



THE Cornerstone

December 2021

Newsletter of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church

107 State Street, Albany, New York

Advent and Christmas at St. Peter's

Sunday, November 28th

**Advent Wreaths, Calendars, Candles
and Advent Wreath Prayer Leaflets
are available**

Sunday, December 5th

**Sunday School Pageant
Rehearsal during the
10:30am Service**

Sunday, December 19th

**Sunday School Pageant then
Lessons and Carols
10:30am Service
&
Hanging of the Greens
12:00pm
Ham Luncheon
1:00pm**

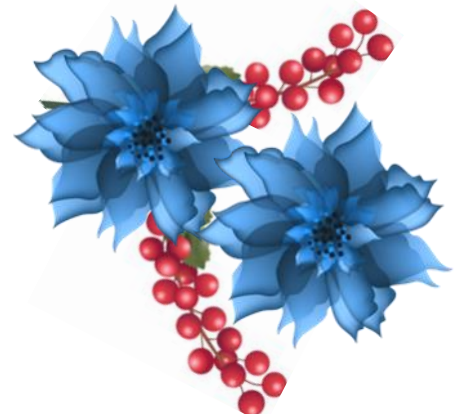
Friday, December 24th

Christmas Eve Services

4:30pm Family Service w/ Crèche
9:30pm Choral Prelude
10:00pm Choral Service

Saturday, December 25th

**Christmas Day
No Service**



St. Peter's Happenings

Vestry Meeting

The December Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 14th at 5:15pm in the second floor meeting room.

Hanging of the Greens

The annual Hanging of the Greens in which we decorate the church for Christmas with pine and balsam will take place immediately following the 10:30am service on Sunday, December 19th. The traditional ham luncheon will be served at 1pm. We ask you to please dress comfortably and bring a dish to share. We need cooks, servers, set-up and clean-up help. We hope that you will join us for this long-time festive tradition.

Christmas Poinsettia & Hanging of the Greens Donation



Your special gifts for poinsettias and greens to honor, show thanks, and to remember loved ones are crucial to this beautiful display and annual parish event. If you would like to be part of this floral tribute, please complete the enclosed Christmas Flower form and send it to the church office with your donation. The deadline is Sunday December 19th. We urge you to be as generous as you can. Thank you for your support.

Christmas Cookies

Laura Rulison, our Director of Christian Education, has reached out to the South End Children's Café to see what we could do for them in the way of Christmas gifts on our Giving Tree. At this time they are not looking for individual gifts for the children but have asked if our congregation would be interested in baking and donating undecorated sugar and/or cut-out cookies. The plan is to have the children of the Café decorate the cookies themselves and bring them home for Christmas. Therefore, we are asking you to bake a dozen sugar/cut-out cookies and bring them to church on Sunday, December 19th as Laura will be decorating the cookies with the children of the Café on Monday, December 20th. If anyone is interested in going with Laura to help the children decorate the cookies please call her at (518)368-4284. As always, thank you for your continued support in giving to those in need.



POTENTIAL LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

JESUS SAID

"DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME!"

What an opportunity to serve our Lord and God by becoming a Lay Eucharistic Minister.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church is the perfect location to fulfill your desire, if interested, in finding practical ways of conveying God's loving care to each other.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers are trained and vested properly by the Church. In the beginning of your involvement, you will shadow other LEM's to understand and feel confident with your role in the church. As a LEM, your responsibilities will be as follows:

- Bringing the Holy Communion Elements to the Credence Table**
- Lighting the Candles at the Alter, Right to Left in the beginning of the service**
- Public speaking (Reading the Psalm and First Reading)**
- Assisting the Priest/Deacon in setting the table for Holy Communion**
- Serving Wine as an element in Holy Communion.**
- Extinguishing the candles at the end of the service, Left to Right.**

Serving as a Lay Eucharistic Minister is tremendously gratifying and one of the most rewarding embodiments on how to serve our God.

The first step of the process is contacting St. Peter's Church Office.

God will support you with everything else after your initial steps!

We wish to thank our volunteers for their service to St. Peter's.

If you would like to volunteer, please call Ruth at the church office (518) 434-3502.

Community Out Reach



AFTER
↔

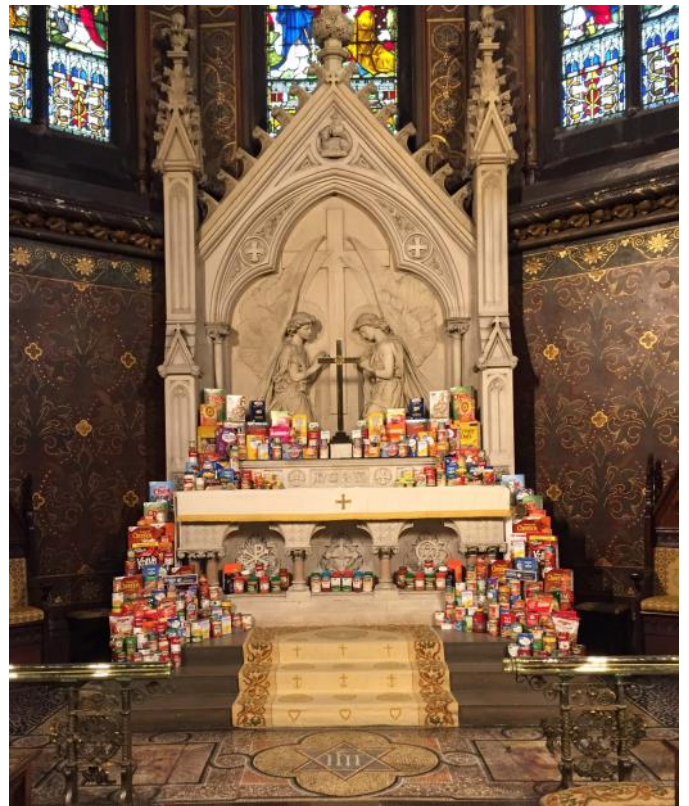


South End Children's Café



BEFORE
←

“Hello” Hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. I want to thank all the donors of boxed and canned food that decorated the Altar. It was beautiful. I was a Happy to take the donations to the South End Children's Cafe and literally stuff all the cabinets. Thank you for helping me feed our community.



A BIG THANK YOU!! to all that donated money to help fill 20 Thanksgiving dinner bags. All the fixings for dinner, plus paper ware and a beautiful towel. Thank you to Janice Chenot for always being my favorite shopping partner. And also, for all the coats and clothing that were donated for our community!

Thanksgiving Altar 2021

December 2021



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wed |
|---|---|--|-----|
| | | | 1 |
| 5 Second Sunday of Advent 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 12 Third Sunday of Advent 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer | 13 | 14 5:15pm - Vestry Meeting | 15 |
| 19 Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Sunday School Pageant - Lessons and Carols 12:00pm - Hanging of the Greens with Luncheon at 1:00pm | | 21 Saint Thomas the Apostle | 22 |
| 26 Saint Stephen, Deacon & Martyr The First Sunday after Christmas Day 10:30am - Holy Communion | 27 Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist Office Closed | 28 The Holy Innocents | 29 |



| Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| | 2 5:30pm - Full Choir Rehearsal | 3 | 4 |
| | 9 5:30pm - Full Choir Rehearsal | 10 | 11 |
| | 16 5:30pm - Full Choir Rehearsal | 17 | 18 11:00am - Angels in Training |
| | 23 5:30pm - Full Choir Rehearsal | 24 Christmas Eve Office Closed 4:30pm - Holy Communion 9:30pm - Choral Prelude 10:00pm - Holy Communion | 25 The Nativity Of Our LORD JESUS CHRIST Christmas Day No Services |
| | 30 No Choir Rehearsal | 31 New Year's Eve Office Closed |    |

St. Peter's Music

CHOIR

Choir rehearsals are on the following schedule:

Thursdays: 5:30pm - 7:00pm Full Choir Rehearsal
Sundays: 9:30am rehearsal for the 10:30am service

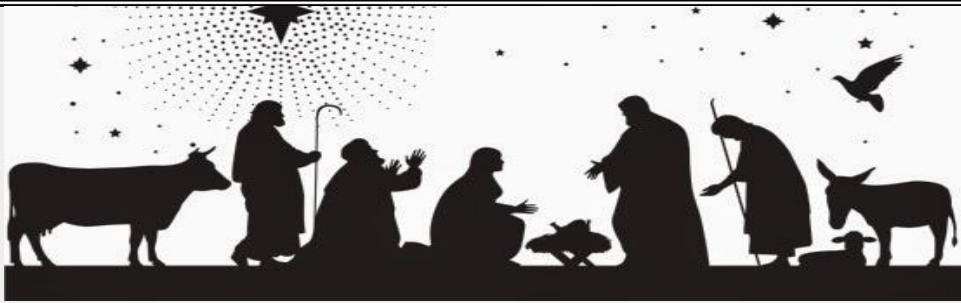
We are eager to welcome boys and girls age 8 to grade 8 to join the Treble section of the choir. Please contact Neil Keen at (518)339-0137 for further information.

FESTIVAL SERVICE of LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, December 19th at 10:30 am



Youth Formation & Sunday School



December 5th - Rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant

Angels, shepherds, and more! We will be giving out parts and readers.

Please bring the children up to get their costumes during Sunday School and perhaps an hour afterwards.

December 19th - The Christmas Pageant, 10:30am

Please have the children upstairs by 10:00am sharp.

December 24th - The Christmas Eve Family Service, 4:30pm

All the children of St. Peter's are invited to join in the procession of the Crèche. Each child will carry a piece of the Manger to be put together before the service. Meet us in the Pumpelly Room for your piece.

Questions or concerns you are always welcome to give Laura Rulison a call at (518)368-4284 or just stop in on any Sunday. Would love to hear from you.

St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen

Saturday, December 18th ~ 11AM to 1PM

The Angels in Training are in desperate need of your help! We invite you to join Laura, our Director of Christian Education, on Saturday, December 18th. Volunteers are still needed for St. Francis Mission. In November 254 dinners were served! Laura arrives at 9:00am on the third Saturday of every month. If you wish to help, please come at 10:30am to assist with serving lunch at 11:30am to 1:00pm The address is 498 Clinton Ave. Go to the back of the building to park and knock on the big grey door. Thank you all in advance for helping with this community outreach. For information please call Laura at (518)368-4284.

*Merry
Christmas*



*Happy
New
Year*

MINUTES FOR THE VESTRY MEETING
ST. PETER'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
October 12th, 2021

Present: J. Chenot, D. Spath, A. Closson, N. Creagan, C. Gordon, F. Hershey, M. Holden, M. Lundberg, J. Russom

Absent: M. Moran, G. Scala

Opening Prayer Led by M. Lundberg.

Approval of the Vestry Meeting Minutes, September 14th, 2021

The September 14th, 2021 minutes were approved on a motion by M. Lundberg and seconded by J. Russom. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

Sr. Warden's Report –A few hours prior to our vestry meeting I was putting a few notes together, as I have done so many times in the past. My few short notes I intended to write down ended up to be a page and a half of notes of many accomplishments and many thank-you's to so many individuals. The list starting from the members on the Vestry, to our Office Staff, Ushers, Altar Guild, LEM's, our Choir, Sunday School and Nursery and all the Supply ministers and Deacons who have helped us in worship each Sunday. I wished in the report I could list everyone's name, but the list would have been quite long and I would be afraid to miss someone. The truth is everyone who has supported our Vestry; the parishioner's that may not have a particular role in the day-to-day goings on in the church, but have been there in the pews each Sunday supporting all of us as we begin to move forward. The support has given me a tremendous love for each and every one of you, and shows everyone your love and commitment to St. Peter's.

It is so humbling when we have a guest minister or Deacon visit to preach on a Sunday, and then to ask if it would be possible to return. They comment on how lovely our church is, but what they find is how welcoming and hospitable our congregation is which wants them to return again. This just confirms to me we are all doing something right during our status, in search for a new Rector.

Next month on All Saints Day we will have two baptisms and two that will receive Holy Communion for the first time. With this said, a small class has been formed by our LEMS to teach those who will be receiving Holy Communion, the meaning of the service. We then look ahead to our pre-Thanksgiving Dinner on November 13th, where we hope many of you are able to come together and enjoy some great food and fellowship. We will again decorate our altar for Thanksgiving with food donations dropped off at the church, which will then later be donated to the local food pantry.

We are now trying to fill our calendar for supply priests for the Advent season. I have had many conversations with our guild members, as well as those in the parish, to give me a litmus test how we should move as Advent moves closer. Many have reported back, wanting us to bring back as many Christmas and Advent traditions as we are able. There are a few uncertainties regarding a few services and dates, but would rather work the details out and then report back to everyone at the November's meeting when things are more concrete. God has been very good to us and I am very confident his hand will steer us all through a meaningful and joyous Advent season.

Again, there were so many individuals I would have loved to thank personally in my report but felt it would not have been fair to so many who have helped in so many ways.

God bless each and every one of you. Jim

Sunday Attendance - The Average Sunday Service is 84.4.

Finance – In George's absence, he submitted a report reviewing the Treasurer's Reports for the month of September. Offerings for the month of September were \$16,340. Year-to-date offerings are \$123,309. This compares to \$143,454 at this time in 2020.

Investment accounts saw declines for the month. Merrill Lynch was down -3.68% for the month and Key was down -4.11%. Year-to-date Merrill Lynch is up +8.22% and Key is up +7.28%. Expenses are \$123,610 under budget through September, primarily due to the vacancies in our clergy positions.

To date we are at 39 pledges for a total pledge amount \$108,094.

Respectfully Submitted, George Scala

Property –

The Altar Guild has purchased some new frontals and some new necessary equipment for the altar and communion.

The painting of the Pumpelly room will be complete by All Saint's Sunday. The furniture is still a few weeks out, but we will be able to start hosting coffee hour in there once again.

The bell tower is undergoing some repairs in order to make it functional again.

The lights and audio system throughout the church are being looked at to see if we can fix or upgrade the current system.

Old Business – None

New Business – There will be new LEM's starting their training in the next few weeks. John Davis, one of our LEM's, will be holding First Communion classes for children who will make their First Communion on All Saints' Sunday. We will also be having 2 baptisms on All Saints' Sunday.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by F. Hershey and seconded by D. Spath, then was approved unanimously by the vestry.

Closing prayer was led by M. Lundberg.

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
Kevin Goolsby.....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,
Malcom 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.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

