



Cornerstone

October 2020

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

From the Rector

Besides being complicated, reality, in my experience, is usually odd. It is not neat, not obvious, not what you expect. ...Reality, in fact, is usually something you could not have guessed. That is one of the reasons I believe Christianity. It is a religion you could not guess." C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (p. 41)

The idea that reality is not what we expect is about as profound a philosophical point as one can imagine. The vindication of Christianity in this way is perhaps even more brilliant.

Life is not what we expect. Like right now. We are busy trying to make sense of one thing after another and to no avail. To say that reality feels a bit unglued would be an understatement. Building blocks of normalcy have been shaken or challenged. Nature seems to have turned against us. Our Nation is bitterly divided.

We need to acknowledge the impact of all this on our souls. As we have been working our way through the pandemic -- which we are all weary of talking about, I know -- we are also working our way through a Nation in turmoil. As your rector, I could remain aloof and that might be prudent. But I am hearing from too many of you that you are in anguish at the sense of social and political incoherence. If we are weary of this virus, we are even more weary of the divisions in our Nation. We need to heal. We need to love one another for Christ's sake. We need to be honest with one another about what is in our hearts. We need to bring our political lives into line with our common humanity. Politics needs to be boring again. When it is not, it becomes a false religion and idolatry. No political party is innocent of this temptation to become a substitute religion. We are created in the image of God, not a party. What truly animates our soul matters.

Lewis is right that reality is not what we expect. It can be odd and unsettling. For that very reason, we need to take great care with our soul's order. We can weather great natural disasters and epidemics. What we cannot weather is the breakdown of mercy, justice, compassion, decency, honesty, fairness, truth, and love. I have been blessed to live 61 years. In my lifetime, I have not seen us in this state. No side is blameless, but we equally know that we can't go on at each other like this much longer.

God's love is for all of us. When we think of St. Peter's predating the founding of our Nation, we feel a special burden of history. I am frequently reminded of the vision that gave us birth. We have always lived it imperfectly. We must continue striving for a more perfect Union. But how we strive matters. We were created for more than this. We know it. Our souls can't endure this kind of drama and its healing begins with us. I began with C.S. Lewis, let me end with St. Francis:

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Fr. Hartt+

From the Associate Rector

During October, the church celebrates the Feast of St. Luke, Physician and Gospel writer. I thought it was fitting, in honor of his memory, to reflect on our own honoring of doctors and the healing arts; especially during this 2020 Pandemic. The 1st lesson appointed for the Feast of St. Luke (October 18) follows:

“Honor physicians for their services, for the Lord created them; for their gift of healing comes from the Most High and they are rewarded by the king. The skill of physicians makes them distinguished, and in the presence of the great they are admired. The Lord created medicines out of the earth, and the sensible will not despise them. And he gave skill to human beings that he might be glorified in his marvelous works. By them the physician heals and takes away pain; the pharmacist makes a mixture from them. God’s works will never be finished; and from him health spreads over all the earth. My child, when you are ill, do not delay, but pray to the Lord, and he will heal you. Give up your faults and direct your hands rightly and cleanse your heart from all sin. Then give the physician his place, for the Lord created him; do not let him leave you, for you need him. There may come a time when recovery lies in the hands of physicians, for they too pray to the Lord that he grant them success in diagnosis and in healing, for the sake of preserving life.” (Sirach 38:1-4,6-10,12-14)

I believe this reading wonderfully captures the marriage between God’s healing grace and the committed work of physicians. As Christians, we need to claim both and realize that they are not only not at odds with one another but are deeply connected. The Lord creates all people and calls some to be physicians, he blesses their study and preparation and increases their skill. Likewise, God, too, wants to be remembered and honored for his healing grace. “When you are ill, do not delay, but pray to the Lord, and he will heal you. Give up your faults and direct your hands rightly and cleanse your heart from all sin. Then give the physician his place, for the Lord created him; do not let him leave you, for you need him.”

We believe that when we pray God always heals. He may heal us in the way we want and expect; he may heal us in other ways. But we do believe healing comes to us in answer to prayer: physically, emotionally and/or spiritually. Thanks be to God for faith in our Lord Jesus Christ who said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.” (Mark 2:17) And so, healing of our souls is the ultimate work that Jesus was and is concerned about. Even at the time of death we believe that God heals. In fact, when one passes from sickness in this earthly life into the fullness of eternal life in God’s kingdom, that person receives the ultimate healing from the Lord: healing from death itself.

Even so, our bodies are important as are our souls in the here and now. We are to care for them, and give thanks to those individuals who help us to do so, never forgetting that our bodies are temples for the Holy Spirit of God. Medical personnel have been stretched in unique ways this year. Let us give thanks for and remember them in our prayers always.

Let us pray, Sanctify, O Lord, those whom you have called to the study and practice of the arts of healing, and to the prevention of disease and pain. Strengthen them by your life-giving Spirit, that by their ministries the health of the community may be promoted, and your creation glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen* (BCP p. 460)

Yours in Christ,

Mtr. Sue Troiano



St. Peter's News

Vestry Meeting

The October Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13th at 5:15pm. The meeting will be held via Zoom. Please call the office in advance if you are unable to do this, so we can make arrangements for you to attend in person.

Also, we would like to Thank Jack Ratzel, Mark and Michele Lundberg, for graciously agreeing to serve as Delegates to Diocesan 152nd Annual Convention this year, which is to be held online on October 24th from 9:00am-3:30pm.

Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King will meet on Sunday, October 18th (following church services) at 11:30am in the 2nd floor Parish Hall. Masks will be worn and social distancing will be maintained.

Morning and Evening Prayer Videos

Please visit the St. Peter's Facebook page for a daily Morning Prayer video with Mtr. Sue and a daily Evening Prayer video with Fr. Hartt. You can also access these services through the St. Peter's Church website's home page.

Sunday Service Videos

Every Sunday a filmed Sunday Service from inside St. Peter's Church with Fr. Hartt and Mtr. Sue is available for your viewing, which also contains music from the St. Peter's Choir. Every Sunday, St. Peter's parishioners are emailed the YouTube video link for that day's service. Each video is also published on the church website on Sunday morning for that day, as well as on the St. Peter's Church Facebook page. The leaflet and readings for each Sunday are also available on the church website. Click on the "Info Center" tab then click on "Weekly Leaflet" or "Weekly Readings" and then click on the appropriate date for each. Both the leaflet and readings can be printed out so that you may follow along with the service.

Virtual Coffee Hour

Virtual Coffee hour is now available at 11:45am every Sunday Morning. Please let us know if you'd like the link for coffee hour emailed to you.

Readers for the YouTube Video's

We are looking for members of St. Peter's, who would like to participate in the Taped Readings for our YouTube Church services. If you are interested please call the parish office at 518-434-3502 for more information.

Daylight Savings Ends

We "fall back" on Sunday, November 1st don't forget to set your clocks back 1 hour on Halloween night before you go to bed.



Wednesday Noon Service

The Wednesday Noon Service with Holy Communion will resume in the church beginning on October 7th. Masks will be required and social distancing will be maintained.

Memorial Service Geoffrey Hoderath

A memorial service will be held in honor of longtime church and choir member, Geoffrey Hoderath, who passed away suddenly on June 8, 2020.

The service will be held on Saturday October 10th at 10:00AM. Social distancing and masks are required. With limited seating, first preference will be given to family members and members of St. Peter's Church. A recording of the service will also be available on Sunday October 11th via YouTube from the church's website.

John Cerniglia

In this difficult time, we have suffered another great loss to our parish family. John Cerniglia passed away in his apartment on Friday, September 25th, 2020. As it was John's fervent wish that the full St. Peter's Choir be able to sing at his funeral, we will postpone the Service until that becomes possible. Interment will be in our Columbarium. There will be no calling hours at the funeral home. We are confident that John and Geoffrey are singing now to the Glory of God in heaven. If parish members wish to make Memorial donations, they may be made to St. Peter's Episcopal Church Choir Fund, 107 State Street, Albany, NY 12207. Messages can be left on John's tribute wall at www.cannonfuneral.com.

Offering Envelopes for 2021

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 2021 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 (518)434-3502. In order for you to receive your envelopes by the first of the year, your changes must be received by **Sunday, October 25th**.

Sunday School & St. Francis Mission

Children's Videos

Every Sunday we feature a Sunday School Lesson video and a Children's Homily video for you to watch from home. The YouTube Video Links are emailed to you every Sunday along with the Sunday Service video. The videos are also available on the church website home page under the St. Peter's Church Facebook section.

Blessings until we can be together again at the Church. If you have any questions, please call Laura @ 518-368-4284.

Supplies for Back-to-School

Thank you! To everyone who donated gift cards or bookbags for the children at Grace and Holy Innocents. We served so many children, and the need is still great. So we would like to extend this opportunity of purchasing the \$10 gift cards to Walmart, Target, Walgreen's or CVS, into the month of October. Please mail the gift card(s) to the church or drop off to Ruth in the church office by October 16th. Once again thank you for your support, your donations are greatly appreciated.

Blessings ~ Laura



St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen

Saturday, October 17th ~ 11AM to 1PM

On the 3rd Saturday of every month St. Peter's Church is committed to preparing take out meals and goodies bags to the people at the St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen, (formerly known as Grace and Holy Innocents) located at 498 Clinton Avenue, Albany, NY 12206. For the past couple months we have only provided take out meals, allowing for all the Covid safety standards. We exceeded our all time record set in August, feeding 185 take out meals in September. The need is getting bigger each week. Please keep these people in your prayers. We invite you to join Laura, our Director of Christian Education, in helping with this important outreach program that is in such desperate need of volunteers. For information or to let her know you are coming please call Laura at (518)368-4284.

Laura is also picking up donations of clothes and house wares, just give her a call.

Thanks and Gratitude! To all that came out to help at St. Francis Soup Kitchen. Thank you also for your donations of clothes, your time and of course the love you share when you are there. **God Bless You** all for helping me continue the ministry of feeding and clothing our community. ~ Laura



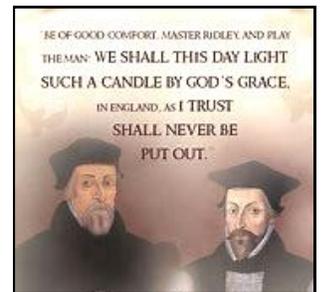
Saint of the Month Club

OCTOBER 16: HUGH LATIMER AND NICHOLAS RIDLEY,

Bishops and Martyrs, 1555

Hugh Latimer was the outstanding English preacher of the Reformation. His sermons against ecclesiastical abuses led to several trials for heresy, but no proof could be established against his orthodoxy. Latimer was little interested in the refinements of doctrine; his zeal was concentrated on the moral life of Christian clergy and people. Born around 1490 in Leicestershire, Latimer graduated from Clare College, Cambridge, and became a Fellow in 1510. Though a conservative, he was attracted to the new currents of reform stemming from the Continental Reformation of the 1520's. King Henry VIII made him a royal chaplain in 1530, and five years later appointed him to the See of Worcester, a position he relinquished in 1539 in opposition to the king's reactionary policies against the progress of the Reformation. In the reign of Edward VI, Latimer became prominent again as a preacher, but he refused to resume his see. With the accession of Queen Mary in 1553 he was imprisoned, and, on October 16th, 1555, he was burned at the stake in Oxford alongside Bishop Nicholas Ridley. Nicholas Ridley was born in Northumberland and was educated at Pembroke College, Cambridge. While there, he belonged to a circle of young men deeply attracted to the currents of reform inspired by the Continental Reformation. A supporter of Archbishop Cranmer's reforming agenda, Ridley became the Archbishop's Chaplain in 1537, and vicar of Herne, Kent, in 1538. He was chosen Master of Pembroke in 1540 and chaplain to Henry VIII and Canon of Canterbury in 1541. Two years later he was acquitted of a charge of heresy. Early in the reign of Edward VI, Ridley was made Bishop of Rochester and participated with Cranmer in the preparation of the first Book of Common Prayer. He was translated to the See of London in 1550, where he was a strong advocate for and administrator of the principles of the Reformation. His unwillingness to recant of his Protestant theology and his opposition to the accession of Queen Mary led to his condemnation and his execution at the side of Bishop Latimer. Latimer reportedly said to Ridley before their execution: "Play the man, Master Ridley; we shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out."

Collect: *Keep us, O Lord, constant in faith and zealous in witness, that, like thy servants Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley, we may live in thy fear, die in thy favor, and rest in thy peace; for the sake of Jesus Christ, thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*



Pandemic Music ~ Neil Keen

Just over 100 years ago, when the influenza epidemic was causing the closure of schools, churches, and theaters in Albany and elsewhere, musicians were responding with their own expressions of the challenges and yearnings of the time. They range from gritty traditional blues, like Essie Jenkins' 1919 *Influenza Blues* [youtube.com/watch?v=dCuqQmukOcE&t=35s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCuqQmukOcE&t=35s) to sophisticated show tunes, like Malvin Franklin's *Influenza Blues*. [youtube.com/watch?v=JZoPTNuYe7Q&t=38s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZoPTNuYe7Q&t=38s)

There is a long history of music in response to epidemics and pandemics:

15th century composer Guillaume DuFay's *O Sancte Sebastian* implores St. Sebastian to save the singer from the Bubonic Plague. [YouTube.com/watch?v=f9Y55hkTXns](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9Y55hkTXns) Many such pieces were written during the Renaissance, seeking aid from the Virgin Mary [youtube.com/watch?v=T-sIdfECBOM#action=share](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-sIdfECBOM#action=share)

The 1582 motet *Santo Guerrier* commemorates a plague in Milan. During this catastrophe, the citizens of Milan decided to build a new temple to Saint Sebastian, the most popular plague saint of medieval and renaissance Europe, pledged to hold annual devotions. This composition recollects these offerings and pledges, serving as a kind of public service announcement. [youtube.com/watch?time_continue=72&v=EG-72IY84Eg&feature=emb_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=72&v=EG-72IY84Eg&feature=emb_logo)

In 1723, just a year after the great plague of Marseille, France ended, leaving over 100,000 people dead, J. S. Bach composed a cantata with the text *There is Nothing Healthy in My Body*. [youtube.com/watch?v=njVEgOVAUMY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njVEgOVAUMY)

More recently the HIV/AIDS epidemic of the 1980s, which claimed 32 million lives worldwide, engendered a wide variety of musical responses, including one of the earliest, *Invocation & Dance* by David Conte [youtube.com/watch?v=jfOnY3hsBe8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jfOnY3hsBe8)

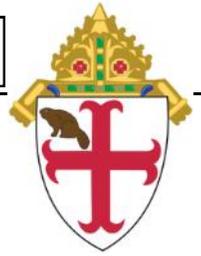
And now, for example, Lisa Bielawa, based in New York, is writing a choral work in response to the current virus. Titled *Broadcast from Home*, the piece is built on testimonials the composer is collecting via social media from individuals in self-isolation or self-quarantine.

October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			
<p>4 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>10:30am - Holy Communion</p> <p>See Website for Video on You Tube</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>12:05 pm - Holy C</p>
<p>11 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>10:30am - Holy Communion</p> <p>See Website for Video on You Tube</p>	<p>12 Columbus Day</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5:15pm - Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>12:05pm - Holy C</p>
<p>18 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>10:30am - Holy Communion</p> <p>11:30am - DOK meeting</p> <p>See Website for Video on You Tube</p>	<p>19 St. Luke the Evangelist</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>12:05pm - Holy C</p>
<p>25 Twenty - first Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>10:30am - Holy Communion</p> <p>See Website for Video on You Tube</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 St. Simon and St. Jude Apostles</p> <p>12:05pm - Holy C</p>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3
Communion	8	9	10
Communion	15	16	17 11:00am - Angels in Training
Communion	22	23 St. James of Jerusalem	24 152nd Diocesan Virtual Convention will be held 9:00am–3:30pm
& St. Jude, Castles Communion	29	30	31 HALLOWEEN 

152nd Convention of the Diocese of Albany



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the date of the 152nd Convention of the Diocese of Albany draws near, the following are some updates/reminders for Convention that may prove helpful in your preparations.

1. **Resolutions:** In an effort to keep this new, virtual convention as efficient as possible, I am urging everyone to hold off on proposing any non-business resolutions until our next in-person convention in June of 2021. However, if there is a resolution that will affect the running of Diocesan business, it must be submitted to Dcn. Marian Sive, Secretary of the Diocese, (msive@ctkcenter.org) no later than Wednesday, September 30. With the concurrence of the Standing Committee, resolutions submitted after that date will not be considered.
2. **Nominations:** All nominations must be received no later than one week before Convention (Saturday, October 17, 2020) using the standard [Nomination form for Elective Office](#). No nominations (other than those received by Oct. 17th) will come before the Convention.
3. **Pre-convention meetings** have been set for Monday, [October 5, 2020](#), beginning at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday, [October 7, 2020](#), beginning at 7:00 p.m. These will be held virtually using the Zoom platform. Simply click on your preferred date to register. You may register for one or both. Part of the agenda for these meetings will include a tutorial on how to have a voice and vote during convention. If you are an alternate, you may want to sign up for one or both of these meetings in case you are called to serve as a deputy.
4. **Certificates of Election and Registration** of clergy and deputies for convention must be completed no later than 10 days before Convention (Wednesday, October 14, 2020). Participation in Convention cannot be guaranteed after that date.
5. **Supplemental Special Rules of Order** will be issued authorizing this year's virtual attendance at Diocesan Convention. A vote to approve the Supplemental Special Rules of Order will be take place immediately after the quorum has been validated. A copy of the Rules of Order will be included in the Pre-Convention and Convention Packet for your review.
6. **Recording:** Please note that both Pre-Convention meetings and the Convention itself will be recorded and live-streamed. If for any reason you would rather not have your image visible during the Pre-Convention Meeting or the Convention itself, you will need to turn off the camera on your computer or smart phone. It is the sole responsibility of each participant to either activate or deactivate their camera setting.

I want to thank each of you for your patience and understanding as we adjust to this new virtual format for this year's Diocesan Convention. I look forward to being with you on Saturday, October 24th. I pray that God, through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, will guide and lead us in all that we do that day, equipping and empowering us to accomplish that which He asks of us. May all that we do, be to His honor and glory and the benefit of His Church and people.

Faithfully Yours in Christ,

Rt. Rev. William H. Love
Bishop of Albany

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**Please register for pre-convention by Friday, October 2
to participate in the voting simulation.**

To register please visit: <https://albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/152nd-convention-registration/>
clergy and deputies must register.

Other Happenings

School of Healing Prayer Level II

7-week class on Thursdays beginning October 8, 2020

How to pray into particular life situations...
Healing in Marriage | Healing the Wounds of Divorce
How to Pray for Inner Healing | Depression and Mental Illness

Just \$75 per person includes workbook

To register:

<https://christthekingcenter.campbrainregistration.com/>



575 BURTON ROAD • GREENWICH, NEW YORK 12304 • 518.692.9550 • CTKCENTER.ORG



Beaver Cross Father and Son Retreat

Campers now have the opportunity to share the camp experience they love with their father's. It's also a great opportunity for sons who have never been to camp to experience a taste of it for the night. Currently connecting to others online has been obligatory for school, many jobs, and relationships. This retreat gives the opportunity for sons and fathers to disconnect from online, and bond with each other. We pray this retreat is rejuvenating, fun, and deepens relationships for both fathers and sons, so they can take on this new school year with enthusiasm!

More information can be found at www.beavercrossministries.org



This event is tailored for dads with sons ages 10-17. However, sons of all ages will have an amazing time! Uncles, foster dads, or mentors are encouraged to attend with sons whose dad is unable to attend with sons who do not have a dad.

WHEN: October 9-10, 2020

ARRIVAL: Friday 6:00 p.m.

DEPARTURE: Saturday 4:00 p.m.

WHO: Fathers & sons!

PRICE: \$99/ per person

*Check-in begins from 6pm-7pm on the 9th and programming begins at 7pm. You are more than welcome to come anytime beginning from 1pm on the 9th and help yourself to our facilities.

Canoeing | Fishing | Nature | Worship | Lawn Games | Campfire | Archery Tag | & More

Capital City Rescue Mission

Our 2020 Annual Banquet & Silent Auction online!

A Virtual live-stream event will take the place of our Annual Fall Banquet. Our *RESTORING HOPE* fundraiser will take place on **October 13th at 7:00 PM**, then the online auction will open for bidding.

All are encouraged to "attend" to help support the programs and services here at Capital City Rescue Mission.

There will be exciting updates from all around the Mission as well as heartwarming testimonies and encouraging developments from residents and staff. To register please visit: <https://capitalcityrescuemission.org/restoring-hope-rsvp/>

Thank you for your compassion for the poor in our community!

Questions? Contact Sue Jones 518-462-0421



Online Silent Auction...

SNEAK PREVIEW: Mon, Oct 12 – 7:45 PM

BIDDING BEGINS: Tue, Oct 13 – 7:45 PM

BIDDING ENDS: Fri, Oct 16 – 7:45 PM

MINUTES FOR THE VESTRY MEETING
ST. PETER'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
March 10, 2020

Present: Fr. Hartt, J. Chenot, D. Spath, A. Closson, N. Creagan, C. Gordon, F. Hershey, T. Murphy, J. Russom

Absent: Mtr. Sue Toriano, M. Holden, M. Lundberg, G. Scala

Opening Prayer Led by Father Hartt

Approval of the Minutes of Vestry Meeting, February 11, 2020

The February 11, 2020 minutes were approved on a motion by A. Closson and seconded by D. Spath. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

Sr. Warden's Report –J. Chenot

We would like to begin our report with great enthusiasm with the overwhelming responses to the parish survey that was sent out in February. Those who have not had the opportunity to fill one out yet are still encouraged to do so. Hard copies of the survey were sent out in February's newsletter, there are copies in the back of the church as well as a web version that can be filled out online. Thank you to the Vestry's Strategic Growth Committee who spent many hours putting the questioner together. We look forward to the information they compile from the surveys so we can move forward with any concerns some may have, as well as report what St. Peter's is doing right when meeting the congregations needs.

Our Lenten season started with our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner, February 25th. Again it was a successful and well attended dinner and a great way to start off Lent. Thanks to Jeff Russom, Janice Chenot, Tim Murphy and Pam Gerfin, as well as so many who volunteered to cook beforehand clean up after the dinner. It was a great turnout for this event and we were able to set the parish hall for the men's shelter with additional food from the dinner for them to enjoy.

The following day was Ash Wednesday with services at noon as well as in the evening. We would like to remind everyone that Evensong services are held each Friday evening at 5:45 during lent. Thank you to the choir and Neil Keen for their participation at all these Friday services.

We need to thank everyone involved with the homeless overflow shelter which will be ending in the next few weeks for the winter season. This now completes our 11th year working with the Albany City Mission helping men in need and we want to thank the congregation for their support with food and monetary donations for this important ministry.

In advance we would like to thank our clergy Father Hartt and Mother Sue for their prayerful preparation and pastoral care during this Lenten season leading us to Palm Sunday, Holy week and Easter Sunday Service. Also we would like to thank the altar and flower guild, ushers, Ian and Pat for all the work and preparations performed each week to ensure that each Sunday as well as the extra work for these services run smoothly. In addition, the church office takes on an incredible amount of extra workload compiling information for the Easter memorials as well as all the extra printing of leaflets and programs. Janice and Ruth have been working tirelessly in the office and we would like to thank you both for the dedication and support you bring to St. Peter's.

Neil Keen and the choir have been working for many weeks now preparing for Good Friday service. This year the choir will be performing "The St. Matthew Passion" on Good Friday, April 10th at 1:00 with orchestra. Thank you to the choir for their time and dedication at rehearsals preparing them for all the music that will be sung at this musical event, as well as the music at the two Easter Sunday services following that.

We will also look forward to the Easter egg hunt on Saturday April 12th, the day before Easter at the rectory. The vestry and clergy are looking forward to this year's Holy Week and Easter Sunday services and looking forward to as great a turn out as we had during the Christmas time season.

On a more serious note in regards to the corona virus epidemic everyone is facing, we want to commend our clergy for doing a wonderful job keeping the congregation as a whole, well informed of the situation at hand, with the guidance laid out by Bishop Love's letter sent to the entire diocese.

Sunday Attendance – The Average Sunday attendance is 130.

Rector's Report - Father Hartt

Last Sunday, Bishop Love's pastoral directive concerning the liturgy and Holy Communion was read to the parish. The letter was reinforced and expanded by our Jr. Warden, Deborah Spath. Father Hartt thanked Deb Spath for her professional guidance last Sunday on needed precautions, in light of the Coronavirus. Deb is a nurse and former Hospital Administrator. Deb helped us to make sense of the current recommendations. Fr. Hartt has also spoken with Terry Flannery, MD. Dr. Flannery will speak to the congregation this coming Sunday. He has helped us to understand much better the CDC directives. In particular, those who are sick and those who have compromised immune systems should avoid public gatherings. If you are ill, have children who are ill, or fall into vulnerable populations of the immune compromised, it is best to postpone church attendance for the time being. Fr. Hartt is happy to bring Holy Communion to those in these categories as we make our way through this time of the virus. Dr. Flannery has been most gracious with his time, as has Deb Spath, to help us to grasp what is going on and to remain well. We are indeed fortunate to have them both.

Fr. Hartt next reported on the success of the Lenten Quiet Day. Mtr. Sue's presentation on prayer was stellar. There was a comprehensive survey of the types of prayer and helpful handouts. Fr. Hartt concluded the time together with Stations of the Cross. The Friday Lenten Evensongs are at this time intended to continue as a devotion during Lent.

Fr. Hartt reported on the final painting in Phase 2 of the interior restoration project. The final sticking point had been the proper color selection for the windowsills. It has been decided to return to the original brown. The issue proved to be the way that lighter colors changed appearance with varying light in the Sanctuary. Jim Chenot offered a good eye for the various possible paint colors and secured several samples. Different times of day were employed in viewing the various paints. Deb Spath, Jeffrey Hartt, and Maria Holden were essential in arriving at a consensus.

Shrove Tuesday's Pancake Supper was a great success. Many thanks to Janice Chenot and our cooks, especially Jim Chenot and Jeff Russom.

Fr. Hartt returned to the topic of living in the present uncertainty. Fr. Hartt spoke of being in God's hands and God's time. We are confident that one strength of our parish is the depth of relationships. We can count on the Lord working through one another to see us through. We have already seen this truth in many ways. Fr. Hartt ended with a prayer:

Heavenly Father, we are in your hands and trust in your mercy. We pray that you would deliver us from the coronavirus in your time. May we cast all our cares on you who care for us. Give us obedient hearts to heed those charged with our health and well-being, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Finance – G. Scala - Treasurer's Report

In George's absence, he submitted the following report:

Offerings for February were \$11,707. This leaves us at \$23,082 YTD through February. This leaves us with a budget deficit of (\$15,693). I am hopeful that the offerings will begin to ramp/catch up to projections especially during the Lent/Easter seasons.

The investment/endowment accounts both showed losses for the month. Merrill Lynch showed a return of -5.97% and the Key accounts showed a return of -4.69% for the month. This leaves us with a negative budget variance in this area of (\$226,409). Both accounts did perform favorably versus market indexes, however with the shortfall in offerings, I am hopeful that the market will rebound in March. There have been some positive signs of late. Expenses for February YTD were \$8,254 under budget.

Pledges for 2020 continue to come in. We have received 43 pledges to date for a total amount of \$131,242 which is greater than our pledges for 2019.

Property – A color was decided on and the windowsills in the church have been painted. We have heard a few complaints about the speakers throughout the church not working properly, so we will check them all to make sure they are fully functioning.

Outreach – Mother Sue

Cn. Howard Williams from Food for the Poor will preach at both services on Sunday 3/22/20. The Outreach Committee asks you to consider supporting this Christian organization that provides global relief to the poor.

The 40th Annual CROP Hunger Walk will be held Sunday 5/3/20 (starting at First Lutheran Church Albany). The Outreach committee is seeking a recruiter to organize our team of walkers and sponsors.

Fr. Hartt will give the remainder of the Outreach report this month.

Old Business – The vestry continued discussing delegates for the Annual Convention. The three delegates will be voted on and decided in the near future.

New Business – COVID19 was discussed at length in respect to how we can make sure everyone is kept safe and healthy. Information is changing daily so there will be much more discussion and guidelines to come.

Associate Rector's Report – Mother Sue

The Albany Diocesan Convention will be held the weekend of June 5-7, 2020 at Camp of the Woods in Speculator NY. The clergy are attending. In addition, we have (2) Convention delegates committed to attend thus far (Caitlin Cehowski and Alice Sanigular). A third nomination from the Vestry is needed.

I completed a six-month course on Adaptive Challenge problem solving on February 24th and look forward to implementing the principles in my ministry here at St. Peter's. I continue to participate in a monthly Transitions gathering of clergy of the Albany Diocese so that we continue to share problems, offer feedback and grow in Adaptive Problem-solving techniques and strategies.

I continue to Chair the Commission on Ministry for the Diocese of Albany. I am currently working with 33 individuals who are in some stage of the discernment/ordination process in our Diocese (both deacons and priests). We hold monthly meetings on the 2nd Saturday of each month in addition to my attendance at Standing Committee meetings when Certifications are needed.

We had a strong start to Lent with a festive Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (Thank you Janice Chenot and your team for coordinating this). The (3) Ash Wednesday services were well attended. I preached at and led the 7:30am service and co-led the noon service. Lent is traditionally a time when many at St. Peter's focus strongly on their faith and commitment to their church.

The Lenten Day program on Prayer was held on Sunday March 8th from noon to 3:30pm with lunch provided by members of the Daughters of the King Julia Chapter (thank you!) We had 17 people in attendance and received excellent feedback on the program. During it, we explored many prayer forms, including practicing some of them, ending our Lenten Day with Stations of the Cross in the sanctuary.

I attended a Recovery Program at St. Luke's Episcopal Church Mechanicville on Saturday 2/22/20 which included a 12-step Eucharist. This is a Holy Communion service which includes each of the 12 steps (commonly used in AA and other recovery programs) interspersed throughout the normal Holy Communion service with time for individual reflection. It was a meaningful experience with ministry potential.

In the Spring I will offer a class on Sunday afternoons (following services) on Practicing Christianity. As a follow-up to the Alpha program, which offers foundational teachings on the Christian faith, this course will help people further cultivate the Christian faith in their lives by exploring prayer, study, service and other topics that help us Practice Christianity.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by T. Murphy and seconded by F. Hershey, then was approved unanimously by the vestry.

Compline

Fr. Hartt led Compline.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christie J. Gordon

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Paul J. Hartt.....Rector
The Rev. Susan Troiano.....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..... Office Manager
Janice Chenot.....Office Volunteer
E. Constance Powell.....Historian & Archivist

Vestry

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

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

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Services

Sunday

Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

See Website for Video
on You Tube

Wednesday

Holy Communion 12:05 p.m.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

