

# Cornerstone

## June 2019

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

### From the Rector

#### Solid Ground

The other day, our family took a trip to Rensselaerville and enjoyed a hike. It reminded me of just how much Upstate NY is beautiful. It is especially so in the summer. The lakes, mountains, and woods are pretty much unrivaled. Even the air has a special quality. We are quite blessed in the area. Of course, we have our challenges in terms of economic development in our more rural parts. But there is a resiliency and tenacity of spirit among folks. Whatever our summer plans might be, let's take time to count our natural blessings. They are truly all around us.

It seems that the older I become, the more nature speaks to me. I was fairly urban in my outlook as a younger adult. Many young adults are that way. Our major cities have their allure to be sure. Excitement and rapid change are more attuned to a younger nervous system. But that begins to change for most of us. I know that it has for me. The very soil seems to speak to me these days -- the rocks, the streams, the sky. I increasingly need to connect with what is stable, organic, real.

Many of my generation and older have made peace with the technological revolution and social media that permeate almost all of life these days. I am no Luddite. I enjoy the many benefits. But it always seems to leave me hungry for more genuine connection. It also leaves me feeling frazzled much of the time. The in-box can seem like a toppling wall. Text messages ping, ping, ping. A flowing stream is restorative and healing. A mountain is formidable and not mere cyberspace. There are times that I just want to plop down on the grass and roll about as I did as a kid. Give me some reality, some earth under my feet.

So what is my point here? Next Sunday will be Pentecost. The Holy Spirit is the birth not only of the Church, but of the very ground under our feet. It is solid ground. In fact, there is no other ground that is or can be solid for the Church. I am reminded of Jesus' parable about the house built on rock and the house built on sand. We know which one stands! The sand foundation of the Church is pretty much all we bring to the table. It is the plans and programs in which we place too much faith. Plans and programs are only vehicles for the presence (we pray) or absence (we pray not) of the Holy Spirit. They are infused from above or they are soon revealed to be not according to the mind of the Spirit which comes and goes as the Spirit chooses.

The truth that the Holy Spirit alone is ground for our feet is born out by Christian experience again and again. The Holy Spirit can be as powerfully encountered with two or three praying for something or someone at the kitchen table as in the most beautiful of liturgies. The little prayer chapel beyond the vending machines at my seminary had more of a sense of the Holy Spirit than the glorious church upstairs which had countless great theologians in its pulpit. God is in charge of holiness and spiritual possibility. God is in charge of what is and is not blessed forward. And perhaps most of all, God is in charge of what is and is not solid ground. Pentecost is solid ground.

This Pentecost, I pray that we notice more and more the ways of the Holy Spirit. Put another way, that we make ourselves supplicants of the Holy Spirit more and more. God is very generous. Jesus loves His Church. The Holy Spirit is given out of love. Yet as St. Paul reminds us, "...no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit." (1 Cor. 12:3.) The Holy Spirit is that important.

We have been on a bit of a hike here. Thank you for coming with me. Hikes go better with solid ground under our feet. So does the Church's hike. Come Holy Ghost! Blessed Pentecost, Fr. Hartt+

## From the Associate Rector

Graduation – the completion or a new beginning?

Every May and June, one can't help but focus on the theme of Graduation. There are many in our congregation that we celebrate each year as people complete their high school or college studies. We will even see many graduations from middle school, elementary school and even pre-school! Our society likes to celebrate graduations.

But what are we celebrating? Often at a graduation we are thinking in terms of completion – the individual has completed certain requirements and, thus, graduates from a program of study. However, the actual service of graduation is often called “Commencement”. And commencement, used as a noun, means “a beginning, or start”.

So, is graduation a completion or a beginning?

We are also, at this time of year, thinking about Confirmation. In fact, we just hosted the Regional Confirmations for the Diocese of Albany here at St. Peter's with four of our own being confirmed by Bishop Love. Like graduation, confirmation has a sense of completion to it; the confirmands have completed a program of study learning about their faith and church and thus desiring to make a mature, adult commitment to it and asking for God's strength and power to do so. But, also like graduation, Confirmation is really a beginning.

During the Confirmation service, the Bishop lays hands on the confirmand and prays:

“Strengthen, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit;  
empower *him* for your service;  
and sustain *him* all the days of *his* life. *Amen.*”

This prayer, and anointing of the Holy Spirit, certainly highlights Confirmation as a new beginning of strengthening, service and life itself within the Christian faith. It is not the end of study – a “graduation” from church so to speak. But, it is also not the start of a new faith, but rather the start of a new way to express and live out that faith. This is often because one has been baptized as an infant, thus, the tenants of the Christian faith need to be learned and embraced for oneself as s/he grows in maturity. Likewise, confirmation is confirming that one's time of study has prepared them for a new beginning of service and life within the Christian faith.

So, how do we live out our Confirmation vows? There are so many among us that volunteer and minister here at St. Peter's in a variety of ways. These people have surely found their way of service within the Christian faith. Yet, not everyone has or perhaps some of us might re-evaluate this from time to time? The summer months may be the perfect time to seek the Lord and ask how we should or could be serving at our church.

Like the first disciples, we too are to learn about the Christianity so that we are equipped to teach and lead others. Our own ministry and service is meant to be a natural expression of our faith, a use of our unique talents and gifts, and be joyful and life giving not only personally but to the Body of Christ. Do you feel this way about your own service and ministry? If you do, then celebrate that and continue. If not, it may indicate that God has other ministry or service for you to do and you might consider praying about that. Please know that your clergy stand ready to pray with you and help you discern your place of ministry and service within our community.

My hope is that with each of us doing this over the summer months, we might come together in September for the “new year” emboldened for Christian service and ministry that will be joyful and life giving to us and to others.

A blessed start to summer,

Mother Sue+



### Pentecost is Sunday, June 9th.

We will have wonderful services including a baptism at our 8:30am service. As is customary within our tradition, we are encouraging you to wear RED to church on Pentecost (red symbolizes the fire of the Holy Spirit).

## Upcoming Events



### Daughters of the King

Their final meeting before the summer break will be on Sunday, June 9th immediately following the 10:30AM service.



### **Diocesan Convention 2019 “Stand Firm in the Holy Spirit– Striving Together as One” (Phip. :27)**

The 151st Diocesan Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of Albany will be held at Camp of the Woods in Speculator, NY on June 7-9. This year Pentecost Sunday falls on the same weekend; attendees are encouraged to wear red for Sunday service. St. Peter's Delegates include: The Rev. Susan Waldron, Mr. Jack Ratzel and Ms. Alice Sanigular with Cary Carcuro attending as well. More information can be found at:

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

### Outreach

The June Outreach meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 11th at 4:00pm. Please join us to learn about Outreach ministries and hospitality events being planned!

### Vestry Meeting

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

### 2019 ST. PETER'S ANGELS SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

Games will be played at the following parks: Mullens Park (35 North First Street, Albany), Stanford Heights FD (250 Morris Road, Schenectady), Fireman's Field, (1 St. George's Place, Albany) and Feura Bush (64 Mathias Place, Feura Bush). Directions are available on the website. Rather than doing a Google search, please type in your browser <http://www.softball-24-7.com/ESS-SundaySoftball/>. On the website, we are listed as St. Peter's Angels. To check on rainouts call (518) 269-1293 - 1 hour prior to game.

GAME	DATE	DAY	TIME	PARK	OPPONENT
1	April 28th	Sunday	3:00PM	@Mullen's	Won 15-10
2	May 19th	Sunday	1:30PM	@Mullen's	Rained Out
3	June 2nd	Sunday	1:30PM	@S. Heights FD	Stanford Heights FD
4	June 9th	Sunday	1:30PM	@Feura Bush	Habitat 4 Insanity
5	June 23rd	Sunday	12:00PM	@Fireman's Field	MIS
6	June 23rd	Sunday	1:30PM	@Fireman's Field	TCP Bomb Squad
7	June 30th	Sunday	3:00PM	@Mullen's	Misfits
8	July 14th	Sunday	3:00PM	@Feura Bush	Cake Eaters
9	July 21st	Sunday	1:30PM	@Fireman's Field	Habitat 4 Insanity
10	July 28th	Sunday	1:30PM	@Feaua Bush	TCP Bomb Squad

### Beaver Cross Camp Registration Open

Registration for Beaver Cross Camp is now open! Experience the adventure of summer camp by being part of Beaver Cross Camp communities devoted to faith, friendship and fun. At Overnight Camp and Day Camp, campers explore and deepen their faith together through dynamic teaching and activities. New friendships are created and old ones rekindled as campers laugh and learn together in the environment they themselves help create to be safe, encouraging and fun. To register online for camp, [www.beavercrossministries.org/camp-registration.html](http://www.beavercrossministries.org/camp-registration.html)

### COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We are looking for volunteers to help with Coffee Hour following the 10:30AM service. This is a very well loved and cherished time for our parishioners to gather and enjoy each others company, but it cannot run without some helping hands! Anyone interested, please contact Caitlin Cehowski at [caitlin.cehowski@gmail.com](mailto:caitlin.cehowski@gmail.com) or at 518-669-3096. The hope is to get a few regular volunteers to create a rotating schedule beginning in the Fall!

### Men's Cursillo Weekend, June 21-23

Will be held at Christ the King Spiritual Life Center in Greenwich NY. If you are interested in attending speak to your clergy. Visit the website at [www.albanyepiscopalcursillo.org](http://www.albanyepiscopalcursillo.org) or contact John Hyde at (518) 376-9477.



## Youth Formation & Sunday School



Happy  
Mother's Day !!

**Regional Confirmation Service** at St. Peter's Church, on May 19th, with Bishop William Love officiating.

### Congratulations Confirmands!

Jayathri K. Fernando, Robert E. Myers,  
Richard R. Myers, Jr. & Cary D. Carcuro



### Thank you!

I want to thank all the parents/grandparents and family members that bring our little angels to church each week. I want to thank Fr. Hartt and Mother Sue for all the wonderful lessons to our children and for the special Children's Chapel. We are so blessed to have you both. Thank you to the vestry for all the support given to our Sunday school! Thank you to Janice, Ruth, Ian and our Pat for their endless work and love for our children. Last but not least, our teachers, who each week, teach our angels all about the Bible and how to live like Jesus. Thank you, Ashley Spath, Vicky Pautler, Sharon Vardabash, Kelly Welch and our new addition Ariana Saffares. So blessed to have all of you! Thank you all for allowing me to be a part of such an amazing ministry.

Love and blessings ~ Laura Rulison

### PLEASE NOTE:

Children's Chapel and Youth Sunday will return in the fall, and this September our Sunday School will be Hosting coffee hour after Children's Chapel. All parents are invited to bake with their children and bring a treat to share. ♡ Sunday School and Nursery care will continue throughout the summer. **Please join us!**

### Awards Sunday and Ice Cream Social

Sunday School Awards, Choir Awards, and Ice Cream Sundae Social will all take place on Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. The Awards will be presented during the 10:30am service. The Ice Cream Social will be held immediately following. Please join us in celebrating our esteemed choir members and Sunday School teachers.

### Diaper Drive is Back!

Once again we will be having a diaper drive for St. Francis Mission. They are in need of sizes 2, 3, 4 & 5 diapers that will be used to support their ministry. There will be a collection area at Convention registration. If you are unable to come to convention but would like to support the effort please contact Deacon Sandy McGowan at [nannysandy@nycap.rr.com](mailto:nannysandy@nycap.rr.com). Thank you for your continued help!



An Albany High School Chinese-language student once again has excelled, this time at a regional competition held May 4th, at the Chinese Consulate in New York City. Albany High School senior Sydney Hardy, a student of teacher Hua Lin, earned a third place for her performance in Chinese culture talent show and an honorable mention for her speech about Chinese language and culture.

**Congrats Sydney!**



# Con GRAD ulations !

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR 2018-2019 GRADUATES

**MYLES D. CLARK** will graduate from Coxsackie-Athens Central High School with a Regents Diploma. He will be attending Binghamton University majoring in Engineering. (Myles is the son of Jennifer and Gavin Clark and the grandson of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Chaloner).

**SYDNEY P. HARDY** will graduate from Albany High School with a Regents Diploma. Sydney is also the President of the National Chinese Honor Society. She will be attending Hudson Valley Community College majoring in Biological Sciences. (Sydney is the daughter of Kelly Welch, granddaughter of Sharon Vardabash, and niece of Laura Rulison, all of whom are St. Peter's Christian Education Teachers).

**EMMA LOUISE HOHENSTEIN** graduated from the State of Washington University with an MBA - Foster Degree. She will be employed by BCG Consulting.

**JULIAN CLARK KOVACS** will graduate from Shaker High School with a Regents Diploma. He will be attending Hartwick College majoring in Public Health. (Julian is the son of Jules and Cristi Kovacs and the grandson of Clark and Carol Daggett).

**KATELYN LENCEWICZ** will graduate from the 6th Grade at Southgate Elementary School in North Colonie. She will attend Shaker Junior High School in the fall.

**NICOLE LENCEWICZ** will be graduating from Shaker High School with an Advanced Regents Diploma with a Seal of Bi-Literacy. She will be attending the Honors Program at Hudson Valley Community College and will be majoring in Teaching. Upon completion of her Associate's Degree at HVCC she will continue her education at SUNY Oneonta pursuing a Bachelor's Degree. (Nicole is the daughter of Stephanie and Dave Lencewicz and the granddaughter of Rose Emmett).

**NANCY LUNDBERG** will graduate from Albany High School with a Regents Diploma. She will be attending SUNY Geneseo majoring in French. (Nancy is the daughter of Mark and Michelle Lundberg).

**KEVIN MURPHY** graduated from Bridgton Academy with a Post-Graduate Diploma. He will be attending Grove City College majoring in Business. He will also be playing football and lacrosse. (Kevin is the son of Tim Murphy and Julie Hotmer Drao).

**RICHARD R. MYERS** will graduate from Columbia High School with a Regents Diploma. He will be attending Hudson Valley Community College majoring in Business. (Richard is the son of Michelle and Rich Myers and the grandson of Donna Ohlman).

**JENNIFER POWELL** will graduate from Albany High School with an Advanced Regents Diploma. She will be attending Binghamton University. (Jennifer is a member of the choir and is the daughter of Laura Staff and John Powell).

**LIDIAH SCHOLTES-DEBONIS** will graduate from Empire State College. (Lidiah is the daughter-in-law of Sharon DeBonis).


**ELLI SOL STRICH** will graduate from Albany High School with an Advanced Regents Diploma. She will be attending Tufts University. (Elli is a member of the choir).



**HENRY MARTIN TUCKER** will graduate from Saratoga Springs High School with a Regents Diploma. He will be attending the University of Vermont majoring in Environmental Studies. (Henry is the grandson of Diana Martin).

**MOLLY BRONSON TUCKER** graduated from Maine College of Art with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (with Honors) Degree. She will be pursuing a Master's Degree in 2020. (Molly is the granddaughter of Diana Martin).

**EMMA MARLAY-WRIGHT** will be graduating from Albany High School with a Regents Diploma. She will be attending the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. Emma will also be playing soccer. (Emma is the daughter of Kate Marlay and Gary Wright).

# June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p>2 <b>The Seventh Sunday of Easter</b></p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion</p>	<p>3</p> <p>5:00 pm - Treble Make-up Rehearsal</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:45 am - T 12:05 pm - H</p>
<p>9 <b>The Day of Pentecost</b></p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion with Baptism 10:30am - Morning Prayer 11:45am - DOK Meeting</p> <p>Diocesan Convention</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 <b>Saint Barnabas</b></p> <p>4:00pm - Outreach Meeting 5:15pm - Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:45 am - T 12:05 pm - H</p>
<p>16 <b>First Sunday after Pentecost / Trinity Sunday Awards Sunday - Father's Day</b></p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion</p> <p>Ice Cream Sundae Social following the 10:30am service</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:45 am - T 12:05 pm - H</p>
<p>23 <b>Second Sunday after Pentecost</b></p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer</p>	<p>24 <b>The Nativity of St. John the Baptist</b></p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8:45am - T 12:05pm - H</p>
<p>30 <b>Third Sunday after Pentecost</b></p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer</p>			

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Top of the Hill Holy Communion	6  5:00 pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30 pm - Full Choir	7  12:30pm - Organ Concert 6:00pm - Gerfin/Urquhart Wedding Rehearsal  Diocesan Convention	1  ----- 8 3:00PM Gerfin/Urquhart Wedding  Diocesan Convention
Top of the Hill Holy Communion	13	14  12:30pm - Organ Concert	15  11:00am - Angels in Training
Top of the Hill Holy Communion	20	21  5:00pm - Nielson/Roche Wedding Rehearsal	22  3:00PM Nielsen/Roche Wedding
Top of the Hill Holy Communion	27	28	29 Saint Peter & Saint Paul
	 <p data-bbox="302 1982 646 1999">"For Father's Day, I'm giving my dad an hour of free tech support."</p>		



Composer of the month - Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625) English organist and composer, was a leading composer of early 17th century England. He sang in the choir of Kings College Cambridge and was later appointed to the Chapel Royal, where he served as organist.

His compositions has maintained a place in the repertoire over the centuries.

For keyboard - various pieces equally appropriate for harpsichord or for the rather modest pipe organs of his day.

Hymn melodies - from his "Hymns and Songs of the Church," which are identified by their tune designations, Song 1, Song 13, and Song 67.

Anthems and canticles - ranging from simple four part motets to more elaborate contrapuntal anthems.

Madrigals - many well-loved secular chorals works, a few of which have been re-fit with sacred texts to allow this wonderful music to be heard in church.

Along with William Byrd and Thomas Tallis, Gibbons has earned the position as a founder of the English Church music tradition that continues today.



## St. Peters Music



Friday Noontime Organ Concerts will begin it's summer break after the June 14th concert.

Choir Awards will be presented on June 16th at the 10:30am service. This is also the last Sunday of the full choir season.

Summer Choir - Members of the parish are invited to join the singing of the summer choir, beginning June 23rd. We have a brief rehearsal at 9:45 on Sundays to prepare music for the 10:30 service. There is no audition, but the ability to follow musical notation is helpful.

## The Right Reverend William Croswell Doane



### Constitution

Of The Cathedral Of All Saints In The City And Diocese Of Albany 1874

For the greater glory of God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost; in promoting the dignity and honor of His worship; in extending and up-building His Kingdom, in the city of Albany and in adjoining places; in establishing and maintaining schools for the Christian training of His children; in discharging all the works of mercy, corporal as well as spiritual; and in strengthening a Diocesan centre of unity, influence and work, we, William Croswell Doane, S.T.D., by the grace of God first Bishop of the Diocese of Albany, and our well-beloved Priests, John Henry Hobart Brown, S.T.D., Archdeacon of Albany, John Ireland Tucker, S.T.D., Archdeacon of Troy, Hiram W. Beers, S.T.D., Theodore Babcock, D.D., John Townsend, together with our faithful laymen, Erastus Corning, Orlando Meads, James Forsyth, Amos P. Palmer and Walter A. Wood, being the Trustees and corporators of the Body known in law as the Cathedral of All Saints in the city and Diocese of Albany, do hereby, in accordance with the powers assigned to us by the Act of our Incorporation, set forth the following Constitution of the Cathedral of All Saints.

ARTICLE I OF THE CHAPTER SEC. 1. The Right Reverend William Croswell Doane, S.T.D., ex officio, and his successors in office together with four Priests, canonically resident in the Diocese, in good standing, to be known, collectively, as the Four Principal Persons, and , severally, as the Dean, the Precentor, the Chancellor and the Treasurer; and four other clergymen, canonically resident in the diocese, to be known as the Canons of the Cathedral, and six laymen, one of whom shall be known as the Vice-Chancellor and one as the Assistant Treasurer, all well esteemed communicants of the Church in the Diocese, shall constitute, when appointed, the Body corporate known as the Cathedral of All Saints in the city and Diocese of Albany, and shall be the first Chapter thereof.

SEC. 2. The Chapter is charged, under the direction of the Bishop, to advance the missionary work of the Church in and about the city of Albany, to maintain a constant and well ordered worship of Almighty God, to found and uphold Christian schools, and to begin and sustain every practicable work of Christian charity.

Taken from *Pioneer Cathedral*, by George E. DeMille Pages 37,38



## From the Archives

This book traces the history of the Episcopal Cathedral of All Saints in Albany New York. It began in 1869 when the current Rector of St. Peter's Church, William Crosswell Doane was chosen and consecrated as the first Bishop of the newly formed Diocese of Albany. The selection of Bishop Doane was significant because from the beginning of the new Diocese of Albany, Doane envisioned a new concept. He would found a Cathedral Complex with Schools and Houses of Mercy of every kind. He also advocated the traditional Cathedral governance using the Chapter organization of Deans and Canons.

Bishop Doane did not hesitate to put his ambitions into action. He had founded a school, the St. Agnes School for Girls by September 7th of 1870. He accepted a gift from Erastus Corning of the entire block on Elk Street between Hawk and Swan to extend all the way to Spruce Street. On this land he founded a new chapel in the old Townsend Brother's Foundry in 1872. This would be a chapel for St. Agnes School for Girls as well as the forerunner of his cathedral.

By 1874 the first Constitution and Statutes of the Cathedral of All Saints had been written and by 1875 a General Chapter consisting of clergy and lay members had first met. On November 23rd of 1881 the Chapter had appointed a committee to select the site for the Cathedral. On June 10th of 1882 Erastus Corning had bought all the required lots for the Cathedral construction and presented them to the Chapter. By 1883 Robert William Gibson was selected as Architect and by June 3rd 1884 the Cornerstone was laid.

When the General Chapter met in 1888 they made Canon Wilbur Lash Robbins the Cathedral Dean. This was an important appointment. He would serve in that capacity for 15 years. On April 2nd of 1901 the Austin Organ company was selected to build an organ suitable for the Cathedral. In 1902 an anonymous donor gave the funds for the completion of the Choir. This donor was probably J.P. Morgan. This was the last building on the Cathedral, a building which has never been finished.

In 1911 while Bishop Doane was in Europe, Andrew Sloan Draper, the Commissioner of Education bought up the options on the buildings in the Cathedral Block and began building the present State Education Building. By 1913 the massive building was complete. The State Education Building blocked the view of the Cathedral on the south and east sides and took up the grounds that were supposed to surround the Cathedral. The building of the State Education in this way may have been the result of animosity between Commissioner Draper and Bishop Doane.

There were eight Bishops after Bishop Doane. Two that continued his ambitious spirit were Bishop Barry and Bishop Brown. Bishop Barry founded the Good Samaritan Center located on Hackett Avenue. It contained the new Child's Hospital, the addition to St. Margaret's Center and the Nelson House for the Aged. St. Paul's Church is also located at the Center.

Under Bishop Brown the Cathedral and the Morning Star Baptist Church together formed a membership corporation to own and sponsor a house development in Arbor Hill. Bishop Brown hailed it as one of the best projects that had come about in a long time. The current Bishop is William H. Love who became the Bishop of Albany in 2007.

The Venerable Dr. Leander Harding was selected and installed as the Cathedral Dean in 2017.

Archivist ~ Connie Powell

### Pioneer Cathedral



*by George E. DeMille*

**St. Peter's Welcomes Cathedralites for Joint Worship throughout this Summer  
Beginning on June 16th**

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

**April 9, 2019**

**Present:** Fr. Hartt, D. Spath, J. Chenot, N. Creagan, C. Gordon, M. Holden, M. Lundberg, T. Murphy, J. Russom, G. Scala

**Absent:** F. Hershey, A. Spath, Mtr. Sue Waldron

Opening Prayer Led by Father Paul Hartt

**Approval of the Minutes of Vestry Meeting, March 12, 2019**

The March 12, 2019 minutes were approved on a motion by G. Scala and seconded by C. Gordon. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

**Warden Report** – During this busy Holy season we want to begin by thanking our devoted and loving clergy, Father Hartt and Mother Sue for all their preparation ahead of all the services during the Lenten season; the Sunday services, services during the week and Holy week, as well as Easter Sunday services. This time is an extremely busy time for both of them working on sermons, sermons, homilies, as well as tending to those that are shut-ins, hospitalized or looking for pastoral care. Thank you both for all you do for all of us at St. Peter's, as well as helping those looking for help in the local community coming in off the streets for help.

We would also like to acknowledge our wonderful choir. During the Lenten season, which began in the beginning of March, they have been performing evensong services on Friday evenings, preparing new complex musical pieces for Sunday services, preparing for Holy Week and participating in the Maundy Thursday service. On Good Friday there will be a noon day service, followed by a performance by our choir and our choir director Neil Keen with G.F. Handel's "The Brockes Passion" with full orchestra immediately following the noon time service at 1:15. We would like to thank Neil and the entire choir for all their time and dedication they put forth during this meaningful and spiritual time, in our church life.

This coming Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating Palm Sunday at both the 8:30 and 10:30 services. The choir will again continue the traditional Ride On procession at the end of the 10:30 service. The Sunday school will also be busy during the Palm Sunday service decorating Easter eggs for the Easter egg hunt, which will be held the following Saturday at the Rectory. We would like to thank our Sunday school director Laura Rulison and all the Sunday school staff in advance for all their hard work and guidance working with the children each Sunday, in addition to those who help in the nursery.

The week of April 15<sup>th</sup>, each day during Holy week, a noon time service is performed. As mentioned, there will be a Maundy Thursday evening service, Good Friday noon time service followed with a musical concert, leading up to two wonderful Sunday Morning Easter services at 8:30 and 10:30. Thank you to Neil and the choir for their entire dedication performing wonderful music at all these services. Also, I would like to thank our choir Mom, Diana Martin who coordinates the brunch in between the Easter Services for the choir as well ensuring the Choir looks their best at all the services.

The vestry would also like to thank the altar guild, the flower guild and ushers for all their time and talents volunteering during the Lenten and Easter season. Thanks to Pat and Ian for keeping the Church and physical plant clean and in order for all the parishioners and newcomers. We also want to recognize and thank both Janice and Ruth for working tirelessly these next few weeks in the church office. The amount of work that is processed in the office this time is an incredible task – printed items for the extra services as well as all the record keeping for Easter Lilies memorials. We are sincerely thankful for both of them, for all their tireless work during this busy season.

On behalf of the Clergy and Vestry, we wish everyone a wonderful and joyful Eastertide.

**Sunday Attendance** – The Average Sunday Attendance is 123.8

**Rector's Report** - Fr. Hartt began with the unfortunate news that the email scam has resurfaced. This morning Fr. Hartt received word from Moses Kamyra that he had an email requesting funds from a fraudulent g-mail account bearing Fr. Hartt's name. Anyone can set up a g-mail account in this way. It is difficult to address. Please do not respond to these email solicitations, but rather call the office. Fr. Hartt regrets the need to share such news in this most holy Season.

Fr. Hartt reviewed the schedule for Holy Week. The Choir and Mr. Keen have been hard at work preparing for The Brockes Passion by G. F. Handel. It will be performed following the Good Friday Liturgy. We are also mindful of the blessing we routinely have at St. Peter's of liturgies with such fine music to the glory of God. Fr. Hartt thanked Neil Keen and the Choir for their labors.

On Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM we will be fortunate to have the Choir of Lincoln College, Oxford performing at St. Peter's. The choir will offer music for Lent and Passion-tide. This is a rare opportunity to hear one of the finest choirs in our Anglican tradition. It is not to be missed. Fr. Hartt thanked Mr. Keen for finalizing the arrangements.

Fr. Hartt spoke of the Passover meal celebrated with the Sunday School. The pictures on Facebook are glorious. Fr. Hartt thanked Laura Rulison for establishing this tradition. One parent told Fr. Hartt of the care their family has been taking with their children in reading Bible stories at home. The family is making use of the numerous fine children's Bibles appropriate for every age. Fr. Hartt spoke of the immeasurable value of this practice.

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, the clergy will be attending the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral. This is a time when ordination vows are renewed and holy oils for Baptism and healing are blessed by the Bishop for the use of parishes.

Laura Rulison and Sunday School staff are preparing for the Easter Egg Hunt at the rectory. Fr. Hartt thanked Laura Rulison, Ashley Spath and Victoria Pautler for their hand in preparing the fun event.

Fr. Hartt shared that the Women's Shelter has closed for the season. It was another successful year and incident free. Mary Maloney of the City Mission is our local Mother Teresa. We are blessed to play our part as host. Jim Chenot has been particularly faithful to the City Mission through the years. We are thankful for the witness to the broader community.

Fr. Hartt shared that the time of healing prayers and anointing offered on the first Sunday of the month has grown in participation. He rejoices that the parish has availed themselves of this sacrament with devotion.

ALPHA continues on Wednesday nights. We are fortunate to have five new members of our group. It is a powerful program and one that we can confidently invite our family and friends to explore. Fr. Hartt plans to run an Alpha next fall on Sunday following the 10:30AM Service.

Fr. Hartt met with Dean Harding about the Cathedral congregation being with us during the summer. Further meetings will be taking place to cover the logistics. We look forward to having their presence from June until the start of September. Asbestos tiles are being removed at the Cathedral and the congregation is asked to vacate during the removal.

Fr. Hartt thanked the Vestry for their faithfulness and wished us all a blessed Holy Week.

### **Finance –**

George reviewed the Treasurer's Report for March. Offerings for March were \$18,876. Year to date offerings are at \$56,126. This compares to a budgeted number of \$56,913. Offerings through the same period in 2018 were \$51,170. George reported that these were encouraging through three months.

The investment/endowment accounts both showed gains for March. Merrill Lynch had a return of +0.99% for the month. Year to date return is +11.39%. The Key accounts showed a monthly return of +0.08% and a year to date return of +8.83%. This leaves us with a positive variance in this area YTD of \$345,793. George again noted that we ended 2018 with a loss in this area so there is quite a bit of ground to gain back and the market still can be volatile. Both accounts performed favorably versus market indexes. Expenses through March were \$5,156 over budget.

Pledges for 2019 are at 41 pledging units for a total amount of \$117,724. The website is not yet able to accept pledges but hopefully will be soon. Contributions and pledges for the Restoration Project remain very favorable.

### **Property –**

The mosaic floors in the church will be stripped and cleaned right after Easter. The carpet on the Altar has also been taken to be cleaned.

**Outreach** – March 31<sup>st</sup> completed the 10<sup>th</sup> season of our Overflow Homeless Shelter support Capital City Rescue Mission's support to homeless individuals of the Capital District. This year we housed women nightly from December through March. Thank you for your prayers, financial support and volunteering to aid the women who stayed with us. Special thanks to Mary Maloney for her leadership.

April 28<sup>th</sup> is the Spring Tea. This year the proceeds will benefit Beaver Cross Scholarships for the youth. Judy Burns is seeking donations for Raffle basket items. Please see her if you can donate or help with this year's Tea.

St. Peter's will once again participate in the Albany CROP Walk. We thank Tim Murphy and Marian Holden for volunteering as St. Peter's Recruiters. Please see Tim or Maria for a walker packet or to make a donation to the CROP walk.

### **Old Business- None**

### **New Business –**

The delegates for the 2019 Annual Convention will be Jack Ratzel, Judy Burns, and Alice Sanigular. The delegates were approved on a motion by D. Spath and C. Gordon then unanimously approved by the vestry.

### **Associate Rector's Report** – Mother Sue

The Daughters of the King continue to gather monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. We have been working through the DOK Spiritual Formation Bible study together and will study chapter 8 at our next meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup>. The May meeting is cancelled (due to Mother's Day). We welcome new women to our order – please ask us about Discernment classes.

Confirmation classes continue with three youths attending. They are working hard to prepare for a springtime Confirmation on May 19<sup>th</sup> here at St. Peter's. If you or a family member are interested in learning more about Confirmation, please speak with the clergy.

We are offering Alpha each Wednesday at 6:00pm through May 29<sup>th</sup>. We have a nice mix of St. Peter's parishioners along with newcomers and a variety of ages with approximately 12 attendees. Alpha explores how Christianity answers basic questions of life and includes dinner, a video and a group discussion. It is a great way to introduce a friend or family member to church! If you'd like to join us, please speak with Diana Martin or the clergy.

A group of ladies from St. Peter's is attending the Capital City Rescue Mission's Hearts of Hope luncheon on April 12, 2019 to celebrate the CCRM women and children programs. Mother Sue has been invited to lead the invocation and Blessing.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by M. Lundberg and seconded by N. Creagan, then was approved unanimously by the vestry.

### **Compline**

Father Hartt led Compline.

Respectfully Submitted, Christie J. Gordon

## *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  
Ian Mike.....Sexton  
James P. Shortall.....Assistant Sexton  
Ruth Manss.....Administrative Assistant  
Janice Chenot.....Office Volunteer  
E. Constance Powell.....Historian & Archivist

## *Vestry*

Deborah Spath.....Senior Warden  
James Chenot.....Junior Warden  
George Scala..... Treasurer

Nancy Creagan, Christie Gordon, Fred Hershey,  
Maria Holden, Mark Lundberg,  
Tim Murphy, Jeff Russom, Ashley Spath

## *How to Contact Us*

### **Office Hours:**

Monday -Friday

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

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Website:

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

## *Services*

### **Sunday**

Holy Communion 8:30 a.m.

Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

(1st & 3rd Sundays)

Morning Prayer 10:30 a.m.

(2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

### **Wednesday**

Holy Communion 12:05 p.m.

## **ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**107 State St.**

**Albany, New York 12207**

