



THE Cornerstone

March 2022

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

LENT

"Oh, no, not again! It's almost time for LENT. How depressing. All those sermons about penitence and fasting. I wish we could hurry up and get to Easter. "

Have you been having this conversation in your head, or have you heard someone else saying something like it out loud? Are you one of those people who dread the season of Lent? You may be wondering why we even need Lent anymore.

If I may paraphrase Charlie Brown, *"Isn't there anyone who knows what Lent is all about?"*

And, as Linus might say in reply, *"Sure, Charlie Brown. I can tell you what Lent is all about?"*

Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Those words are from Psalm 51, and they tell us precisely what Lent is about. It is about changing the direction of our life.

We all look forward to the glorious Easter message of resurrection, forgiveness, hope, light, and glory. But, in order to experience the real joy of Easter, to appreciate the true value of what Christ has done for us, we first must let go of the things that are getting in the way of God's redeeming love. Lent is the time each year when we are given an opportunity to focus on our spiritual health, to clean out the clutter of worldly temptations, the cobwebs of remorse, and the dust and dirt of wrong doings and guilt.

The Church uses the word "repentance" to describe the process of spiritual house-cleaning. Unfortunately, the word has acquired a bad reputation, but repentance literally means to "change one's mind." It implies that whenever we are headed in the wrong direction, we have a chance to turn around and go the right way, *God's way*. We are not lost, just temporarily off course. What a hopeful thought!

Repentance is more than just feeling remorse. The goal is not to spend the forty days of Lent feeling miserable. The point is not to just look backward. Yes, we should honestly and fully acknowledge the ways we have failed God and each other and ourselves. But then we are called to hand all those things over to God, asking Him in His mercy to take away the burden of sin we are carrying, relying on His loving-kindness and great compassion to get us turned around and headed in the right direction.

The Good News is, we know He will, because that is the message and promise of Easter:

Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

Then, as once again we greet the Resurrected Jesus, "Welcome happy morning age to age shall sing!"

Dr. John B. Davis



St. Peter's Happenings

Daylight Savings



We "spring ahead" on Sunday, March 13th! Don't forget to set your clocks ahead the night before so that you are prompt for church services that morning.

SHROVE TUESDAY

Our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held on Tuesday, March 1st from 5pm to 6:30pm. Come and join us for great food and amazing fellowship. Volunteers are needed to cook and should arrive by 4pm. If you have any questions or are volunteering to cook, please contact Janice Chenot at (518)786-1070.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Please join us on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd at 5:30pm for a Service of Holy Communion with imposition of ashes. Due to the high demand in supply clergy, we are not able to offer our usual Noontime service with imposition of ashes. Therefore, you may receive imposition of ashes at noon at the Cathedral of All Saints, located at 62 So. Swan Street, just up the street from St. Peter's Church. Deacon Helene Patterson from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Schuylerville will be preaching and officiating our service at 5:30PM. Dr. John Davis will be assisting as the Lay Eucharistic Minister.



Carly's Cards

If anyone would like to secure a month, starting with April, to become part of this marvelous endeavor, please contact Susan Smith at Gpleasant49@gmail.com or (518) 505-6051.

Coffee Hour

Please join use for coffee hour after the 10:30am service. There is a sign up sheet in the kitchen near the Pumpelly room if you wish to volunteer on a Sunday.



Vestry Meeting

The March Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8th at 5:15pm, in the second floor meeting room.

Daughters of the King

The DOK meeting will be held on Sunday, March 27th at 11:45am in the Vestry room.

PLEDGE CARDS

Pledge cards for 2022 were mailed out in January. If you did not receive a pledge card please call the church office. It would be greatly appreciated if you could please take a minute to complete your card and return it to the church office, or place it in the offering plate during the service. Pledges can also be made on the St. Peter's website at www.stpeterschurchalbany.org by clicking on the "Get Your Pledge Card" button. You may also call the church office and we would be more than happy to complete a card for you.

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.

Easter Lily Requests



Parishioners and friends wishing to place lilies on the altars at Easter to honor, show thanks, or remember loved ones are asked to complete the enclosed form and return it to the church

office with your donation no later than Palm Sunday, April 10th. The suggested donation is \$25.

St. Francis Mission & Outreach

St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen

Saturday, March 19th ~ 11AM to 1PM

On the 3rd Saturday of every month, Laura Rulison our Director of Christian Education and new Chairperson of Outreach, along with other volunteers, all get together to help serve the families of our community in the South End of Albany. They served 210 take out meals in February! They also set out clothing, personal hygiene products, fresh eggs and diapers, and all for free. You are welcome to come and witness this amazing outreach program any-time you can, we are there from 9-1.

Thank you! to all the volunteers that come to help serve at St Francis Soup Kitchen. Blessings, Laura

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Laura at (518)368-4284.



The “Bags of love“ pop up for the South End Children’s Café was a HUGE success. I want to thank all that were able to donate a bag to the families.

Blessings, Laura



JOURNEY OF Faith



Episcopal Diocese of Albany Survey

The job of selecting the candidate who will become the next Bishop of the Diocese of Albany is an awesome task, but every parishioner throughout this diverse diocese will have a voice in how this process advances. To create an accurate snapshot of who we are and what we are looking for in our next bishop, we invite you to take a few minutes to respond to our survey.

To complete the survey please copy and paste the following in your browser:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EDOA>

Individual responses to this survey will be kept strictly confidential and will be used collectively to prepare a profile of the diocese, giving potential candidates and the search committee an idea of what kind of person would best fit the needs of the Diocese of Albany at this time.

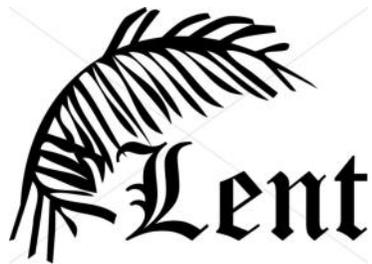
St. Paul, in his first letter to the Church in Corinth, included these words that bear on the issue of selecting a bishop and we ask you to keep them in mind as you fill out the survey:

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same spirit distributes them.

There are different kinds of service but the same Lord.

There are different kinds of working but in all of them and in everyone is the same God at work” (1 Cor 12:4-6).

March 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		1 5:00pm - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	2 ASH WED 8:45am - Top of t 5:30pm - Holy Co w/Ashes
6 First Sunday in Lent 10:30am - Holy Communion	7	8 5:15pm - Vestry Meeting	9 8:45am - Top of t
13 Second Sunday in Lent Spring ahead 1 hour! 🕒 10:30am - Morning Prayer	14	15	16 8:45am - Top of t
20 Third Sunday in Lent 10:30am - Holy Communion	21	22	23 8:45am - Top of t
27 Fourth Sunday in Lent 10:30am - Morning Prayer 11:45am - DOK meeting	28	29	30 8:45am - Top of t



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
WEDNESDAY The Hill Communion 5:30pm - Full Choir	3 5:30pm - Full Choir	4	5
The Hill 5:30pm - Full Choir	10 5:30pm - Full Choir	11	12
The Hill 5:30pm - Full Choir	17 Saint Patrick's Day 5:30pm - Full Choir 	18	19 Saint Joseph 11:00am - Angels in Training
The Hill 5:30pm - Full Choir	24 5:30pm - Full Choir	25 The Annunciation of our Lord Jesus Christ	26
The Hill 5:30pm - Full Choir	31 5:30pm - Full Choir		

Other Happenings

2022 Parish Leadership Conferences

“Hope for the Future”

After much time apart, we invite the clergy and vestries of the Diocese to come together by region. The day will include a time of worship, discussion and a townhall style meeting with Assisting Bishop Michael Smith and members of the Standing Committee. We will also hear an update from the Bishop Profile & Search Committee. Fr Brad Jones, of Christ Church, Schenectady will be offering a teaching.

The day's schedule can be found at:

<https://albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/PLC-2022-AGENDA>

Sadly the Oneonta and Malone conferences have been put on hold. These other opportunities are still available.

Saturday, March 12, 2022 - Christ the King Center, Greenwich

Hudson, Metropolitan, S. Adirondack, & Upper Hudson Deaneries

Saturday, March 19, 2022 - Zoom PLC

Open to anyone unable to attend the in-person meetings

For more information or to register, please visit:

<https://albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/2022-parish-leadership-conference-registration/>

Coming Soon!!

Beaver Cross Spring Break Camp:

Monday April 18th - Friday April 22nd 2022



What better way to spend time off from school than at Beaver Cross Camp! Spring Break Camp, structured similar to our Day Camp program, brings the excitement of summer to the school year. Campers will have the opportunity to do all of their favorite camp activities including: archery, sports, ropes, crafts, field games, campfire and more! The cost of the program is \$150. Registration includes all programmed activities, lunch, and an afternoon snack. Early drop off with breakfast is an additional extra.

More information at: www.beavercrossministries.org/spring-break-camp

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

January 18th, 2022

Present: 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 C. Gordon.

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

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

Sr. Warden's Report –J. Chenot

First, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. Secondly, I would like to thank everyone on the Vestry and those who supported and prayed for us last year during many challenging times. It has been heartwarming to see our congregation, church guilds; choir, staff show up helping in any way to support one other at St. Peters.

Our December and Advent was a joyous time for everyone who were able to attend the services. The Sunday school pageant, Lessons & Carols, Hanging of the Greens with a luncheon as we prepared for Christmas Eve and Christmas. When Christmas Eve arrived, we were able to have two wonderful services that were well attended. The Christmas music and Choir was phenomenal – thank you all.

January 30th will be our annual meeting after the 10:30 service. Again, we would like to thank Nancy Creagan for all her services on the vestry as well as her continued work as chair on the Flower Guild. The vestry has nominated Sharon DeBonis for election to fill Nancy's seat. I also received a resignation/"retirement" letter from Jack Ratzel. We will continue to see Jack on Sunday's, but he will now again enjoy the services with everyone in the congregation. Thank you so much Jack for all your time, commitment and service you have given to St. Peter's over the many years including serving on the Vestry. Thank you again.

Catherine Schunk also reached out to me regarding the Gloria frontal. The frontal has been in need of repair for some time now and asked for some guidance moving forward with restoration. I let her know to move forward and get a quote on repairing the frontal so we can move forward and get it repaired following Easter. Thank you, Cathy.

Navigating the supply ministers each week, forwarding information to the ministers as well as the LEMs needed for each week's Sunday service has been a bit challenging. In some cases we don't have the information as to who and what type of service we may perform in an upcoming Sunday service too one or two days prior. Compiling the leaflets, proper readings, inserts, music at a last minute notice would not be possible if it was not for Ruth and Janice's tedious work in the office. Thank you both.

I am attempting to send a letter out to the congregation prior to the annual meeting updating them on a few items. This will also give me an opportunity to acknowledge so many who were so instrumental keeping St. Peter's open last year for those who were ready to return to worship each Sunday. Please pray I don't leave anyone out – everyone has been so helpful, and it has been wonderful to see everyone work together – the Holy Spirit is at work.

The third phase of the interior restoration has begun with all the scaffolding in place in the Chancel. The work will be done for Easter, and we look forward to its completion. I will also address this work as and the work regarding the choir stalls in my letter as well.

For now I want to just thank each and every one of you for your support and help again. Christmas was wonderful and hope yours was as well.

Jim

Sunday Attendance - The Average Sunday Attendance is 46.0.

Finance – G. Scala - Treasurer's Report

George reviewed the December Treasurer's Report. Offerings for the month of December were \$33,251. Year-to-date offerings were \$202,753. This compares to \$201,703 for 2020.

Investment accounts saw increases for the month. Merrill Lynch was up 2.35% for the month and Key was up 2.38%. Year-to-date Merrill Lynch finished at +13.11% and Key finished at +13.35%. Expenses were \$162,374 under budget for the year, primarily due to the vacancies in our clergy positions.

Pledges are beginning to come in for 2022. The stewardship letter will be going out very soon.

Respectfully Submitted,

George Scala

Property –

We had a company come in to assess the state of the bells in the Bell Tower. They will be bringing forward a proposal for repair.

The elevator in the guild house is currently being repaired.

The cleaning of the Chancel has begun, with all of the scaffolding up. The estimated time until completion is about 3 weeks.

Outreach – None

Old Business – None

New Business – Sharon Debonis has been nominated to fill the vestry seat vacated by N. Creagan who has completed her 2nd 3-year term

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by D. Spath and seconded by M. Holden, 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, Sharon DeBonis, 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.

(1st & 3rd Sunday)

Morning Prayer 10:30 a.m.

(2nd & 4th Sunday)

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

