



# Cornerstone

Summer 2021

Newsletter of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church

107 State Street, Albany, New York

*The LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. - Isaiah 25:6, ESV*

Since arriving in New York just over two weeks ago, Mother Christina and I, along with Martha and Jonathan, have had the chance to meet many of you in the parish. We arrived after two long days of driving from South Carolina and found the rectory furnished, with some delicious food already in the pantry, and Jim Chenot there to welcome us. We have been so blessed by the welcome and the hospitality we have received at St. Peter's, causing me to reflect a little on the important place of hospitality in the Bible and Christian life.

From time to time, as a teacher of literature and history, I have occasion to explain to middle school students how important hospitality was in the ancient world. This was true in both Greek and Hebrew culture. In Greek mythology, Zeus himself was the special patron of guests, and ruthlessly punished offenses against hospitality. In a famous story of Biblical hospitality, three angelic strangers, standing for the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, visit Abraham. Abraham welcomed his guests, in contrast to the men of Sodom who horrifically violate hospitality by attempting to assault the same strangers, just before receiving divine judgment.

Why was hospitality so valued in the ancient times? Partly, it was a matter of necessity. In a time before easy long distance communication, airbnb, or chains of hotels with their own apps, travellers had to rely upon the hospitality of friends, distant relatives and even strangers. In the Bible, hospitality becomes more: It is an image of God's welcome to the weary and heavy laden, and image of the gospel itself.

Heaven often appears in the Bible, not as a land of clouds and harps, but a great feast, a celebration at which all are welcomed. Travellers and pilgrims find a place of refreshment and belonging at God's table. Christ welcomes us to God's table every time we come to Holy Communion, to share in the rich feast he has laid out for us. The Bible concludes with an invitation as the Holy Spirit invites all to the great Wedding Feast of the Lamb (Revelation 22:17)

Hospitality always comes at some cost to the host, and ancient hosts sometimes made great sacrifices to welcome guests. Sometimes, they would have to rush out and buy food, or scrape together the little they had been saving, in order to welcome an unexpected visitor. The cost of God's hospitality is Christ's death on the cross, his flesh and blood offered for the life of the world, which becomes the feast we share in holy communion.

Finally, in the ancient world, extending hospitality to a stranger created a bond of friendship, which might last for generations, with children's children remembering how their grandparents had shared a meal together. There is a remarkable scene in Homer's *Iliad*, where two enemy soldiers realize in the midst of a battle that one's grandfather had welcomed the other's when he was homeless. They refuse to fight each other, honoring the bond of friendship hospitality had created between them. Likewise, when God welcomes us, he does not simply welcome us as individuals, he creates a new community, and joins us together in his household. We are able to join you here at St. Peter's this Summer, precisely because we are all part of this new community that God has established in Jesus Christ.

When we welcome strangers and show hospitality, we are proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ, that he has come to call us to God's feast. This is evangelism: inviting others to share the feast God has prepared for us. At the Lord's table strangers, even enemies, become friends reconciled by the blood of Christ, joined together as his body. We have already been blessed by your hospitality, and thank the whole congregation for your kind welcome. We are blessed to be able to share with you in the Lord's Supper, and in the work of hospitality here at St. Peter's, welcoming others to God's table. However brief this season is, we know that God's welcome has bound us together eternally in Christ and his kingdom.

Father Paul Hunter +



## Shut-Ins

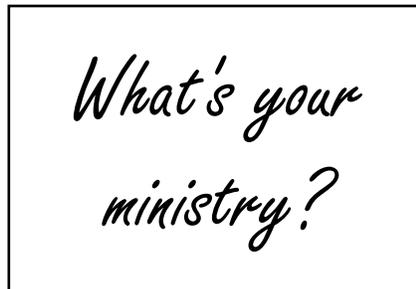
While Mtr. Christina and Fr. Paul are with us this summer, they are very interested in reaching out to those that are shut-in to see if they would like a visit. If you know of anyone that is shut-in, please contact Ruth in the church office or contact either priest directly.

## Food Donations

In continuing to serve and meet the needs of the daily "walk-ins" at our door here at St. Peter's, we are requesting donations of pre-packaged food and drinks that we can distribute to them. These people have come to rely on our clergy who have provided them with funds to purchase food. With our regular clergy gone and our supply clergy here in the office on a limited basis, we would like to be able to give these people something, a little on the healthier side, ready to eat food and a drink when they ask. Some examples of pre-packaged non-perishable foods are: packaged cheese & crackers, packaged tuna, canned items such as beans, salmon, tuna, chicken, chili (anything that is ready to eat and has a pull top), vitamin waters, juice boxes, V-8 (small individual containers, **please no glass**). We are also accepting monetary donations and we will do the shopping for you. Please make your check payable to St. Peter's Church and note "walk-ins" on the memo line.

We are also accepting the ordinary food donations of (non-perishable items). These are usually dropped off in the back of the church, but may be brought into the church office during the week as well.

We thank you for your support in helping those in need.



## Flower Memorials

During the year, our Flower Guild arranges flowers to bring beauty to our sanctuary and joy to our congregation. Those wishing to make a donation for flowers for a memorial, thanksgiving or celebration should call the Church Office to confirm available dates. During Advent, we use only greens; during Lent, the altars are bare. Other Sundays, we welcome contributions. The cost of flowers: Main Altar is \$50, St. Mark's Altar is \$35, and the Tower Altar is also \$35. All requests are payable in advance.

## Lay Eucharistic Ministers

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



## One more --- Con GRAD ulations !

**HANNAH GRILL** graduated from Columbia High School with an Advanced Regents Diploma. She will be attending Marist College. (Hannah is the daughter of Dr. Chris and Laura Grill).

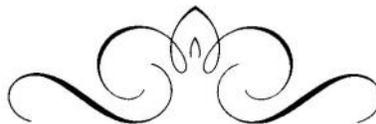
**AGAIN, CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR 2020-2021 HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES**



### Those who have entered into REST:

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection  
to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we commend to Almighty God:

Carly Crewell - June 28, 2021



## Other Happenings

### School of Healing Prayer Level II

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

Next class: Begins July 17, 2021

- Saturdays for 4 weeks
- Christ the King Center
- \$75 full registration; \$40 to refresh with your own workbook



For more information, including the agenda and how to register, please visit:

<https://ctkcenter.org/healing-ministry/the-school-of-healing-prayer/2-uncategorised/114-school-of-healing-prayer-level-2>

### WHI Retreat for WOMEN ONLY

July 8-10, 2021

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

**The Closing Ceremony** for this retreat will be **Saturday, July 10, at 10:00 a.m.**

**The Chapel of St. Michael & All Angels**

The public is encouraged to attend!

For more information and to register please visit:

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

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

### 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)



## Upcoming Event - Save the Date

### 2021 Women's Retreat

*Save the Date: August 20-21, 2021* § [REGISTER NOW!](#)

With Guest speakers [Abi Byrd](#) and [Nana Dolce](#) from the [Charles Simeon Trust](#)



Ladies! You are invited to gather at Christ the King Center for a rejuvenating retreat in the heart of gorgeous Washington County. Expect vibrant praise and worship, peaceful prayer time, a deep dive into God's Word in 1 Peter, fun activities, time with friends new and old and most of all, expect to be filled anew with the Holy Spirit.

For more information, including the agenda and how to register, please visit: <https://ctkcenter.org/events/9-events/201-2021-women-s-retreat-event>.

# July 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
<p>4 The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>10:30am - Holy Communion</p> <p>Independence Day </p>	5 Office Closed	6	7 12:05pm - Holy Communion	8	9	10
11 The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 10:30am - Holy Communion	12	13	14 12:05pm - Holy Communion	15	16	17 11:00am - Angels in Training
18 The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 10:30am - Holy Communion	19	20	21 12:05pm - Holy Communion	22 St. Mary Magdalene	23	24
25 The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer	26 St. James The Apostle	27	28 12:05pm - Holy Communion	29	30	31



# August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</b>  10:30am - Holy Communion	2	3	4  12:05pm - Holy Communion	5	6 <b>The Transfiguration of our LORD</b>	7
8 <b>The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost</b>  10:30am - Holy Communion	9	10	11  12:05pm - Holy Communion	12	13	14
15 <b>The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost</b>  10:30am - Holy Communion	16 <b>Saint Mary The Virgin Mother</b>	17	18  12:05pm - Holy Communion	19	20	21  11:00am - Angels in Training
22 <b>The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b>  10:30am - Holy Communion	23	24 <b>Saint Bartholomew</b>	25  12:05pm - Holy Communion	26	27	28
29 <b>The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b>  10:30am - Holy Communion	30	31				

# 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.



Monastic, c.543 Benedict is generally considered the father of Western monasticism. He was born around 480, at Nursia in central Italy, and was educated at Rome. Rome at this time was overrun by various barbarian tribes and the period was one of considerable political and social instability. Benedict's disapproval of the manners and morals of Rome led him to a vocation of ascetic seclusion. He withdrew to a hillside cave above Lake Subiaco, about forty miles west of Rome, where there was already at least one other hermit. Gradually, after many setbacks and considerable opposition, a community grew up around Benedict. Sometime between 525 and 530, he moved south with some of his disciples to Monte Cassino, midway between Rome and Naples, where he established another community, and, about 540, composed his famous monastic rule. He died sometime between 540 and 550 and was buried in the same grave as his sister, Scholastica. No personality or text in the history of monasticism, it has been said, has occasioned more studies than Benedict and his rule. The major problem for historians is the question of how much of the rule is original. This is closely related to the question of the date of

another, very similar but anonymous, rule for monks, known as The Rule of the Master, which may antedate Benedict's Rule by ten years. This does not detract from the fact that Benedict's firm but reasonable rule has been the basic source document from which most subsequent Western monastic rules were derived. Its average day provides for a little over four hours to be spent in liturgical prayer, a little over five hours in spiritual reading, about six hours of work, one hour for eating, and about eight hours of sleep. The entire Psalter is to be recited in the Divine Office once every week. At profession, the new monk or nun takes vows of "stability, amendment of life, and obedience." The prologue to the Rule says: "And so we are going to establish a school for the service of the Lord. In founding it we hope to introduce nothing harsh or burdensome. But if a certain strictness results from 364 the dictates of equity for the amendment of vices or the preservation of charity, do not be at once dismayed and fly from the way of salvation, whose entrance cannot but be narrow (Matt. 7:14). For as we advance in the religious life and in faith, our hearts expand and we run the way of God's commandments with unspeakable sweetness of love. Thus, never departing from His school, but persevering in the monastery according to His teaching until death, we may by patience share in the sufferings of Christ (1 Peter 4:13) and deserve to have a share also in His kingdom." Gregory the Great wrote Benedict's Life in the second book of his Dialogues. He also adopted Benedictine monasticism as an instrument of evangelization when, in 596, he sent Augustine and his companions to convert the Anglo-Saxon people. In the Anglican Communion today, the rules of many religious orders are strongly influenced by the Benedictine rule.

- From *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*, 2018.

Collect: Gracious God, whose service is perfect freedom and in whose commandments there is nothing harsh nor burdensome, grant that we with thy servant Benedict, may listen with attentive minds, pray with fervent hearts, and serve thee with willing hands so that we live at peace with one another and in obedience to thy Word, Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**MINUTES FOR THE VESTRY MEETING  
ST. PETER'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
May 11, 2021**

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

**Absent:** M. Lundberg

Opening Prayer Led by Father Hartt

**Approval of the Vestry Meeting Minutes, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

The April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 minutes were approved on a motion by J. Russom and seconded by M. Holden. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

**Sr. Warden's Report** – J. Chenot

This evening vestry meeting is sadly the last meeting we will meet with our beloved Father Hartt. We want to express our sincere thanks to him leading us spiritually, helping those in need, consoling those in pain and being a close friend to many in our congregation these past 16 years. Watching his wife Jeffrey support Father Hartt's ministry has been quite remarkable. There have been numerous occasions where I have witnessed Father having to be away from his family on weekends including late evenings in hospitals tending to families in need, all the time Jeffrey supporting him during these times while away. Thank you, Jeffrey for your sacrifice while Father was tending to others in need. We also want to recognize the talent Jeffrey brought to the flower guild with the beautiful flower arrangements, helping to beautify St. Peter's.

The vestry was able to meet with Mother Elizabeth Papazoglakis from the Albany Episcopal Diocese Deployment Office on Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at St. Peter's. Fortunately, she was able to meet with us a month ahead of the original date set to meet and was able to offer us valuable information as we move forward in our search for a new rector. The Diocese will be helping us to find supply ministers to perform Sunday Service until we are able to find a more long-term interim Rector to be with us during the search. A letter was also sent out to the parish regarding Father's departure, thanking him for his service and briefly touching on the search process at hand. Also enclosed was an invitation to celebrate Father Hartt's ministry on Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at the 10:30 service followed by a luncheon. We hope everyone who is able to attend, come to wish Father and Jeffrey Hartt a well-deserved retirement and thank them for their ministry to all of us at St. Peter's.

We have also been in contact with a few ministers who may be interested to lead us during the summer months as supply ministers. This summer more than ever, it will be important for us to support these ministers willing to worship with us and again all of us seeing each other in person for Sunday morning services. When information becomes available regarding summer services and supply ministers, we will get that information out to everyone through social media and hope the word can get out to those you may know, not as well socially connected with social media.

Another letter will be going out to the congregation in detail regarding the process that will be in place as the vestry moves forward in search for a new rector. Please keep the vestry and St. Peter's in prayer during this process.

Thank you, Father Hartt, you have been a blessing to St. Peter's and to each and everyone of us at St. Peter's. We wish you and your family the very best God has intended for all of you as you begin your retirement.

God Bless, Jim

**Sunday Attendance** – The Average Sunday Attendance is 111.4 (as of June 2, 2021)

**Rector's Report** - Father Hartt

Fr. Hartt took the occasion of his last Vestry meeting as Rector of St. Peter's to offer thanks for the gift of ministry here and for both the faithful parishioners and leadership of this parish. It has been a fruitful and blessed 16 years by God's goodness and grace. This gift through the years has been richly blessed by ministering with Mtr. Sue Troiano. Fr. Hartt shall always cherish the blessing of this ministry together. Fr. spoke of his confidence that God will also bless this time of transition and assured the Vestry of his prayers and availability to speak to any candidates that the Vestry directs to him. Fr. Hartt commended the Vestry for the diligence with which they have pursued conversations with Mtr. Elizabeth of the Diocesan Deployment Office. Fr. Hartt is touched by the planned send-off at Martel's. He thanks all who have a hand in this celebration.

Fr. Hartt said that he is encouraged by the gradual return to in-person worship. We seem overall to be increasing slightly each Sunday. Clearly, the vaccines are helping people to have renewed confidence. Fr. Hartt hopes that those numbers will increase as more people become vaccinated and the videos of necessity come to a close after June 1st. Fr. Hartt plans to continue Sunday videos and Evening Prayer until his departure.

As the rectory is prepared for the next clergy family, Fr. Hartt said that things are in fairly good shape overall. There are some issues with plumbing and ceiling patchwork, still to be addressed from prior roof or plumbing leaks. Fr. Hartt is most concerned with the ceiling in the porch area as well as right over the built-in dresser in the Master Bedroom. These locations have been repeated trouble spots. The outside of the rectory should also be examined for damage to trim near the gutters. There have been some issues there as well.

Fr. Hartt is happy to report the Baptism of Hadley Gordon since our last meeting. Pentecost has three Baptisms scheduled. Emilia Fraiser will have her First Holy Communion on Trinity Sunday. It will all be a festive and wonderful way to remember the parish. Fr. Hartt said that it is important to remember that transitions in clergy can cause stress and that communication is key to helping the parish feel the confidence that is warranted. Much hard work has already been done by the Vestry. The parish is in very good hands.

This Saturday we will be having the Committal for our beloved Geoffrey Hoderath. Our hearts go out to Wendy and the entire parish family. Geoffrey has left a beautiful legacy of service to this parish.

Fr. Hartt again expressed his sense of blessing in his time as rector and spoke of how Jeffrey and Samuel have treasured their time here. We are confident that God has great things in store for this precious parish family.

Fr. Hartt led his final Compline as our rector and commended us to God's grace.

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

Offerings for the month of April were \$14,188. Year-to-date offerings are \$55,577. This compares to \$72,826 at this time in April 2020.

Investment accounts were both up for the month, Merrill Lynch was up +4.23% and Key was up +3.55%. Year-to-date Merrill Lynch is up +7.68% and Key is up +6.08%. George reported that his meeting with Key went well and they are to be processing a lump sum distribution to "make up" for past shortages in distributions as well as set us up on a permanent distribution schedule going forward at 5% per year. He will continue to monitor and meet with Key going forward. Expenses are \$45,086 under budget through April.

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

Respectfully Submitted, George Scala

### **Property** –

The cleaning company Janitronics has been hired on a weekly basis to clean higher traffic areas of the church. Wayne Hill was also hired as a part time Sexton. This is in place of the full time Sexton position that was vacated by Ian Mike.

Father Hartt gave the vestry a list of some ongoing issues at the rectory that can now be addressed once he has moved out.

### **Old Business**

Last month the vestry discussed connecting with all the committee chairs and getting updated lists of all members. This is important for the vestry to be able to keep open communication with the committees while we search for our next rector. The vestry also feels it is important to begin listing the committee chairpersons on the back of the leaflet each week. This way if there is any interest in or questions for a certain committee, the contact information is readily available.

### **New Business**

New daily evening prayer and weekly Sunday Services will no longer be posted upon Father Hartt's retirement. There will be a notification sent out to the congregation to make sure that everyone has been informed.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by M. Moran and seconded by A. Spath, then was approved unanimously by the vestry.

### **Compline**

Father Hartt led Compline.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christie J. Gordon

## *Clergy & Staff*

Father Paul Hunter.....Supply Priest  
Mother Christina Hunter.....Supply Priest  
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.

Telephone: 518-434-3502

Fax: 518-462-4419

E-Mail:

Receptionist@stpeterschurchalbany.org

Website:

www.stpeterschurchalbany.org

## *Services*

### **Sunday**

Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

### **Wednesday**

Holy Communion 12:05 p.m.

## ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

