



Cornerstone

October 2017

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

From the Rector

Journey to Generosity

The Episcopal Church has an interesting theme for Stewardship this year, "Journey to Generosity." I have been looking over the materials and encourage your reading of the bulletin inserts in the coming weeks. Generosity is a Christian virtue and *the* Christian calling. It helps us to see how this is so when we put the money aside for a moment.

Journey to Generosity asks how we are doing with giving in general. Are we "generous" in welcoming others at church? Are we generous in forgiving others? Are we generous in saying "yes" to God as we feel drawn more deeply by the Holy Spirit? Are we generous with love? These and other questions are raised by the materials. The approach seems right. Generosity is first a condition of the heart. It is telling that we feel badly when we see an opportunity to be generous and pass it by. Often this "passing by" of an opportunity for generosity may be as simple as not making time for another person or failing to contribute to a task at hand. We feel the expansive prompting of the Holy Spirit within being stymied.

Most of us succeed in generosity in certain areas. The "journey" part of generosity is how the gift of our giving expands. If we have been generous with the money that we give to the church, perhaps we can still look to grow with our gift of time. Attending a parish program, for example, is not merely about our own enrichment. When we attend such programs we give to the others present, both by the sharing of our Christian experience and our support of others in their growth in Christ.

Many years ago, I introduced the idea of a "stewardship of presence." The most important presence is at worship, but presence extends into many areas of church life. Some areas are clear. What if we had a parish picnic, pancake supper, or our pre-Thanksgiving Thanksgiving Dinner and nobody came? What if on Christmas Eve we were to arrive to just a few people? Heaven forbid! Clearly, some areas are obvious. But there is something more.

We have souls. When we are present, we give by our very being certain gifts imparted by God. We are witnesses. Simply to see certain members gives us encouragement in a manner specific to their gifts. For example, there are faces we see as beacons of hospitality. There are others who bring cheerfulness, compassion, thoughtfulness, insight or parish history. Our very presence is a giving before a single act is accomplished. As I mentioned last Sunday, simply seeing Pat Shortall makes us happy. Memories flood our minds of his helpfulness, humor, and gracious equanimity. Likewise, the Daughters of the King bear witness to the importance of intercessory prayer. They are generous in "storming the heavens" with prayers on our behalf.

The point is that generosity isn't a simple matter of writing a check. It is a continuous work of the heart. It is to commit to growing as a believer. As we give in the many ways Scripture enjoins, we see Christ more clearly. As James says, *"Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."* (James 1:17.) Jesus is the generosity of God. The cross is the generosity of God beyond all telling. We can only journey with Christ in learning to give a little more each day.

The Saints of the Church are really those who make special witness to the power of giving, but we are each called to sanctification, growth in holiness. It is only possible to do so with a "journey to generosity." Please know that I look forward to journeying with you.

Peace of Christ, Fr. Hartt

The Blessing of the Animals

You may have noticed on our church calendar that I will be holding a Service for the Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 8th at 3:00pm. This has become a favored tradition here at St. Peter's and I thought some background on the event might be interesting.

Traditionally, churches hold such a Service close to the Feast day of St. Francis of Assisi which is October 4th. We do this to honor St. Francis' particular love for all of God's creatures. We also do so to honor the place that our pets have in our lives. Truly, many of us enjoy companion animals. They fill our hearts and our homes and provide safety and security as well as comfort and companionship. Lastly, we do this because God blessed the animals.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." (Genesis 1:20-26)

Yes, God blessed the creatures and saw that it was good.

When we Bless the animals, we are praying a special prayer to God that he would bless the life of the animal as well as the unique relationship between them and their owner remembering that God gave humans "dominion over the animals of the earth." In doing so, we also recognize the beauty of all of God's creation and his Creative hand at work in our world today.

Truly animals hold a unique and special part of our lives. I am thankful to have blessed many cats and dogs over the years and have even blessed pets at other seasonal times as they approach an operation, serious sickness or even death. I hope that you will consider bringing your pet(s), or those of a child or grandchild, to our Blessing of the Animals service this year. Truly we celebrate our pets every day of our lives, but isn't it wonderful to come together as a community and do so in a special way? You may wish to extend an invitation to a neighbor or friend to join us – this can be a nice way to introduce the community of St. Peter's to them.

If you can't join us, I would ask that you offer your own prayer for the Blessing of all Animals, especially those who are homeless or are suffering. Let us pray,

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon all the animals. May our relationships with them mirror your love, and our care for them be an example of your bountiful mercy. Grant the animals health and peace, and strengthen us to love and care for them as we strive to imitate the love of Jesus Christ our Lord and God's servant Francis, Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Mtr. Sue+



October Happenings

Pet Food Drive

During the month of October, we will be collecting pet food and pet supplies to benefit the animals at the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society. The "Safe Haven Program" helps domestic violence victims place their pets in a safe and protected environment while securing their own safety. Simply place your donations in the box at the back of the church

Blessing of the Animals

Mother Sue is pleased to offer a Service for Blessing of the Animals in our St. Francis Garden on Sunday October 8th at 3:00pm. We welcome you and family members to bring your pet(s) on leash or in a carrier.

Vestry Meeting

The October Vestry meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 11th at 5:15pm.

Outreach

The October Outreach meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 11th at 4:30pm. Please join us to learn about Outreach ministries and hospitality events being planned!

Acolyte Festival

The Acolyte Festival is coming! **The Cathedral of All Saints**, 62 S. Swan Street, in Albany will be the site of the Grand Procession - a colorful parade of all the acolytes participating - followed by a Eucharist service on **Saturday, October 28th**. All first-time participants will receive a medal and seasoned veterans will receive a pin. Save the date!



Healing Prayers are offered during Holy Communion on the first Sunday of every month. Please receive Communion first and then meet the clergy in the Tower Chapel in the rear of the sanctuary.

Offering Envelopes for 2018

We are in the process of preparing a final list for the printers of those parishioners who wish to receive weekly Offering Envelopes for the 2018 calendar year. Please review your envelopes for accuracy in your name and address. Should you wish to make any changes, or if you do not presently receive Offering Envelopes but would like to, or if you would like to discontinue your envelopes, please send your changes and/or information to Janice Chenot at office@stpeterschurchalbany.org or call the church office at 434-3502. In order for you to receive your envelopes by the first of the year, your changes must be received by **Sunday, October 22nd**.

Daughters of the King - Julia Chapter

The next DOK meeting will be held October 8th in the vestry room, immediately following the 10:30 service (we meet on the second Sunday of each month). As a Daughter of The King, we pledge to pray daily for others, to be of service to our clergy and community, and to share the word of God. Our events center around these rules and we invite you to join us on October 15th for our annual Neighborhood Prayer Walk following the 10:30 service. We will spend about an hour walking around the church neighborhood to pray at various places along the way. Those who wish to participate in prayer only are welcome to remain at the church for prayer. Upcoming events include hosting coffee hours, putting together blessing bags for the Women's Overflow Shelter, and collecting food and clothing for St. Francis Mission. Please join us in our endeavor to bring God's blessings to those in need.

Neighborhood Prayer Walk

Sunday, October 15th, 1:00pm-2:00pm. All members are invited to join the DOK with prayers throughout our neighborhood starting at 1:00pm. We will depart St. Peter's and pray throughout our downtown neighborhood, stopping at key sites with dedicated prayer at the following:

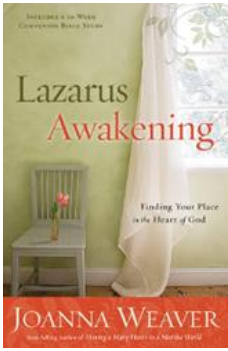
- Academy Park
- NYS Capitol
- Veterans Memorial
- Capital City Rescue Mission
- Bus Station



Adult Education

Women's Bible Study

Joanna Weaver, author of *Having a Mary Spirit* and *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*, now presents the third installment in the *Bethany Trilogy: Lazarus Awakening...*



Join the women of the church as we read and discuss Joanna Weaver's *Lazarus Awakening: Finding Your Place in the Heart of God*. We meet on Tuesdays at 5:00pm in the Vestry room [except when Vestry meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month]. We read one chapter weekly and discuss it together to reflect on its Biblical connection and life application. The cost of the book is \$8.00 (with scholarship funds available – please ask). Please let Mother Sue know you will be reading along with us and a book will be ordered for you.

Book Study with Fr. Hartt

Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity.

Mark A. Noll (PhD, Vanderbilt University) is the Francis A. McAnaney Professor of History at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. One of the nation's most distinguished practitioners of American religious history, he is the author of dozens of books, including *Turning Points*, *America's God: From Jonathan Edwards to Abraham Lincoln*, *The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind*, and *Is the Reformation Over?*

Discussion classes will be held on Wednesday evenings at 5:45pm in the Vestry room.

Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity by Mark Noll

September 20th	Introduction: <u>The Idea of Turning Points and Reasons for Studying the History of Christianity</u>
September 27th	Chapter 1: <u>The Church Pushed Out On Its Own The Fall of Jerusalem (70AD)</u>
October 4th	Chapter 2: <u>Realities of Empire The Council of Nicaea (325)</u>
October 12th (Thursday)	Chapter 3: <u>Doctrine, Politics, and Life in the Word: The Council of Chalcedon (451)</u>
October 18th	Chapter 4: <u>The Monastic Rescue of the Church: Benedict's Rule (530)</u>
October 25th	Chapter 5: <u>The Culmination of Christendom: The Coronation of Charlemagne (800)</u>
November 1st	Chapter 6: <u>Division between East and West: The Great Schism (1054)</u>

We will break until January 17, 2018 and then begin the final 7 chapters below.

- Chapter 7:** The Beginnings of Protestantism: The Diet of Worms (1521)
- Chapter 8:** A New Europe: The English Act of Supremacy (1534)
- Chapter 9:** Catholic Reform and Worldwide Outreach: The Founding of the Jesuits (1540)
- Chapter 10:** The New Piety: The Conversion of the Wesleys (1738)
- Chapter 11:** Discontents of the Modern West: The French Revolution (1789)
- Chapter 12:** A Faith for All the World The Edinburgh Missionary Conference (1910)
- Chapter 13:** Further Turning Points of the Twentieth Century

It's not too late to join!

Youth Formation & Sunday School

Calling all Families to our next **Youth Sunday:** **October 29th!**

(held on the last Sunday of each month)

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

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

Join the Oaks Catechist Corps!

Oaks of Righteousness is recruiting adults who would like to disciple young people in the faith. An Oaks Catechist (teacher of the faith) works in a team with another adult teacher and with two kids, doing a lesson and fun activity for two 2-hour sessions per month. Oaks will provide training, lesson plans, and activity ideas. They are recruiting now for teachers for the fall semester. If you have questions or are interested, email Oaks at oakschurch@gmail.com



Thank you!

Thanks to the whole St. Peter's congregation for the outpouring support for the children of Grace and Holy Innocence! We were able to serve over 30 children and young adults in the Albany school system! The blessing of this generosity also left some extra school supplies for future use!

Thank you all. Keep a look out for the green barrel...We are going to collect coats for kids and gloves and hats for the elderly.

St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen Saturday, October 21st ~ 11:00am to 1:00pm

On the 3rd Saturday of every month St. Peter's Church is committed to preparing and serving lunch to 100+ people at the St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen (formerly known as Grace and Holy Innocents) located at 498 Clinton Avenue in Albany. We invite you, and the youth of our church (the Angels in Training) along with their friends, to join Laura Rulison (our Director of Christian Education) in helping with this outreach program that is in such desperate need of volunteers. For information or to let her know you are coming please call Laura at 368-4284.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation Classes

Instruction will begin shortly on Sundays (following services) to prepare youth to receive their First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Youth in grades 1-2 are often ready for Holy Communion instruction while Confirmation is reserved for those over 13 years (adults included). For both classes, the individual must be baptized first. Please speak to Mother Sue or Father Hartt if you desire baptism, First Holy Communion or Confirmation instruction this Fall.



Beaver Cross - Fall Edition!

Come visit Beaver Cross **Friday, October 6th at 7:00pm through Sunday, October 9th** at 10:00am! Why? To get all the fun of a week of camp – crammed into one awesome weekend retreat! This is BC: Fall Edition. If you're anywhere from a 3rd grader up through a senior in high school, come on out for some great camp games, worship, messages, and fellowship. You'll get everything in the fun department that there is at camp in the summer - except without many of the bugs! (Or maybe with them...that depends on the bugs). The cost is \$180 per camper. Register at www.beavercrossministries.org/retreat-registration.html.



Saint of the Month Club



William Tyndale was born about 1495 near the Welsh border. He received bachelors and masters degrees from Oxford and also studied at Cambridge. Ordained about 1521, he spent his early ministry as a domestic chaplain and tutor in Gloucestershire and London.

Tyndale was a man with a single passion—to translate the Holy Scriptures into English. Lacking official sanction, he went to Germany in 1524. Strongly opposed to his work, King Henry VIII, Cardinal Wolsey, and others, sought to destroy his work and put him to death. He was betrayed by a friend and was strangled and burned at the stake on October 6, 1536, in Brussels.

By the time of Tyndale's death, he had completed his translation of the New Testament and major parts of the Old Testament, particularly the Pentateuch. It is estimated that about eighty percent of Tyndale's work found its way into later translations, notably the Authorized Version of 1611 (King James).



Preparations to burn the body of William Tyndale. John Foxe's Book of Martyrs. 1563.

Composer of the Month Club

William Byrd (c.1539/40 or 1543–1623), was an English composer of the Renaissance. He wrote in many of the forms current in England at the time. He produced sacred music for use in Anglican services, although he himself became a Roman Catholic in later life and wrote Catholic sacred music as well.

Byrd's first known professional employment was his appointment in 1563 as organist and master of the choristers at Lincoln Cathedral. Byrd obtained the prestigious post of Gentleman of the Chapel Royal in 1572. This career move increased Byrd's opportunities as a composer and also to make contacts at Court. Queen Elizabeth retained a fondness for more elaborate ritual and music than was favored by the more Puritan forces in English Protestantism. Byrd's output of Anglican church music stretches the limits of elaboration then regarded as acceptable by those who regarded highly wrought music as a distraction from the Word of God.

William Byrd and Thomas Tallis were jointly granted a patent by the Crown for the printing of music, in spite of the fact that Byrd's personal leanings were decidedly Roman Catholic. This music printing monopoly greatly increased his influence and the reach of his works. Along with those of Orlando Gibbons, Thomas Tallis, and a few others, Byrd's works constitute the peak of English church music of the 16th century and the core of the choral repertoire, even for the modern choir.



St. Peter's Music

FRIDAY NOONTIME ORGAN CONCERTS

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

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 518-339-0137.



St. Peter's Church Tower

The first edifice of our church consecrated in 1716 had no steeple. It was not until 35 years later, in 1752 that Reverend Ogilvie was able to report "The Church had been rebuilt in the year preceding with a handsome steeple and a very good bell.." Thus it is to be remembered that the depictions of the first edifice which include a steeple such as the water color paintings by James Eights have to have been painted after 1751.

The second edifice, proposed in 1795 by the Reverend Thomas Ellison included "A neat steeple to consist of five sections, rising seventy feet in height costing \$3,088.00. Since Reverend Ellison died early in 1802 he did not live to see his church building completed.

In 1856 Reverend Pitkin called the attention of the Vestry to the fact that the church was unsafe because the ground on which it stood was settling. In 1859 plans for a new church (the third edifice) were adopted. The new church building minus the tower was completed and consecrated on October 4, 1860 by Bishop Hooper, Bishop of New York. Then 15 years later, in 1875 funds for the erection of the tower were bequeathed by John Tweddle and later his family. A tablet in the church narthex was erected at the dedication of the church tower on the festival of St. Michael and All Angels, 1876.

This tower was designed by Richard M. Upjohn and constructed by Messrs. Ellin and Co. of New York. In character it is French. And it is impressive, first rising 75 feet to a series of recessed arches. Above this is the belfry which is 30 feet in height. There are 11 bells in the belfry that were provided by the Meneely Bell Company of Troy, NY. There is also one additional bell, the 1751 bell saved from the first edifice, making a total of 12 bells. The belfry is surmounted by a parapet about 8 feet in height.

Above the belfry at three exposed angles there are massive gargoyles. Each is a winged, griffin-like form with a menacing head of a lion and the wings of a bat. These gargoyles point to the north, east and west and project about 8 feet from the body of the tower. Gargoyles in Gothic architecture were water spouts designed to keep rain off the foundations below. They were also seen as protectors, able to ward off evil spirits. These days, gargoyles are primarily grotesque figures or statues.

I was surprised to find out that there are gargoyles all over Albany. A dragon gargoyle is perched on the trim over the front doors of Albany City Hall. Also at City Hall to the right of the front entrance is a catlike gargoyle chomping on its tail. A gargoyle having the face of a lion is on a lightpost outside the State Capitol. Scary gargoyle faces decorate the SUNY Administration Building. Also on that building is the Teddy Roosevelt gargoyle complete with his pince-nez glasses.

Returning to St. Peter's tower, we move up to the roof. From the roof, the tower continues for an additional sixty feet to be surmounted by a stone spire which ends in a finial which bears in gilded iron the beautiful double cross of Holland.

Thus the church building we enjoy today is complemented by a very impressive Gothic tower.



Christmas at Sea

Do you like to knit or crochet? Then you are invited to participate in the Christmas at Sea program. This program is a ministry of the Seaman's Church Institute, an organization affiliated with the Episcopal Church that ministers to those who work in the maritime industry. Many of these individuals spend most of their time at sea, away from their families. The Christmas at Sea program provides gift boxes for sailors containing a scarf, neck warmer, socks or hat, knitted by volunteers. You can join in this rewarding and enjoyable ministry by knitting or crocheting items for the ministry and bringing the finished product(s) to St. Mary's Convent on the campus of Christ the King Spiritual Life Center, 575 Burton Road, Greenwich, NY 12834 for collection in late October. To download several interesting patterns, and for additional information, you can read about the program at www.seamenschurch.org/christmas-at-sea.


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. The cost of flowers: Main Altar is \$50, St. Mark's Altar is \$35, and the Tower Altar is also \$35. All requests are payable in advance.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Are you looking to increase your religious experience? We are looking for members of St. Peter's who might be interested in becoming a Lay Eucharistic Minister. Experience the joy of serving God by assisting at both the Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharistic Sunday Services. If interested please call the parish office at 518-434-3502.

October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedn
1 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost Healing Prayers 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion	2 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal	3 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's 5:00pm - Women's Bible Study	4 8:45am - Top of 12:05pm - Holy C 5:45pm - History
8 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer 11:45am - DOK Meeting 3:00pm - Blessing of the Animals	9 Columbus Day Office Closed No Treble Rehearsal	10 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's No Women's Bible Study	11 8:45 am - Top of 12:05 pm - Holy C 4:30pm - Outrea 5:15pm - Vestry
15 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion 1:00pm - Neighborhood Prayer Walk	16 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal	17 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's 5:00pm - Women's Bible Study	18 St. Luke th 8:45 am - Top of 12:00pm - Holy C 5:45pm - History
22 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer	23 St. James of Jerusalem 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal	24 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's 5:00pm - Women's Bible Study	25 8:45am - Top of 12:05pm - Holy C 5:45pm - History
29 Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost Stewardship Sunday Youth Sunday 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer w/Children's Chapel 12:00pm - Celebration Luncheon at 90 State Street	30 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal	31 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's 5:00pm - Women's Bible Study 	

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
the Hill Communion Study	5 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	6 12:30pm - Organ Concert	7
the Hill Communion each Meeting Meeting	12 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir 5:45pm - History Study	13 12:30pm - Organ Concert	14 9:00am - Bible Symposium at the Cathedral of All Saints
the Evangelist the Hill Communion Study	19 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	20 12:30pm - Organ Concert	21 11:00am - Angels in Training
the Hill Communion Study	26 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	27 12:30pm - Organ Concert	28 St. Simon & St. Jude



Other Happenings

Bible Symposium

The 2017 Bible Symposium will be held on Saturday, October 14th at The Cathedral of All Saints, 62 S. Swan Street in Albany. The speaker this year is The Rev. Dr. Michael Cover, an Episcopal priest and Assistant Professor of Ancient Christianity and Judaism at Marquette University, and a frequent contributor to The Living Church. The title of Fr. Cover's presentation is ***Not as Orphans: Praying and Preaching with the Saints of Scripture***. Doors will open at 8:30am. The presentation will begin at 9:00am and end at 2:30pm.

Women's Weekend

Are you a woman interested in deepening your faith - or do you know someone who is? The Albany Diocese Cursillo Secretariat is pleased to announce a Cursillo Women's weekend Friday, October 20th through Sunday, October 22nd at Christ the King Spiritual Life Center. Cursillo is a lay ministry designed to help renew and deepen Christian commitment, and to help participants understand their individual callings to be Christian leaders. Leadership in Cursillo does not mean power over others, but rather influence on others; all of us need to be aware that we can exert a positive influence on those around us. If you are interested in attending this weekend, speak to your parish clergy or contact Lay Director John Hyde at 518-376-9477. The weekend will be led by Carol MacNaughton and Spiritual Director Mother Kathy Coons. For additional information, visit: www.albanyepiscopalcursillo.org.

Healing a Woman's Soul Benefit

An evening to benefit Healing a Woman's Soul (HAWS), entitled ***Anything Chocolate...*** will be hosted by St. Paul's Church, 21 Hackett Blvd. in Albany on Saturday, October 21st from 6:00pm to 8:30pm. There will be a dessert buffet, silent auction, the second annual Paula award for a volunteer helping victims of domestic violence, and an "Anything Chocolate..." Contest. "Anything Chocolate..." contest entries are due no later than October 21st at 5:00pm at St. Paul's. Please bring entries the size of a small pie or 8 cookies or muffins, in other words 6 servings. Please use disposable plates as no plates will be returned. The cost for the event is \$20. For tickets or more information, call (518)439-8574 or contact the HAWS office at 68 S. Swan St., Albany, NY 12210.



Reviving Romance Couples Conference

Take this special opportunity to hear from a couple who have been investing in each other as well as in marriages and leaders in the church for over 40 years. Their goal is to help you see the centrality of your faith in God for a healthy marriage. The conference begins at **6:00pm on Friday, November 10th** and ends at **4:00pm on Saturday, November 11th** at Christ the King Spiritual Life Center. Cost is \$195/couple for those registering by October 13th and \$205/couple after that. To register or for more information go to www.ctkcenter.org. To register by phone call 518-692-9550 x201.

Grief Support Group

Comfort For those Who Mourn is a 6-week Christian non-denominational grief support group for all those who are mourning the death of a loved one. The next group will meet at St. Luke's Church, 40 McBride Road in Mechanicville from **4:30pm until 6:00pm beginning Wednesday, October 18th**. Following the group, all participants are invited to stay for Eucharist at 6:00pm and a potluck supper. If you or anyone you know would be interested in attending this group call 518-664-4834 for further information and to register.

Retreat

Mons Nubifer Sanctus is offering a retreat entitled *Creation and the Christian Life: Walking the Wilderness in Prayer* **Thursday October 5th through Sunday, October 8th**. This retreat commingles contemplative prayer, day hikes in the Catskill Mountains, and reflections on Genesis 1-11 as it relates to the Christian spiritual life and our relationship with the earth and its Creator. Participants must be able to hike at an intermediate level (elevation gains and rocky trails) for up to 6 miles. For more information or to register, go to www.monsnubifer.org/program-schedule/

Daughters of the King Diocesan Assembly

The annual DOK Assembly will be held Saturday, November 4th, from 8:30am to 3:30pm at Christ the King Spiritual Life Center. The theme is: ***The Kingdom of Heaven, Building a Nest in God's Tree***. Our speaker and celebrant will be Mtr. Jean DeVaty, the Albany Diocesan DOK Chaplain. The cost is \$25 and includes lunch. Our service project will benefit the Burmese Mission in Albany--we will be collecting items for winter (details to follow). Ladies bring these items with them to the Assembly where they are blessed before being donated.

FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS

Taking in the small things

ELIZABETH SELZER

I want a new toy. Can I have that? I want that car. I want a bigger house. There are so many wants in this life. The competition to have more, bigger, better things is suffocating us all.

I have a 7-year-old son in first grade. He exists with his 7-year-old lens on the world, and there is no judgment. There is no knowledge of bigger or better. If I could stop time and keep it this way for him, allow for him to remain blissfully unaware of what it means to have and have-not... There is, however, a desire, every time we enter Target, to ask if we can "look" at the toys.

When we visit Target, we are usually there with a specific list. (Who can go to Target without a specific list and not leave there without \$300 worth of nothing?) If we have extra time, I love letting my son look at the toys. Watching him inspect toys on each aisle is fascinating to me. He reads descriptions of each toy, looks at pictures, fiddles with things that can be fiddled, and thoughtfully inspects ... each. and. every. toy.

At the conclusion of this inspection, he will take me back to see his top three and ask if I can take a picture for it to be on his birthday-Christmas-just-because-list.

This thoughtful process my son undertakes

relies on patience (mine) and interest (his). In these moments we are not rushed, but are instead just passing time, as it were.

When I think of St. Francis, I become a little numb in thinking of the reality of living such a simple life, but I become intrigued by the stories of his ability to delight in small things. We all

For reflection...

- When was the last time you relaxed and simply observed how a loved one did something that was important to them?
- Are you being a steward of your time?
- How do you make time to connect with the simple things – are they moments in nature, the way your child, spouse, or pet looks at you?

know St. Francis as the patron saint of animals and a man who lived with very little. However, he went from a man born into a wealthy family to a man who we know and remember as someone who lived very simply. His words and teaching are used for lessons on wants vs. needs, as well as praising the Lord for all creatures of the Earth and the Earth itself.

God equips us with the ability to need only a few things to survive. Taking just one of those — air — and providing yourself some space to breathe and take in moments you might otherwise miss makes you a better steward of time, talent, and treasure.



Elizabeth Luhn Selzer is a cradle Episcopalian serving on the vestry of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Dallas. When not spending time with her husband of 20 years, and their 7-year old son, Elizabeth is hard at work raising money for Texas Ballet Theater, a resident company in both Fort Worth and Dallas. Elizabeth's two-decade fundraising career began when she was a student at Hollins University.

Stewardship Sunday

Please join us on Sunday, October 29th for Stewardship Sunday during both the 8:30am and the 10:30am services.

Following the 10:30am service at 12pm, all are invited to attend the Stewardship Celebration Luncheon being held at 90 State Events, 90 State Street, Albany, NY 12207.

Please RSVP for the luncheon by completing the enclosed RSVP card and returning it to the church office, or you may call the church office directly to RSVP. We hope you will join us. All are welcome.

MINUTES FOR THE VESTRY MEETING
ST. PETER'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
May 9, 2017

Present : Fr. Hartt, Mtr. Sue Waldron, J. Chenot, D. Spath, G. Scala, S. Lencewicz, T. Murphy, K. Cehowski, E. Stafford, M. Holden, N. Creagan, C. Gordon. **Absent:** M. Lundberg

1. Approval of the Minutes of Vestry Meeting, April 11, 2017

The April 11, 2017 minutes were approved on a motion by M. Holden and seconded by E. Stafford. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

2. Senior Warden Report - J. Chenot

Jim started off with his report by thanking the clergy, choir and parishioner's collectively as we all celebrated two wonderful well attended Easter services last month. He also wanted to mention that we must all be reminded the Easter season does not end on Easter Sunday but continues as the church calendar appoints each year up to Ascension Thursday. He mentioned this as to the importance of attendance which seems to begin to fall off after Easter Sunday. It is heartwarming to see so many who celebrate Easter Sunday and would like to encourage those that we only see a few times a year to make an effort to invite them to come more often to worship with us and get acquainted with some of the newer members at St. Peter's. This past Sunday, May 7th we had our Choir awards and Sunday School recognition day celebration. Normally we would hold this celebration in June, but Father Hartt will be taking some time off during June and wanted to be sure he was present to celebrate with all of us the accomplishments and milestones that have been made during the year with both the choir and Sunday School. Many thanks to Neil Keen and the choir for all the incredible music they have performed during this past year. We also wish them well as they rehearse regularly preparing to perform abroad this summer in England. As a fundraising event for the choir trip, Maria Holden has organized an Art and Vintage sale on Friday and Saturday, May 19-20th and we would like to thank her for all her time putting this great event together. The choir will also perform a choral Evensong on Ascension Day, Thursday May 25th at 7:30 PM. This coming Sunday, Mother's Day the Sunday School children with Laura Rulison and Sunday School teachers will be arranging small potted flowers to hand out after the 10:30 service. Again, many thanks to all who work in the Sunday School as well as those in the nursery during the church calendar year. Looking ahead, the Albany Diocese Convention is coming up in the beginning of June. We would like to thank Carly Crewell, Alice Sanigular and Kevin Cehowski for representing St. Peter's as our delegates this year.

3. Finance - G. Scala

George S. reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the month of April. Total offerings for April were \$35,798. This compares to a budgeted number of \$22,804. YTD offerings are at \$89,352. YTD through the same period in 2016 were \$74,846. The investment/endowment accounts both showed gains for the month. For April Merrill Lynch was up +1.04% and Key was up +1.21%. YTD the Merrill Lynch shows a positive return of 5.57% and the Key accounts show a 6.46% return. This leaves us with a positive budget variance in this area YTD of \$207,877. Both accounts performed favorably versus market indexes. Expenses YTD through April are \$22,568 over budget. YTD we show a gain of \$121,861, primarily as a result of performance of the investment accounts. Pledges are currently at 53 pledging units for a total amount of \$142,746.

4. Property - Bell Tower Complete, *The contractors are great and have a passion for working on churches* - Work In Progress at Rectory

5. Outreach - Mother Sue

- We have Price Chopper gift certificates to help those stopping by the church looking for assistance.
- Friends of St. Peter's, our new fellowship group, meets from 1:00-3:00 Tuesday afternoons in the Pumpelly Room. They will meet through June and then break for the summer.
- The Hats Off to England Tea on April 23, 2017 was a huge success, raising \$387 for the Choir trip to Chichester England this summer. Thank you Judy Burns, Christy Fish (and team) for coordinating the tea.
- Albany CROP Walk was Sunday May 7, 2017. Thank you Tim Murphy for coordinating our participation and all the walkers and those who donated! We will report total donations next month.
- I attended the *Hearts of Hope* program with the Capital City Rescue Mission, also providing the Invocation, and celebrating the 15 years of women's ministry, of which our Overflow Homeless Shelter supported this past winter. They are very grateful to St. Peter's provision of space and hospitality for the winter women's shelter and they continue to do amazing ministry helping transform women and children's lives.
- Outreach voted to donate (3) scholarships for Beaver Cross summer camp this year, totaling \$1,470.00.
- Food for the Poor will visit St. Peter's Church on Sunday July 2nd and will preach and present on their ministry.
- Mission Trip opportunities were also discussed as many local churches plan them and perhaps one or two of us could join one in the future.

6. Old Business -None

7. New Business -None

8. Associate Rector's Report - Mother Sue

- We had an excellent Lenten Program on Sunday April 2, 2017 after service, co-led by Fr. Hartt and I, with a dozen participating. Thank you, Daughters of the King, for providing our luncheon items.
- Holy Week and Easter were moving and meaningful services at St. Peter's and I want to thank all those who came to the liturgy and also those who served in various capacities. We had a full church on Easter Sunday which is always wonderful. Perhaps we saw a person there who hasn't been back? If so, we could reach out to tell them how nice it was to worship with them, and encourage them to come back again soon.

- **Completed Bible Studies:** *Read the Bible in 90 Days* was my first online Bible Study offered and had 12 participants who read the entire Holy Bible from January 1st through March 31st. It was a ambitious yet fruitful exercise. I welcome thoughts on future online Bible studies from Vestry and members of our church. During Lent, the Women's Bible Study read and reflected on *Hearts of Fire*, stories of 8 women who were persecuted for their Christian faith. It was difficult material to grapple with and yet relevant to the crises occurring throughout the world as Christians continue to suffer under persecution.
- In May and June, the Women's Bible Study focused on 1st and 2nd Thessalonians and is complimented by a video series by Beth Moore. We have 4 women participating thus far.
- On Wednesdays during May, a group is studying the Acts of the Apostles, co-led by Fr. Hartt and myself. The participants greatly enjoyed our first session last week which gave an overview of the Book of Acts. We are reading one chapter daily and reflecting on them once weekly. Please join us!
- Christian Education Survey: The survey was included in two week's leaflets and also the April newsletter. Unfortunately, we only received (3) surveys back so we did not get ample feedback from them to help guide our Christian Education offerings. Suggestions are welcomed!
- DOK: We have (3) new Daughters who will be installed as Members on Sunday May 21st during the 10:30am service. We are excited to see our Chapter grow and add additional intercessory prayers in our midst.
- Healing Prayers: We have been offering Healing Prayers on the 1st Sunday of the month during Holy Communion. Each time, we have had multiple people come for prayers and we are blessed by the movement of the Holy Spirit among us!
- Diocesan Convention: I will be offering a workshop/teaching on "The Call to Forgive" during Convention weekend. Additionally, I am running for election as Provisional Deputy to General Convention. I bid your prayers for both. Tonight is the pre-convention meeting at 7:00pm at The Cathedral of All Saints.

9. **Sunday Attendance**

The average Sunday attendance is currently 143.7

10. **Rectors Report** - Father Hartt

- Father Hartt spoke of the upcoming Confirmations at the Cathedral of All Saints. The parish has 5 teens and two adults to be Confirmed this Saturday. Our Confirmands are: Mae Healy, Matthew Clark, Mckenzie Murphy, Hannah Grill, Caitlin Connors, Matthew Clark, Holli Frazier, and George Saide. Confirmation instruction was separate for the teens and adults. Both worked hard on their instruction, including memorizing the 10 Commandments, Apostles' Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. The Confirmands also each wrote letters to Bishop Love about their recent growth in Christ.
- Our beloved Pat Shortall has announced his retirement as of July 1, 2017. Words fail to describe the blessing Pat Shortall has been to this parish over 35 years. Pat is a man of great faith, calm strength, and genuine love for us. The good news is that Pat will remain on the property for certain tasks and work a light schedule, including most Sunday mornings. We wish Pat the joyful retirement that he richly deserves and give thanks to God for him.
- Our Easter Services were well attended. The Choir's performance of the St. Matthew Passion on Good Friday was powerful and well attended. Easter Season thus far has had good attendance and a reverent joy. Choir and Sunday School Awards went well this past Sunday.
- Bishop Ball's funeral was held on May 13th. The Diocese came out in huge numbers to give thanks for his faithful ministry and to commend Bishop Ball to the Lord. Bishop Ball served the Diocese in a critical time for our Nation and the life of The Episcopal Church. Bishop Ball's ministry yielded much fruit then and also in "retirement" to the glory of God. Deacon Justine Guernsey preached a moving sermon and the liturgy was glorious. Our prayers are with the Bishop's family.
- Plans for the Choir trip are well underway. Father Hartt thanked Maria Holden for her many labors in putting the trip together and for the upcoming Art and Vintage Sale fundraiser. Many items have been donated already. Father Hartt also thanked Judy Burns and Christy Fish for the work on the Spring Tea, which require much baking and setting up. The Tea was also a Choir fundraiser. Earlier, Judy and Janice Chenot had worked on the Soup Sampler which raised funds for the Homeless Action Committee.
- Father Hartt and Father Bradley had a joint baptism of Chelsea Ann Pautler on Saturday. The parish then recognized the baptism at Sunday worship through the liturgy of "Thanksgiving for the Birth of A Child."
- The Daughters of the King have had a significant year of growth. We look forward to the initiation of Michelle Lundberg, Kate Marlay, and Karen Chatman to the Julia Chapter on May 21.
- The Clergy have begun a seven week Bible Study on Acts. The first class was an overview of Acts and the participants will be reading 7 chapters each week in preparation. Our survey of the parish with respect to Christian education yielded few responses. The overall movement seems to be toward the addition of a Sunday Bible Study. This study would replace the Wednesday Bible Study. However, the study on Acts will continue on Wednesdays until its completion.
- Our Assistant Sexton Shawn VanNess has given notice. Shawn has found new work that better meets the needs of his family. We thank Shawn for his time with us.
- Tonight is also the Pre-Convention Meeting at the Cathedral. Mtr. Sue and the Delegates will be attending at 7PM.
- John Iseman, the Diocesan Youth Director, was scheduled to attend St. Peter's on April 30th to give a presentation on youth ministry in the Diocese. In particular, he was to do a presentation on SURGE for teens. John needed to cancel and the event will be rescheduled for the fall. Beaver Cross Camp materials are available in the rear of the church.
- Father Hartt will be on vacation in June. Food for the Poor will be speaking at the Parish on his return. Father Hartt's father will be taking services over Convention weekend in order to allow Mtr. Sue and the Delegates to complete the weekend.

11. **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by C. Gordon and seconded by E. Stafford, then was passed unanimously by the vestry.

12. **Compline** - Fr. Hartt led Compline.

Respectfully Submitted, Kevin M. Cehowski

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

June 13, 2017

Present : Mtr. Sue Waldron, J. Chenot, D. Spath, G. Scala, M. Lundberg, C. Gordon, S. Lencewicz, N. Creagan, M. Holden

Absent: Fr. Hartt, T. Murphy, K. Cehowski, E. Stafford

Opening Prayer Led by Mother Sue Waldron

Approval of the Minutes of Vestry Meeting, May 9, 2017

The May 9, 2017 minutes were approved on a motion by C. Gordon and seconded by M. Lundberg. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

Senior Warden Report –J. Chenot

Jim reported that we finished the Easter season the first Sunday in June celebrating Pentecost with a baptism at the 10:30 service. It was encouraging to see Jerome Robinson baptized, a young gentleman introduced to St. Peter's last year, joining the choir and now part of the newer generation of St. Peter's. It has been very encouraging to see younger members and families worship with us on Sundays on a regular basis and it is a sign of the health we pray for as we look to the future life of the church and congregation.

The Diocesan Convention was held this past weekend at Speculator. Special thanks to our delegates, Carly Crewell, Alice Sanigular, and Kevin Cehowski for representing St. Peter's at this year's convention as well as Mother Sue.

This coming Sunday will be the last Sunday for the choir and Sunday School for the summer break until they pick up again on their regular schedule in September. Following the 10:30 service the Sunday School will host their annual Ice Cream Sundae Social at coffee hour. The choir will also have a choir picnic hosted at the Chenot's residence. The vestry and clergy would like to thank both of these important ministries for all their continued service and dedication to the spiritual life at St. Peter's.

Our choir is continuing to rehearse regularly for their upcoming trip to Chichester Cathedral, England, in July. We wish them all a safe trip abroad and are honored to have them represent St. Peter's as they share the musical gifts they share with us each Sunday. Many thanks to our choir director Neil Keen who has worked tirelessly working on new music as well as Maria Holden who headed up all the travel planning. That was a large undertaking.

Pat Shortall will officially be retiring his full-time position this coming July. Please stay tuned for a celebration planned to honor Pat for all his dedication at St. Peter's for over 30 years. Pat will continue to reside at St. Peter's and will assist part-time. Pat will be working and training Ian Mike, who started with us last week, to assume Pat's position when Pat retires. Ian is shadowing Pat learning the day to day regimen. We wish Pat well and thank him for all he has done for all of us at St. Peter's. God bless you Pat.

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

Finance – G. Scala - Treasurer's Report – June Meeting

George S. reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the month of May. Total offerings for May were \$13,386. This compares to a budgeted number of \$22,804. YTD offerings are at \$102,738. YTD through the same period in 2016 were at \$92,527.

The investment/endowment accounts both showed gains for the month. For May, Merrill Lynch was up +1.27% and Key was up +1.54%. YTD the Merrill Lynch shows a positive return of 6.84% and the Key accounts show a 8.00% return. This leaves us with a positive budget variance in this area YTD of \$256,850. Both accounts performed favorably versus market indexes. Expenses YTD through May are \$38,826 over budget. YTD we show a gain of \$129,478, primarily as a result of performance of the investment accounts.

Pledges are currently at 54 pledging units for a total amount of \$143,646.

Property - No Report

Outreach – Mother Sue - No Report

Old Business Consecration Sunday Date Possibly October 15th. Parish Picnic possibly September 17th

New Business - None

Associate Rector's Report – Mother Sue

St. Peter's was excited to bring seven confirmands to the Cathedral on Saturday, May 13, 2017, for Confirmation by our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. William H. Love. Please join the clergy in congratulating: Matthew Clark, Caitlyn Connors, Holli Frazier, Hannah Grill, Mae Healy, Mckenzie Murphy and George Saide.

We had a beautiful Ascension Day Evensong and the clergy would like to give particular thanks to the Choir who are so dedicated to our church, singing each Friday during Lent and at many festive Evensong services throughout the year.

We also thank the choir members and Vaughn's organ recital on June 2nd which raised funds for the choir's trip to Chichester, England this July.

On May 21st, the DOK Julia Chapter installed three new members: Karen Chatman, Michelle Lundberg and Kate Marlay, bringing our chapter to 12 members. Special thanks go to those who helped teach them during their discernment time. St. Peter's is so blessed to have this group of women praying for us daily.

Memorial Day weekend we scheduled Children's Chapel and were pleasantly surprised to have 12 gather for chapel! The clergy would like to encourage the church to continue to be welcoming to the new families that visit us from time to time...it is so encouraging that we continue to be attractive to a variety of ages, and especially to so many youth!

The Wednesday Bible study on the Acts of the Apostles was completed May 31, 2017. It was truly a fantastic study and timed nicely during the Easter season as we travel through the book of Acts during Sunday services. Fr. Hartt and I are both appreciative of the individuals who came out for our class.

The Women's Bible Study, *Children of the Day*, Beth Moore's study of 1 and 2 Thessalonians continues for two more weeks. The women are thoroughly enjoying the video series and our conversations. We continue through the end of June.

On June 3rd we held a memorial service for Esther Brown's father, Francis Mulsapitta, who died in March in Uganda. On June 13th we held a Funeral and Committal service for Lawrence Everett, a longtime parishioner of St. Peter's, who died in his home surrounded by his family on June 7th. Please keep these two families in your prayers.

June 4th was a wonderful celebration of Pentecost and the parish particularly enjoyed Jerome Robinson's baptism. It is wonderful to see a young man seek baptism in the church!

The weekend of June 9 – 11, 2017 a delegation from St. Peter's Church attended the Albany Diocesan 149th Convention at Camp of the Woods in Speculator NY. We thank Kevin Cehowski (and Caitlin, Cole and Ava), Carly Crewell and Alice Sanigular for serving St. Peter's and our Diocese. We also thank Fr. Walter Hartt for taking our services at St. Peter's on Sunday morning. Mother Sue offered the workshop "The Call to Forgive" twice over the weekend. Jeffrey Hartt was elected to serve a two-year term on the Great Cathedral Chapter – congratulations Jeffrey! The entire group had a fantastic time and we encourage other families to consider joining our Diocesan family next year as we celebrate the Albany Diocese's 150th year and welcome the Episcopal Church of the USA's Presiding Bishop, The Most Rev. Michael Curry as our guest bishop.

Sunday Attendance ASA 121.9

Rectors Report - No Report

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by J. Chenot and seconded by G. Scala, then was passed unanimously by the vestry.

Compline

Mother Sue led Compline.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kevin M. Cehowski

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Paul J. Hartt.....Rector
The Rev. Susan Waldron.....Associate Rector
Neil K. Keen, F.A.G.O.....Organist & Choirmaster
Laura Rulison.....Director of Christian Education
James P. Shortall.....Sexton
Ian Mike.....Assistant Sexton
Angie Schlossberg.....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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Services

Sunday

Holy Communion 8:30 a.m.

Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

(1st & 3rd Sundays)

Morning Prayer 10:30 a.m.

(2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Holy Communion 12:05 p.m.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

