



# THE Cornerstone

## June 2021

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

### From the Rector

By Grace, Mercy, and Love

*Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen. ~ Ephesians 3:20-21*

Dear Parishioners,

Our family was deeply touched by the send-off celebration at Martel's on Pentecost Sunday. It was so deeply moving precisely because it was a celebration of thanksgiving for the life we have shared together in Christ Jesus. Over these sixteen years, we have felt the gift of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit leading our parish family. By God's grace, we have known the wonder of the Church. From time to time, we pause and take our spiritual pulse together. We gather up and see what God has done for us.

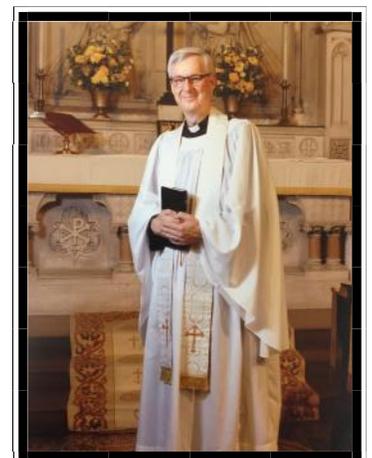
I think often of the over 300 years that St. Peter's has made witness to the Risen Lord. We have shared a 16-year part of that journey. Each part matters. God works His wonders in the time and season that His Providence wills. We have been blessed to enter into a history so much bigger than us and yet our part is also of profound value. This has been a challenging period to be the Church in ways our forebearers would not have understood, even as we would not have grasped their struggles. What I am trying to say is that our get-together at Martel's was an eye-opening moment of the truth that what we have done together and you will continue to do truly matters. God calls us into the Church to give us life, to strengthen and bless us. As sentimental as we feel at such celebrations as last Sunday, what we sense even more deeply is the gift that God has imparted in Christ. I pray that you will always feel that what you are doing at St. Peter's matters. You are living Christ and bringing others to Christ. Nothing matters more.

The boxes are packed (almost), but this time together in the Lord shall never be packed in the Kingdom of God. Carry on!

May the Lord bless and keep you always.

Yours in Christ,

Paul+, Jeffrey, Samuel



Dear Parishioners,

The Vestry met this past Tuesday, May 25th to begin discussions regarding the search for our next Rector at St. Peter's. There are many steps in this process for the vestry to follow and there is much information required by our Diocese that will guide us in a successful Rector search. The first of these steps includes putting information together, and completing forms given to us by the Diocese which is essentially a job description and job search for a new Rector. The Diocese will then proceed to reach out to sources posting our opening for a new Rector. The search committee is also working on a new survey for the parish with questions enabling us to include all our parishioners' input regarding what they feel would make an ideal Rector for St. Peter's and our church community. The information we get back from this survey will be helpful when we get to the interviewing part of the process. When applicants reach out with interest to the Diocese, we will get the list and begin the interview process with all your thoughts and wishes in mind. While there is no real timetable how long this process takes, I have heard one to two years is not unheard of. That said, you have a very proactive, unified vestry and I am very confident if we do our due diligence, we will be calling a Rector before we know it. Please pray for each other and your vestry often as we move through this transition.

In the meantime, I have been working closely with Mother Elizabeth at the Albany Diocese regarding supply ministers for our Sunday Services. Due to the long timeframe that comes with calling a new Rector, it is customary to hire an Interim Rector that would stay with us for the duration. Normally these interims are retired ministers, but there are also interim rectors that are called to only be interims. That said, as much as you may love an interim, please keep in mind we will be unable to call them as Rector. We are working with Mother Elizabeth to find a long-term Interim Rector, but this can be a daunting task with the fact being there are many clergy openings. The option until we find the right Interim Rector is to fill in with supply ministers who are used on a weekly basis.

In searching for weekly supply ministers, Mother Elizabeth was able to pass on information regarding an ordained couple in South Carolina who have worked in the Albany Diocese in the past who expressed interest in helping us. I spoke with them a few weeks ago and since then we have had many wonderful conversations. We have since secured Mother Christina and Father Paul Hunter to lead us in worship beginning the second Sunday in June and through the month of July. They will stay at the rectory during their time with us. I asked Mother Christina if she could put a small bio together about their family to get a bit acquainted with them and she passed along the following narrative for us.

Mother Christina Hunter grew up in Appalachian Ohio. She worked as a newspaper reporter for eight years before going to seminary. She graduated from Trinity School for Ministry in 2010 and was ordained a deacon and priest that same year by the Rt. Rev. William H. Love, IX Bishop of Albany. She co-founded the outreach/mission Oaks of Righteousness in Troy and served there for eight years. She also served as a long-term supply and interim priest at St. John's Church in Troy. Currently, Mother Christina is a stay-at-home mom. She enjoys writing, playing ukulele, drinking coffee with friends, and hiking. She's hoping to summit her last four mountains in the Adirondack 46 this summer.

Father Paul Hunter grew up in California, the Midwest and New York. After studying liberal arts at Thomas Aquinas College in California, he earned an MDiv at Trinity School for Ministry in 2012. He was ordained deacon and priest in 2013 by Bishop Love. Father Paul loves liturgy, theological study, folk music, fairy tales and writing. Much of his ministry has been in the area of inner-city outreach. Currently, he serves as a Latin, Greek and Classics teacher at Holy Trinity Classical Christian School in Beaufort, South Carolina.

Mother Christina and Father Paul have two children, Martha (5) and Jonathan (3).

We want to welcome the Hunters to our church, and we are very excited to meet the whole family when they arrive in Albany. Information on some gatherings will follow. This time more than any other is a time we must all come together and support St. Peter's, your vestry, and the Hunters. The COVID restrictions have been easing considerably and we need to get back into the pews and worship again as we have always known in the past. We need to support and pray for each other and need to get back to church on Sundays. Remember, we are searching for our next Rector, but there may also be Rectors out there looking for a wonderful church like St. Peter's and it would be a shame if they visited us on a Sunday and the pews were empty.

Know that I am humbled by the outpouring support you have given me and your vestry. If you have any further questions or concerns regarding our search process, please feel free to reach out to me.

God bless all of you.

Jim

## Prayer in a Time of Transition

**Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for this, your diocese of Albany. Inspire and sustain us in this time of transition.**

**Incline our hearts to do your will, and so direct us in your ways that the leader you are raising up to be our Bishop will find here joyful disciples, making disciples, united in faith, unflagging in hope, and steeped in mutual charity.**

**In your mercy, accept our repentance, and grant us peace; look with patience on our enthusiasms; and pour rich gifts and grace upon all who are entrusted with the ongoing work of your church; so that, with diligence and charity, we may discern correctly and walk righteously in your ways.**

**This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## Con GRAD ulations !

### CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR 2020-2021 GRADUATES

**CAROLINE E. CREAGAN** graduated Magna Cum Laude from St. Lawrence University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics and Government. (Caroline is the daughter of Nancy and Kevin Creagan).

**DAVID M. POWELL** graduated Summa Cum Laude from Middlebury College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics. (David is the son of Laura Staff and John Powell).

**JARED RUSSOM** graduated from Daemen College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Health Sciences. He continues his education at Daemen College pursuing a Master's Degree in Athletic Training. (Jared is the son of Jeff and Maggie Russom and the nephew of Pete Benson).

**MOLLY BRONSON TUCKER** graduated from Unity College with a Master's of Science Degree in Environmental Studies and Sustainability. (Molly is the granddaughter of Diana Martin).

## Con GRAD ulations !

### CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR 2019-2020 GRADUATES

**SEAN T. MURPHY** graduated from Utica College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business-Economics. (Sean is the son of Julie Hotmer Drao and Tim Murphy).



#### To St. Peter's Church Parishioners,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, Susan Smith, as the newly appointed Hospitality Chairperson. I am honored to serve this important and essential committee particularly at this time in the history of our blessed church. The Hospitality Committee may have an opportunity to play an integral part in the growth of St. Peter's Church.

As the Hospitality Chairperson, during the next few months, I look forward to reaching out to you as parishioners for assistance with the challenges facing this committee. I will necessitate input from parishioners, especially with Coffee Hour. Now that we are worshipping in church, it is vital to the existence of St. Peter's Church for members to get involved with a committee. After church services, we all enjoy the comradery of family and friends, discussing the sermon or other topics that, affect us daily. Hosting a delightful Coffee Hour including a fabulous presentation of your baked goods will provide a conducive environment for all to enjoy.

To conclude, let us all decide to make a commitment to support St. Peter's Church during this transitional period and beyond.

Susan J. Smith

Hospitality Chairperson

## Vestry Meeting

The June Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 8th at 5:15pm.  
The meeting will be held upstairs in the Auditorium, in order to social distance.

## Other Happenings



### **WHI ALUMNI RETREAT**

**June 14-16, 2021**

A special WHI Retreat just for those who have previously attended a Welcome Home Initiative retreat.

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### **WHI Retreat for WOMEN ONLY**

**July 8-10, 2021**

A healing retreat especially for women veterans suffering from PTS and/or moral injury.

*As always, WHI retreats are completely free to veterans.*

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For more information about these events please click on the following link:

<https://ctkcenter.org/healing-ministry/the-welcome-home-initiative>

### **Beaver Cross Camp Registration Open**

Your Beaver Cross Ministries team is excited to announce that **camp registration is OPEN!**

We are so looking forward to offering in-person camp this summer.

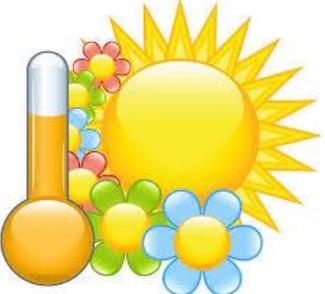
Everything that we know and love about Beaver Cross will remain the same this summer. Our focus is still to build community in Christ, foster friendships and help each child have new experiences and a summer filled with fun. There will be a few changes to allow us to do this safely in our current health climate. Information regarding health & safety precautions can be found on our website: <https://www.beavercrossministries.org/covid-19-information.html>



Registration is located on our website and is open to campers of all ages!

To register online for camp: [www.beavercrossministries.org/camp-registration.html](http://www.beavercrossministries.org/camp-registration.html)

# June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedn
		1	2
<p>6    <b>Second Sunday after Pentecost</b></p> <p>10:30am - Holy Communion</p>	7	<p>8</p> <p>5:15pm - Vestry Meeting</p>	9
<p>13    <b>Third Sunday after Pentecost</b></p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion</p>	14	15	16
<p>20    <b>Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</b> <i>Father's Day</i></p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion</p>	21	22	23
<p>27    <b>Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</b></p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion</p>	28	<p>29    <b>The Apostles</b> <b>Saint Peter &amp; Saint Paul</b></p>	30

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	3	4	5
	10	11 Saint Barnabas the Apostle	12
	17	18	19  11:00am - Angels in Training
	24 The Nativity of St. John the Baptist	25	26
			 <p style="text-align: center;">       — HAPPY —  <i>Father's</i>        — DAY —     </p>

## From the Archives

### New books in the Archives

The Archives has acquired three new Exhibition Catalogs of Len Tantillo, the famous artist. The first is titled “Visions of New York State”, it is a catalog from the SUNY Albany Art Museum, held September 7 to November 3, 1996.

Some of the interesting works in this catalog include:

The Trading House 1915, page 40  
Fort Orange 1635, page 44  
Return of the Experiment (after visit to China), page 62  
City of Albany, New York page 86

The second catalog is entitled “A Moment Past” and is the catalog of the show at the Fenimore Art Museum in Cooperstown in 2014. It is dedicated to Pete Seeger. Interesting titles include:

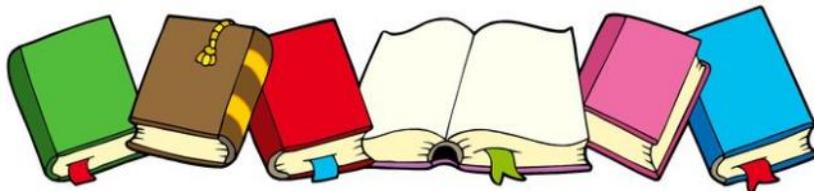
The Bay of Manhattan, page 22  
The Beer Wagon, page 26  
Claverack Landing, 1764 page 40  
Old Erie Canal, page 60

Our final catalog is titled “A Sense of Time” and covers 40 years of history painting and is of the current exhibition at the Albany Institute of History and Art, January 27 through July 25, 2021. It includes:

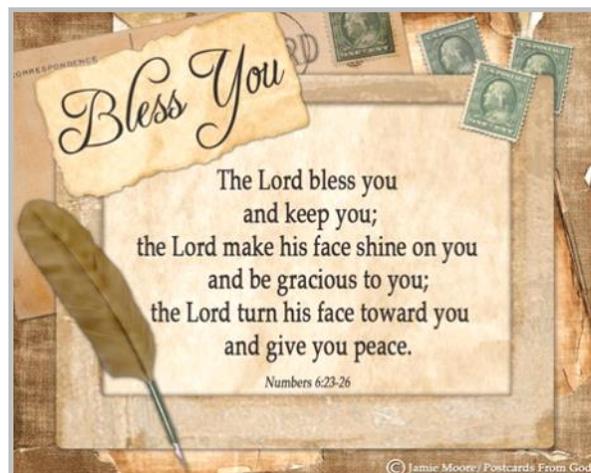
The Galliot, page 43  
Schenectady Town, page 80  
Quebec City, (circa 1748) page 123  
Fulton’s Steamboat at Clermont, page 137

You are Welcome to come to the Archives and take a peek !

Open: Tuesday and Thursday mornings 10:00 - 12:00  
Connie Powell, Church Archivist can be reached at:  
(518) 479-1318



**Thank you !  
Fr. Hartt and Jeffrey  
for the Memories,  
your Support and Love  
over the last 16 years.  
We all will forever hold you in our Hearts.  
Best of Wishes and Prayers  
for your new adventure.  
Blessings from all of us at  
St Peter's**



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

April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Present:** Fr. Hartt, J. Chenot, D. Spath, A. Closson, N. Creagan, C. Gordon, F. Hershey, M. Holden, M. Lundberg, M. Moran, J. Russom, G. Scala

**Absent:** None

Opening Prayer Led by Father Hartt

**Approval of the Vestry Meeting Minutes, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

The March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 minutes were approved on a motion by M. Lundberg and seconded by M. Moran. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

**Sr. Warden's Report** –J. Chenot

We have just completed an unprecedented time in our church life finishing another year of Lent and the Easter under the covid pandemic. This year we were a bit more prepared than last year. Father Hartt and Neil Keen did a wonderful job producing all the online services during the Lenten season including evensong on Fridays, Good Friday, as well as Easter Sunday Service. We were also able to open the Church doors for those comfortable attending these services in person as well. Starting with Palm Sunday, we had an in person service each day during Holy week, including Maundy Thursday evening service, Good Friday and both 8:30 and 10:30 services on Easter Sunday. We were also blessed to have choristers in small groups safely leading us in song for some of these services. Thank you Neil and members who contributed making these services feel a bit back to some normality. Easter Sunday Mother Troiano celebrated her last service with St. Peter's stepping down as our assistant minister. We wish her and her family the best as she pursues a new path in her ministry.

Easter weekend we were able to have our annual Easter egg hunt at the Rectory on the Saturday before Easter, which was well attended. We would like to thank our Sunday school director Laura Rulison for organizing the egg hunt and the Hartt's for opening up their home for the event.

We also want to recognize and thank both Janice and Ruth for continuing the day to day work in the church office during this Lenten season. We were very fortunate to continue our Easter Lilly Memorials for Easter Sunday and thank all those who were able to participate in this Easter tradition at St. Peter's. Thanks to Pat and Wayne who have been working behind the scenes assuring that the church to be cleaned and disinfected after each service.

I have continued to be in contact with the Diocese in regards to supply ministers, as well as candidates who may have interest serving St. Peter's as Interim Rector following Father Hartt's retirement June 1<sup>st</sup>. The vestry will be meeting with the diocese in mid-June with procedures, recommendations and any other information they feel we will need to move forward in search for a new rector.

**Sunday Attendance** – The Average Sunday Attendance is 107.6

**Rector's Report** - Father Hartt

Father Hartt spoke on the services during Holy Week and Easter. There was a sense of great earnestness and devotion at all of the Holy Week services. Despite the liturgical limits, Easter was a joy. It was wonderful to see the good numbers in light of the past year and Covid restrictions. The total for all Easter Services (in-person and online) was 234. Again, this figure does not reflect multiple family members who may have been watching the video. Each video watched was counted as a single view. In order for our ASA to be accurate, we need to add some multiplier to the video watches. In sum, our present ASA is an undercount.

Father Hartt said that he would like to focus chiefly tonight on helping the Vestry to engage the Guilds in this time of transition as well as some similar matters.

Father Hartt began by thanking the Guilds for their faithfulness in this difficult period. Flower and Altar Guilds have been especially challenged with the restrictions and new timelines for the videos. Our Ushers were top-notch under these difficult circumstances. As we look to the future, the Guilds of the parish will be more important than ever. The Vestry should soon reach out to each Guild chairperson to determine their needs and summer availability of members. Most of the Guild matters have been handled internally in consolation with the Rector. Now, the Vestry will need to consider Guild needs. Fr. Hartt offered some observations:

**Flower Guild:**

The Flower Guild has done spectacular work throughout the pandemic. They will soon be able to return to a more normal schedule of arrangements as the videos come to a close with Fr. Hartt's departure on June 1st. Flower Guild expenses may need to be adjusted upwards.

**Altar Guild:**

Fr. Hartt said that the videos have made clear that there are many Altar hangings, linens, veils, and stoles that need attention. The Vestry should anticipate some Altar Guild expenses. These expenses will be for repairs and replacements. Visiting clergy will also need the Vestry to make Altar Guild arrangements in advance. This should be largely on autopilot, but it would be helpful to make sure that Ruth has made the needed Altar guild contacts. When we return to two Services, the Altar Guild will need to be kept informed in order and that clearance between Services is arranged.

**Usher Guild:**

Fr. Hartt senses that some recruitment might be needed going forward. We also need to be sure that our Ushers are comfortable enforcing the restrictions and greeting people in light of Covid. At some point, the Diocesan Guidelines will change and the offertory plate will be passed again. It is very important for the Vestry to stay on top of the changes in Diocesan Guidelines. These changes can be found on the Diocesan website or by a phone call to Jerry Carroll at the Diocesan Office.

**LEM**

The Lay Eucharistic Ministers are deeply devoted to our parish and wish to serve in this time of transition. Covid restrictions have impacted the usual cycle of service of our LEMs. We will need to re-activate the LEM schedule to help supply clergy at the Altar and to offer home Communion as requested by the visiting clergy. We will also want to be sure that those who have served in the past are comfortable going forward in the new terrain.

## **Lectors**

We need to recruit additional readers. We simply do not have enough. Ruth will need to coordinate this work and get readings to Lectors. This will need to be tightened up with supply clergy.

## **Processional Cross**

Unfortunately, a stress crack is developing near where the base of the Cross is located. The Cross is not in acute danger at the moment, but it appears to be a problem that will get worse. Any shaking of the cross during the procession or accidental bumping could be a real problem. Jimmy Troiano is a welder. I asked him for professional advice on the matter. Unfortunately, Jimmy says that bronze is not a metal that can be welded.

## **Microphones**

We continue to get complaints about the audio quality in the church. There is a temptation to think it is all about settings. I think the issue is more involved. Frankly, I think the church might need to invest in a whole new sound system. This may also entail new speakers in more locations.

## **Sexton**

The Vestry will need to stay on top of the needs of Pat who is part-time.

## **Daughters of the King**

While not a Guild, it is important that the Vestry be able to pass on prayer concerns that come to them for the Daughters if that is requested. The prayer work of the Daughters has been exceedingly powerful through the years. They are to be cherished for their devotion.

## **ASA**

The Vestry will want to work with Ruth on maintaining attendance numbers. Ruth can explain our current system. This is an area in need of improvement.

## **Alpha**

It would be good to ask past parish members who have attended Alpha to consider starting a new series during the interim period. A fresh Alpha series by the laity would be a wonderful encouragement and a great opportunity for lay ministry.

## **Supply Clergy**

As the parish moves forward with supply clergy, it is important to know what the Diocesan guidelines are for compensation on Sunday, and for clergy travel. Mtr. Elizabeth could pass this along to Jim. Checks should be available Sunday morning.

## **Staff**

I think that we need to review compensation for support staff. Letter Agreements should be reviewed and updated for those who have them. It is important that we retain and develop staff relationships through more regular formal reviews and appropriate raises.

Fr. Hartt wished to thank Neil for his ongoing work on the videos and excellent work on our music under the present restrictions. All of our soloists and quartets have been top-notch. Thank you to Laura and Ariana for their wonderful work of the Easter Egg hunt.

Fr. Hartt continues to receive wonderful gifts from the children of the parish. Drawings and cards. They are precious. Thank you!

Fr. Hartt was deeply moved during Mtr. Sue's last Easter with us. We will always be in one another's prayers. It has been an honor to serve with Mtr. Troiano for over 13 years. The Lord has blessed this shared ministry in countless ways.

Fr. Hartt wished us a blessed Eastertide.

Fr. Hartt led us in Compline.

## **Finance** – G. Scala - Treasurer's Report

Offerings for the month of March were \$18,221. Year-to-date offerings are \$41,389. This compares to \$51,706 at this time in March 2020.

Investment accounts were both up for the month, Merrill Lynch was up +.84% and Key was up +2.03%. Year-to-date Merrill Lynch is up +3.45% and Key is up +2.53%. George has a virtual meeting with Key this coming week and is hopeful to make some progress regarding distributions. Expenses are \$28,400 under budget through March.

To date we have received 38 pledges for a total pledge amount \$106,894.

Respectfully Submitted,

George Scala

## **Property** –

Renovations previously planned to begin last Spring on the Pumpelly Room will now begin late Spring-early Summer with the first step being repairs to the plaster.

Wayne, who was our weekday greeter when the church was open to the public during week, has expressed interest in taking on some of the Sexton jobs. The vestry discussed hiring Wayne on a part time basis as well as hiring a cleaning service to come in weekly to clean the bathrooms and other areas needing more cleaning attention. A motion to pursue Wayne as a part time employee was made by M. Holden and seconded by M. Lundberg. The motion was approved unanimously by the vestry.

## **Old Business** – None

**New Business** – The vestry has set a date of April 28<sup>th</sup> to meet with the head of the Deployment Office, Mother Elizabeth. This meeting will give the vestry information on how to move forward in the search for St. Peter's next Rector. Father Hartt also spoke and gave suggestions on making sure communication is kept open with the guilds, the office, and the parishioners and making sure that all of their needs are met as we continue ahead after Father's retirement.

## **Adjournment**

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

## **Compline**

Father Hartt led Compline.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christie J. Gordon

## *Clergy & Staff*

Neil K. Keen, F.A.G.O.....Organist & Choirmaster  
Laura Rulison..... Director of Christian Education  
James P. Shortall.....Sexton  
Wayne Hill.....Assisting 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,  
Malcolm Moran, Jeff Russom

## *How to Contact Us*

### **Office Hours:**

Monday - Friday

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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Fax: 518-462-4419

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Website:

www.stpeterschurchalbany.org

## *Services*

### **Sunday**

Holy Communion 8:30 a.m.

Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**107 State St.**

**Albany, New York 12207**

