metropolitan, Southern Adirondack, and Upper Hudson

There is no cost to you for this program, but in order to help make sure there is adequate food and learning materials, **please register for the PLC most convenient for you** by going to <http://www.albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/forms>. Thank you for investing your day to learn how this *Introduction to Healthy Congregations* may bear fruit in your parish, since "...we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another" (Romans 12:5).

May you have a blessed Christmas,

+Bill

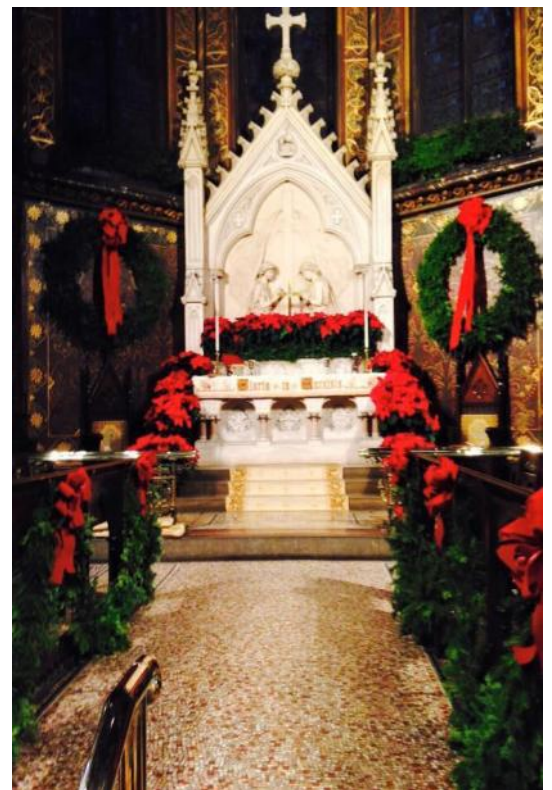
Overflow Women's Shelter

Could you consider giving up one evening this winter to offer the gift of hospitality and show another the love and mercy of God?

The St. Peter's Overflow Homeless Shelter has opened for its 8th season on December 1st to augment the ministry of the Capital City Rescue Mission to Albany's Homeless. This year, we will be housing up to 20 women each evening.

We are currently receiving donations of food items and financial support and are also scheduling volunteers (women volunteers only) to offer hospitality during the evening hours; the hours for this are from 8pm until 11pm on the 2nd floor of the Guild House (next to the church). To sign up to volunteer, please call Judy Burns at 441-7538 or email stpeterschurch.albany@gmail.com

Food items needed include: coffee, tea, sugar, popcorn and snacks, cereal (hot and cold), peanut butter, bread, fresh fruit, milk and juice along with fresh baked items. These can be dropped off to the church office any weekday, or brought to church on Sundays and given to Pat. Thank you in advance for your continued support.



Youth Formation & Sunday School

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

On the 3rd Saturday of each month (January 21st) 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. Many hands mean light work! Please call Laura for information or to let her know you are coming at 368-4284.

BREAKOUT

When:
March 17-19, 2017

Who:
6-8TH GRADE

Excel

When:
January 13-15, 2017

Who:
9th-12th GRADE

Sr. Sonshine

WHEN: February 22-25, 2017
DROP-OFF: Wednesday 11AM
PICK-UP: Saturday 10AM
WHO: 9th - 12th GRADERS
PRICE: \$195/\$140*

Jr. Sonshine

WHEN: February 19-22, 2017
DROP-OFF: Sunday 7PM
PICK-UP: Wednesday 10AM
WHO: 6th - 8th GRADERS
PRICE: \$195/\$140*

Wish you and your family a joyful,
bright, healthy, prosperous and
happiest new year ahead. !!

Happy New Year!

Church Chuckles!

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



SERMON SURVIVAL TIP: If during the sermon, you drift off to a peaceful slumber, and your wife gently nudges you, pretend you were praying, and just quietly say.. "AMEN".

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 experiencing Holy Eucharistic Sunday Services. If interested please call the parish office at 434-3502.

Last year, a group of women from St. Peter's attended this yearly women's retreat and we will be going again. For more information, please speak with Mother Sue. You can register for the retreat at: http://www.ctkcenter.org/page/women_going_deeper_retreat

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.

January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p>1 The Holy Name of our Lord Jesus Christ 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion 12:00pm - Confirmation Class 3:00pm - Saffares/Rulison Wedding</p>	<p>2 No Treble Rehearsal Office Closed</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Ho</p>
<p>8 First Sunday after Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer 12:00pm - DOK Meeting 12:00pm - Confirmation Class</p>	<p>9 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal</p>	<p>10 4:30pm - Outreach Meeting 5:15pm - Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>11 8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Ho 6:00pm - Mer</p>
<p>15 Second Sunday after the Epiphany 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion 12:00pm - DOK Discernment Class</p>	<p>16 Martin Luther King Day No Treble Rehearsal Office Closed</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Confessi 8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Ho 6:00pm - Mer</p>
<p>22 Third Sunday after the Epiphany Annual Meeting Following 10:30am service 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer</p>	<p>23 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Convers 8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Ho 6:00pm - Mer</p>
<p>29 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer w/ Children's Chapel 12:00pm - DOK Discernment Class</p>	<p>30 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal</p>	<p>31</p>	

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>of the Hill ly Communion</p>	<p>5 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir</p>	<p>6 The Epiphany 12:00pm - Epiphany Holy Communion Service</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>of the Hill ly Communion 's Bible Study</p>	<p>12 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir</p>	<p>13 12:30pm - Organ Concert</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>ion of St. Peter the Apostle of the Hill ly Communion 's Bible Study</p>	<p>19 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir</p>	<p>20 12:30pm - Organ Concert</p>	<p>21 11:00am - Angel's in Training 11:00am - Memorial for William Moran</p>
<p>ion of St. Paul the Apostle of the Hill ly Communion 's Bible Study</p>	<p>26 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir</p>	<p>27 12:30pm - Organ Concert</p>	<p>28</p>
			

St. Peters Music

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.

FRIDAY NOONTIME ORGAN CONCERTS

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



Elizabeth Poston

October 24, 1905 – March 18, 1987

English composer, pianist, and writer.

She studied at Queen Margaret's School, York, and at the Royal Academy of Music in London, where she was encouraged by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Poston went abroad between 1930 and 1939, where she studied architecture and collected folksongs. When she returned to England at the beginning of World War II she joined the BBC and became director of music in the European Service. Poston was the president of the Society of Women Musicians 1955–1961.

She composed scores for radio and television productions, and collaborated with C. S. Lewis, Dylan Thomas, and other writers. She wrote the score for the television production of *Howards End* while living in Rooks Nest House, which was the setting for the novel.

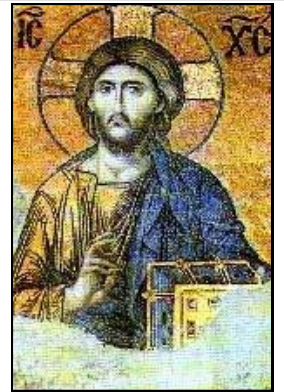
Her carols, especially *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*, remain widely performed.

Saint of the Month Club

The Holy Name of Our Lord

January 1st

Prayer: Eternal Father, who didst give to thine incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we beseech thee, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, even our Lord Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*



The designation of this day as the Feast of the Holy Name is new to the 1979 revision of the Prayer Book. Previous Anglican Prayer Books called it the Feast of the Circumcision. January first is, of course, the eighth day after Christmas Day, and the Gospel according to Luke records that eight days after his birth the child was circumcised and given the name Jesus. The Law of Moses required that every male child be circumcised on the eighth day from his birth (Leviticus 12:3); and it had long been the custom to make of it a festive occasion, when family and friends came together to witness the naming of the child. The liturgical commemoration of the Circumcision is of Gallican origin, and a Council in Tours in 567 enacted that the day was to be kept as a fast day to counteract pagan festivities connected with the beginning of the new year. In the Roman tradition, January first was observed as the octave day of Christmas, and it was specially devoted to the Virgin Mother. The early preachers of the Gospel lay stress on the name as showing that Jesus was a man of flesh and blood, though also the Son of God, who died a human death, and whom God raised from death to be the Savior (Acts 2:32; 4:12). The name was given to Jesus, as the angel explained to Joseph, because he would “save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). (The word means “Savior” or “Deliverer” in Hebrew.) Then as now, people longed to be freed from evils: political, social, and spiritual. The name of Jesus calls to mind the true freedom which is ours through Jesus the Christ.

From the Archives



The Entrance to St. Peter's Church Part II

In the early days of the church the Narthex was a place for nonmembers to observe the service. They were physically separated from the members. The size and separation of the Narthex is especially notable in Canterbury Cathedral in England, which dates back to the days of Henry VIII. Our Narthex was made of oak wood paneling with glass windows on top so that nonmembers may observe the service. Actually today both members and nonmembers may come into the church proper (called the Nave.) In Part II of the Entrance to St. Peter's Church, we will visit the east and west wings of the Narthex.

Heading to the east wing, we first come to entrance to the winding stairs that lead to the organ and choir loft. The organ and choir loft is located above the Narthex. On the stairs is a plaque for the gift of Lighting of the Rose Window which was provided by Herrick children: D-Cady Herrick III, Katharine H. Gabrielson, and Stephen W. Herrick in memory of their parents. On that same wall is a Holy Water Urn and on a stand opposite the Visitor's Log. Next is the Book of Memorials and Gifts in a glass case. There are three wooden loveseats in this area, each with a Needlepoint Cushion depicting one of the three edifices of St. Peter's Church. In the east Narthex room is a Marble Plaque done by Albany sculptor Marian La Dow Palmer in honor of Elizabeth Brandt Wilson, wife of Orlando Meads. She died December 20, 1850. On the opposite wall is a plaque in honor of John Tweddle whose Will assisted the church in building the church tower.

We next come to the War Chapel. It is an altar of oak paneling. Above there are Stained Glass Windows depicting David and St. Michael. All of this was contributed by Arthur Stein in honor of his son, Arthur H. Stein Jr. who died in World War II. During the Second World War many people prayed for their loved ones in the War Chapel. The cross on the War Chapel is engraved with the name Mary Ida Piersen.

To the right of the War Chapel is a set of Votive Candles, a gift of Dr. And Mrs. Eugene P. Whitney in memory of their daughter Cynthia and their grandson Ryan. The Whitney's are also the givers of the Holy Water Urn. Next is a door to the church basement. Past that is the Columbarium, a repository for the ashes of deceased church members. This concludes the tour of the east wing.

As we turn toward the west wing of the Narthex we come to a plaque for the Rose Window and Lancets which were given by Sarah Talcott Pruyn in loving memory of her parents Sebastian Visscher Talcott and Olivia Maria Shearman both of whom died in 1888. Nearby is a plaque for the Stone Cross at the Peak of the South Gable of the church. This cross was given in loving memory of John De Witt Peltz, a vestryman of St. Peter's Church. Looking down to the floor there is a tablet given in thanksgiving for the twenty-five year ministry of Reverend Laman H. Bruner, Jr., Rector of St. Peter's Church. This plaque was given by his wife, children and friends. Above it is the ornate carved Wood Paneling holds replicas Queen Anne Communion Silver of 1712 a gift originally for the chapel of the Onondaga Indians.

On each side of the wood paneling is the Honor Role of those who served in the defense of our country. There are 80 names on the left side and a poem inscribed which reads "Here is in us a reflection of a faith that shall not die" and "My soul shall go past stars and moon and sun to holy halls where life and death are one". In the center of the wood paneling is an inscription "To the glory of God and in loving memory of Arthur Henry Stein Jr. and those who also made the supreme sacrifice." On the right side of the wood paneling there are 76 names and a poem which reads "This child whose little arms are warm could always know the ways to peace. God save him from the darkening storms! God make these futile wars to cease!" This concludes our tour of the west wing and our tour of the entrance to St. Peter's Church.

MINUTES FOR THE VESTRY MEETING
ST. PETER'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

November 9, 2016

Present: Fr. Hartt, Mtr. Sue Waldron, J. Chenot, G. Scala, D. Spath, T. Murphy, M. Lundberg, N. Creagan, K. Cehowski

Absent: S. Lencewicz, E. Stafford, M. Holden, M. Kamyra

1. Approval of Minutes of Vestry Meeting, October 11, 2016

The October 11, 2016 minutes were approved on a motion made by K. Cehowski and seconded by D. Spath. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

2. Senior Warden Report – J. Chenot

November we started off the month celebrating All Saints Day with three baptisms including two young members who made their first communion. The services at both the 8:30am and 10:30am were very well attended and it shows us how much potential and growth the future holds when we see this much enthusiasm from members with interest to raise these young members into our church family.

This coming Saturday, November 12th we will be hosting our annual Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner that has become an annual tradition many look forward attending. We will start at 5:00pm and begin serving dinner at 5:30pm. Many parishioners have signed up who will be attending as well as those who intend to bring a dish to pass. Other members have volunteered and brought turkeys home to prepare beforehand for the dinner. Thank you again for all the continued interest in this tradition that has brought us all together for a wonderful evening of fellowship and hospitality some year now.

Our stewardship campaign began a few weeks ago with a wonderful letter sent out to the congregation from our treasurer George Scala. Included with the letter was a pledge card hoping many will look in their hearts when they pledge and keep in mind how much St. Peter's means to them and their family. We will have a celebratory luncheon for all members held on November 20th after the 10:30am service. This luncheon is to celebrate the support the congregation has given to St. Peter's with their pledge as well as others who volunteer so much of their time in all the committees that are so critical keeping the church run smoothly. I also would like to thank Fred Hershey for putting a committee together by following up with those who may still have an interest attending the luncheon by contacting them by phone and email. Lastly, I want to thank everyone for their love and support to St. Peter's that will ensure a bright future for the next generation.

Again there are members of our parish who will be stepping up this year to volunteer their time to help at Equinox preparing Thanksgiving Dinners on Tuesday evening prior to Thanksgiving. We want to thank Laura Saffares in heading up this outreach as well as the Sunday School Children who will be baking pumpkin breads for the congregation this coming Sunday and will be blessed and given out to everyone on the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Looking ahead December 1st we will be opening our doors again to the homeless overflow shelter for its 8th year at St. Peter's serving those from the Capital City Mission. As mentioned at last month's meeting, we will be housing women this year for the first time who are in dire need of shelter during the cold winter nights. Many thanks to our outreach committee who have been working the city mission to ensure this program will succeed as it has in past years. I would like to thank those who have donated food as well as financial donations that have supported this very important outreach mission.

The last Sunday of November is the First Sunday in Advent that brings us right into the Christmas Season. On December 11th at the 10:30am service the Sunday school will be performing their annual Christmas Pageant. That afternoon at 3:00pm, our Choir will be performing The Handel's Messiah. A special thanks to our choir director, Neil Keen for all his musical talent he brings to the congregation as well as the entire choir for their musical talents and attention they bring to all the upcoming musical events that will be performed in the next few weeks.

Lessons and Carols will be performed by our choir the following Sunday, December 18th at the 10:30am service followed by our annual Hanging of the Greens at 12:00pm, including the luncheon served during the event. We hope that everyone will be able to attend these events which always bring the congregation together in fellowship. We always look forward to large turnouts at these events and hope everyone will make an effort to attend and join us.

Jim is excited as many others are looking forward to all the upcoming events as well as the Christmas Eve services and Christmas Day. Throughout the Advent season he prays that everyone does not get caught up in the commercialization of Christmas that has started already and not to forget what Christmas is really all about – the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ.

3. Finance – G. Scala

George S. reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the month of October. Total offerings for October were \$23,103. Year to date offerings through October are \$187,470 which compares to a budgeted number of \$263,710.

The investment/endowment accounts both showed losses for the month. For October Merrill Lynch was down -1.73% and Key was down -1.89%. YTD Merrill Lynch is at a positive return of 2.96% and Key is at 2.73%. This leaves us with a positive budget variance in this area of \$36,370. Both accounts performed favorably versus market indexes. Expenses year to date are \$28,034 under budget through October.

Discussion occurred concerning the Stewardship campaign as well as the budget for 2017. The draft budget was discussed and a few minor changes will be incorporated into the 2017 draft budget before next month's meeting.

4. Property - none

5. Outreach – Mtr. Sue

Pre-thanksgiving Dinner is scheduled for Saturday November 12th at 5:00pm. Thank you Kevin and Caitlin Cehowski (and others!) for coordinating this event. Turkeys will be provided by the church and will be cooked by: Maria Holden, Tim Murphy, Earl Stafford, Nancy Creagan, Mark Lundburg and Debbie Spath (thank you!) Outreach made a \$100 donation to the Harvest Evening Celebration to benefit

the Food Pantries of the Capital District.

Many people donated toiletry items for Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October). These were given to the Albany County Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center for distribution to Domestic Violence survivors and their families.

St. Peter's will provide Thursday night meals for the shelter at First Lutheran church beginning Thanksgiving week. Please see the signup sheet and details in the Pumpelly Room. Thank you, Deb Spath, for coordinating this ministry.

This year, our Overflow Homeless Shelter (opening December – March) will be open for women seeking shelter through the Capital City Rescue Mission (we will not house men this year). Female CCRM staff will be present. We are looking for volunteers (women only) for hospitality.

Siena College's Franciscan Center for Service and Advocacy will be providing Christmas gifts for the women of our shelter this year – thank you Siena College for your generous support!

Equinox: Tuesday Nov 22nd volunteers will help with the Equinox Thanksgiving dinners. Thank you Laura and Jim for coordinating this volunteer opportunity!

6. Old Business

7. New Business

8. Associate Rector's Report - Mtr. Sue

Women's Bible study began on October 18th. We meet each Tuesday evening at my home and average between 4-6 women weekly. We are using the Discovery Bible Study format and include time for prayer and fellowship as well (so we meet from 5:30 – 7:00pm).

All Saints Sunday (November 6th) was a wonderful baptismal and First Holy Communion celebration for our church. Many parishioners remarked about how good it felt to have a fuller congregation present that Sunday.

Daughters of the King: We sponsored a Neighborhood Prayer Walk on October 16th. following the 10:30 service and had 6 women join us on that walk, praying for our neighborhood and several sites downtown including Veteran's memorials, the Albany Co Probation Dept., the Capital City Rescue Mission as well as travelers, residents and business people in our City. That same day, the Daughters also hosted coffee hour (thank you Susan, Julie and others who contributed!)

Several vestry members, along with your clergy attending the Discovery Bible Study training at the Spiritual Life Center in Greenwich NY on Oct 22nd. We were all moved by this Evangelistic format of Bible study that helps us to become disciples and are glad to implement it here at St. Peter's through both the men's and women's Bible study groups.

9. Sunday Attendance

The average Sunday attendance is currently 217

10. Rector's Report – Fr. Hartt

The parish had three Baptisms on All Saints' Sunday. Father Hartt said that it was nice to see the church so full. We had a total of 217 people present for the two services. Despite the goodly number, our ASA has still not recovered from the summer. We are now at 116.6.

In terms of ministry, Father Hartt spoke of how we need to view the parish from both a membership and attendance perspective. Our membership list is our effective pastoral care list. Our attendance figures are what we have to work with to meet the worship and organizational needs of the parish. It is clear that attendance is dropping almost everywhere in the Diocese, but for us it is largely a matter of the number of Sundays per month a given parish member or family attends.

Father Hartt reported on the Vestry Retreat. Prior to the meeting, Fr. Hartt mailed out reflection questions considered at the Retreat. Those who could not attend will reflect on the questions for our next meeting. Father Hartt also handed out some additional questions from a book entitled "Listening Hearts." The questions intend to help the Vestry consider additional areas of parish life.

Father Hartt spoke of the Discovery Bible Study workshop at the Spiritual Life Center. The workshop was excellent and attended by several vestry members. Both Mother Sue and Fr. Hartt are doing Discovery Bible Study at St. Peter's. Father Hartt will be moving the time of his DBS to Tuesday at 5:30PM and Wednesday/Thursday at 5:30PM during Vestry weeks.

The Pre-Thanksgiving Thanksgiving Dinner looks to have generated a good bit of interest again this year. It will be held on the 12th of November. Father Hartt also reported on the "20-30-Somethings" social event on October 28th. Fred and Donna Hersey and Mark and Michelle Lundberg worked especially hard of the event. Fr. Hartt conveyed his thanks.

Father Hartt reported on Confirmation Class. There are 5 teens and 3 adults.

Preparations for Consecration Sunday were discussed. Father Hartt thanked George Scala and Jim Chenot for all of their work thus far. Stewardship in general was discussed by Fr. Hartt.

Christmas and the Choir Trip were discussed. Preparations for both are going well.

Our Overflow Shelter will begin December 1st. At Rev. Perry Jones' request, we have confirmed that we will be housing women this year.

All is underway for a holy Advent and Christmas. The Choir's performance Handel's Messiah will be on December 11th. December 11th will also be the date of the Christmas Pageant.

11. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by G. Scala and seconded N. Creagan. It was passed unanimously by the vestry.

12. Compline

Fr. Hartt led Compline.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Spath

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Paul Hartt.....Rector
The Rev. Susan Waldron.....Associate Rector
Neil K. Keen, F.A.G.O.....Organist & Choirmaster
Laura Saffares.....Director of Christian Education
Kristin Robinson.....Administrative Assistant
James P. Shortall.....Sexton
Shawn Van Ness.....Assisting Sexton
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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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.

Holy Communion 4:00pm

Wednesday

Holy Communion 12:05 p.m.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

