



Cornerstone

Summer 2022

Newsletter of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church

107 State Street, Albany, New York

The Reverend Christina Hunter

Eve of the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul

Beloved of God,

I am writing to you on a glorious June morning, surrounded by books and half unpacked boxes — signs of a new journey that I'm looking forward to taking with all of you, trusting in the Holy Spirit to guide us.

First, a word of self-introduction for those of you I didn't get a chance to meet last summer: I'm Mtr. Christina Hunter. I'm clergy of the Albany Diocese, ordained deacon and priest in 2010 by the Rt. Rev. William H. Love after graduating from Trinity School for Ministry that same year. I co-founded the mission Oaks of Righteousness in Troy after graduating from seminary, and I served there for eight years. I also served for a year as long term supply/interim at St. John's Episcopal Church in Troy.

Since summer 2019, I've lived in South Carolina with my husband, Fr. Paul Hunter, and our two children, Martha (6) and Jonathan (4). Fr. Paul taught Latin, Greek, Classics and New Testament at Holy Trinity Classical Christian School in Beaufort, SC, while I spent three years at home caring for our growing kids. Our family is deeply grateful for our time in the South, but we quickly had a sense that it was a transition time for us and that God would call us to a new place of ministry in the coming years.

I am excited and grateful for my call to serve Jesus alongside all of you at St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church as priest in charge. I met many of you last summer when Fr. Paul and I served as supply clergy after Fr. Hartt's retirement, and I was struck by the richness of worship here, as well as the deep and quiet faith of so many of you.

It must be the Lord's timing that I'm writing to you on the eve of one of two of our patron's feast days. St. Peter has a feast day in January that commemorates his great confession of faith in Jesus ("You are the Christ, the Son of the living God"), but his regular feast day in June is celebrated along with the other great apostle, St. Paul.

What a contrast these two men are! Peter was a fisherman with rough hands and impulsive speech. He failed Christ in his hour of greatest need, second only to Judas in the depth of his betrayal. And yet, Peter — forgiven by Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit — stood on the day of Pentecost and fearlessly proclaimed the resurrection, ushering thousands into the kingdom.

By contrast, Paul was a cultured Pharisee trained in Hebrew Scriptures and Greek rhetoric. He, too, failed the Messiah sent by the God he claimed to serve, breathing threats and murder against Jesus-followers until his own dramatic conversation to become a disciple himself. This former enemy of the cross spent the rest of his life traveling the ancient world, planting churches and bringing thousands more to saving faith.

Our world has such deep — seemingly impossible — divisions. We see human failure in the church and outside of it. But the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul reminds us that God's grace never fails. And, people from vastly different walks of life can be transformed and used to do great things for the kingdom, no matter the odds. "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31).

St. Peter's has gone through a time of change, and the changes in the church and in our world continue. But we know the One who is faithful. The Lord will bring us through these changes, together, and our eyes will see his wonders along the way.

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus,

Mtr. Christina+



Happenings

Vestry

There will be no vestry meetings for the months of July and August. Meetings will resume in September.

Carly's Cards

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



Summer Choir

Members of the parish are invited to join the singing of the summer choir. We have a brief rehearsal at 9:45am on Sundays to prepare music for the 10:30am service. There is no audition, but the ability to follow musical notation is helpful.

Choir Appreciation

Our choir members have proved themselves outstanding in every way over the past season, and all during the recent years affected by the pandemic. They have sung under a variety of configurations dictated by Covid precautions with understanding and real musical skill. With numbers somewhat reduced by the exigencies of the pandemic and related reasons, each chorister has stepped up with real dedication to what we do. The musical results have been outstanding. In many ways the choir has never sounded better.

Beyond that, the choir has shown to me, personally, a protective care and love during my illness. I appreciate and value this beyond words.

St. Peter's Church has a wonderful choir and choir community!

Neil Keen
Organist and Choirmaster

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour is an important stewardship program of St. Peter's. The volunteers this year: Gayle Hartz, Josephine Kamyra, Robin LaPlante, Michele Lundberg, Donna Ohlman, Alice Sanigular, Susan Smith, Gloria Van Derpoel and Michele Vennard have provided us all with great treats and outstanding hospitality. It's time to provide a summer break for all. Coffee Hour will resume in September. In the meantime, if you would like to become a coffee hour host, please reach out to Michele Vennard @ mlvennard@gmail.com or 518-858-0525 or 518-274-4989.

Our final coffee hour for the summer will be July 3rd as a special welcome to Mother Christina Hunter – please plan to join us!

Baptism - Please join us in celebrating the Baptism of Bennett Closson on Sunday, July 10th at 10:30am. Immediately following the service all are invited to a reception with coffee and cake in the Pumpelly Room.



Child Care/Sunday School: Child care and summer Sunday School will continue all summer. Please bring the children upstairs to the air conditioned rooms for a short lesson and a snack.

LEM Lunch Meeting: Anyone interested in learning more about becoming a Lay Eucharistic Minister? We will be having a lunch meeting sometime in July when Mtr. Christina will be able to participate. We will go over all the duties and responsibilities involved in this Ministry. Anyone who is interested, or even mildly curious, is welcome to sit in with no obligation. If you have any questions please see Gordon Lattey or Susan Smith after any of the services.

Choir Awards - 2022
Choir Awards were given on Sunday, May 15th.
We thank all the members of the choir and congratulate the recipient of named award:
The Rector's Medal to an adult chorister
for distinguished service:

Jordan Chenot

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:

Willard Bridgham - June 3, 2022

Youth Formation & Sunday School



Laura presenting awards ~ June 19th



ICE CREAM SUNDAE SOCIAL



On June 19th we honored those who teach our children here at St. Peter's Church. We give thanks to God for the service of these individuals:

Director of Christian Education
Laura Rulison

Teachers:
Sharon Vardabash
Kelly Welch
Ariana Saffares

Thank you,
teachers!



South End Children's Café



St. Francis Mission

St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen - Saturdays,
July 16th & August 20th ~ 11:00am to 1:00pm

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. You are welcome to come and witness this amazing outreach program anytime you can, we are there from 9am - 1pm. For more information or if you would like to volunteer, please contact Laura at (518)368-4284.

Thank you to all the volunteers that come to help, this amazing outreach program to our community.
Thank you and may God Bless,

Laura



Outreach

St. Peter's is a proud supporter of The Albany Damien Center, which was started in 1988 as a one-room drop-in center for people living with HIV and AIDS. It has grown to offer a full range of services to its members, including housing, meals, nutrition education and groceries, employment training and support, an onsite pharmacy that offers a range of AIDS medications, onsite counseling, assistance with keeping members and their pets together, and an environment where all the members are welcome and accepted. The Center is funded by public assistance, private grants and individual donations, and relies heavily on volunteers. This year St. Peter's was well represented at the annual BBQ to kick off the summer.



The Albany Damien Center



(New) Outreach

Laura will be working on forming an Outreach committee over the summer. We have many programs that St. Peter's is involved with on a regular basis: St. Francis Mission, South End Children's Café, Equinox, The Damien Center (as pictured above) and many more! There are so many ways we can help our community here in the downtown area. By forming a committee we can gather our talents, brainstorm ideas and help others. If you are interested in joining this committee, please reach out to Laura @ 518-368-4284 or send her an email: lsaffares@aol.com

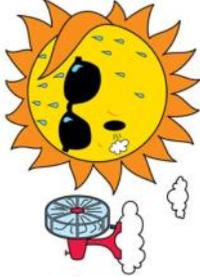


July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 10:30am - Holy Communion	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5	6 8:45am - Top of the Hill	7	8	9
10 The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer w/ Baptism of Bennett Closson	11	12	13 8:45am - Top of the Hill	14	15	16 11:00am - Angels in Training
17 The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion	18	19	20 8:45am - Top of the Hill	21	22 St. Mary Magdalene	23
24 The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer	25 James the Apostle	26	27	28	29 5:00pm - Sheehan / Granados-Kramer Wedding Rehearsal	30 3:00pm - Sheehan / Granados-Kramer Wedding
31 The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer						



August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:45am - Top of the Hill</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>The Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ</p>	
<p>7</p> <p>The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:45am - Top of the Hill</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p> <p>The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer</p>	<p>15</p> <p>St. Mary the Virgin, Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:45am - Top of the Hill</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>11:00am - Angels in Training</p>
<p>21</p> <p>The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>St. Bartholomew the Apostle</p> <p>8:45am - Top of the Hill</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p>The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>8:45am - Top of the Hill</p>			

BEAVER CROSS YOUTH MINISTRY

SUMMER 2022

DAY CAMP

Each camp week is structured around exciting creative themes. Hot lunches & field trips are included. Registration is available for early drop-off and includes a hot breakfast.

Dates	Grades	Regular Rate	Sibling Rate
7/6-7/8	K-8	\$140	\$130
7/11-8/19	K-8	\$230 a week	\$220 a week

FIELD TRIPS ARE BACK

OVERNIGHT CAMP

Date	Session	Grades	Rate	Sibling Rate
7/6-7/8	Beaver Bound	K-2nd	\$180	\$160
7/10-7/15	Discoverers	3rd-5th	\$490	\$420
7/17-7/22	Adventurers I	6th-8th	\$490	\$420
7/22-7/24	Adventurers Weekend	6th-8th	\$100	
7/24-7/29	Adventurers II	6th-8th	\$490	\$420
7/31-8/5	Pioneers I	9th-12th	\$490	\$420
8/5-8/7	Pioneers Weekend	9th-12th	\$100	
8/7-8/12	Pioneers II	9th-12th	\$490	\$420

Scholarships are available

We truly believe in the power of camp and the importance it can have in a camper's life. For this reason we don't want financial strains to stop youth from building community in Christ with us. If you need help paying for a camper to attend **PLEASE** contact us for a scholarship.



Register at WWW.BEAVERCROSSMINISTRIES.ORG TODAY

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Healing Ministry at



Join Sonya Reeder and RJ Ferguson in an exploration and invitation in understanding how giving attention to our own stories is also an invitation to further deepening our relationship with the Father.

This retreat is good for everyone but especially Spiritual Directors and those receiving or looking into receiving Spiritual Direction.

...don't look for shortcuts to God. The market is flooded with surefire easygoing formulas for a successful life that can be practiced in your spare time. Don't fall for that stuff, even though crowds of people do. The way to life – to God! – is vigorous and requires total attention.” ~ Matthew 7:13 (The Message)

REGISTRATION

Join us for an exploration and invitation in understanding how giving attention to our own stories is also an invitation to further deepening our relationship with the Father. Sonya Reeder, LPC-S, and RJ Ferguson, LPC, offer a fresh perspective of understanding oneself as a matter of mapping through the vast workings of our hearts -- impacting how we lead, teach, love, and what we ultimately desire.

Spiritual formation is a willingness to live with an aching heart and an unquenchable thirst as the Holy Spirit arouses a deeper desire to know more fully the Savior whom we long to imitate as we live on this side of heaven. It is a process of detaching from anything and anybody which keeps us from going deeper with Christ, while attaching instead to Christ alone to become more like him. Continuing to be spiritually formed is central to our journey and becoming more like our savior. This journey not only involves being in the word, listening to the leading of the spirit, but it also involves creating space to be within a community of people seeking to go deeper with our Lord as we learn to relate like Him. The writer of Hebrews 3:13 tells us to encourage one another, do not go it alone. When we go it alone it creates division instead of unity and it makes us think we can find our own way instead of inviting others to walk alongside us as the spirit directs our way. We often buy into cultural individualism instead of following the way of the savior which is always relational. The Trinity itself models for us the importance of community and shares the value of relating well.

We hope this retreat will help you become more aware of the spirit's leading, give you the opportunity to be encouraged and to encourage others through sharing the stories God is telling through your life, and we hope you will come to find joy in your journey. Our desire is for this retreat to help give you a new vitality to go back into your life having encountered a God that chases after you and a God who wants you to continue on your faith journey in order to be formed to be more like His son, Jesus.

To register please go to: <https://ctkcenter.org/events/2-uncategorised/233-attending-to-the-soul-registration>

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

May 24th, 2022

Present: J. Chenot, S. DeBonis, C. Gordon, M. Holden, M. Lundberg, M. Moran, J. Russom

Absent: D. Spath, A Closson, F. Hershey, G. Scala

Opening Prayer Led by M. Lundberg.

Approval of the Vestry Meeting Minutes, April 5th, 2022

The April 5th, 2022 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 –J. Chenot

We want to start of our vestry meeting this evening by sending our condolences to the Spath Family with the loss of their beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather and friend, Frank Spath. We were so fortunate to celebrate Frank's life last Sunday at St. Peter's with his family, friends, and fellow firemen. Please know our thoughts and prayers go out to all of you.

This particular vestry meeting is being held a bit later in the month than we normally would meet and report, but wanted to again report how wonderful our Easter Services were. Father John Scott performed both services at 8:30 and 10:30. The prior week we performed all our traditional services including Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. Thank you for all those who had a hand into this year's preparation during the Lenten and Easter services this year. With so much uncertainty, in regards to supply ministry and last minute decisions, the services were beautiful and brought back some sense of normalcy. Thank you all so much for all your help.

I briefly have had some discussions with Mother Christina regarding their move to Albany. They will be arriving in mid to late June, and will be celebrating 10:30 service with us beginning on July 3rd. Much more information to follow regarding the arrival of the Hunter's at our next vestry meeting. Mother Christina and her family are very excited to get to Albany and begin worshiping with all of us, as many of us here are excited as well.

Finally, many thanks to everyone on the Search committee and Vestry for all their work hard work this past year in our search. I truly believe we have been blessed having Mother Christina being called to St. Peter's, and we want to welcome her and her family with open arms as we move forward.

Jim

Sunday Attendance - The Average Sunday Attendance is 69.5.

Finance – G. Scala - Treasurer's Report

In George's absence the Treasurer's Report for April was reviewed. Offerings for the month of April were \$14,751 and Year-to-date we are at \$47,392. This compares to \$55,557 for 2021. Investment accounts saw significant declines for the month. Merrill Lynch was down -7.61% for the month and Key was down -7.42%. Year-to-date Merrill Lynch has a return of -14.60% and Key is at -14.76%. Expenses were \$43,785 under budget year-to-date through April.

We have received 27 pledges for 2022 for a total of \$104,730.

Respectfully Submitted,

George Scala

Property – In preparation for the Hunter family arriving, there have been some repairs completed at the Rectory. The ceiling in the porch has been repaired, some interior painting was done, and the hot water heater has been repaired.

Outreach – The Albany Crop Walk was a success again this year. Thank you to all who donated as St. Peter's raised \$1275 toward the cause.

Old Business – Due to it being a very busy time for many in our parish, we will not be sending delegates to The Annual Convention this year. We hope next year to have some anxious volunteers ready to represent St. Peter's.

New Business – The Hunter Family is due to arrive at the end of June. The vestry discussed some ways to welcome our new Priest in Charge and her family. More details will be shared with the parish once a plan is made.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by M. Moran and seconded by S. DeBonis, then was approved unanimously by the vestry.

Closing prayer was led by M. Lundberg.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christie J. Gordon

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Christina Hunter.....Priest-in-Charge
Neil K. Keen, M. Mus., FAGO, ARCM.....Organist & Choirmaster
Mary E. Bon, M. Mus., CAGO, ARCM.....Assisting Organist
Laura RulisonDirector of Christian Education
Ruth Manss..... Office Manager
James P. Shortall.....Sexton
Wayne Hill.....Sexton
Janice Chenot.....Office Volunteer
E. Constance Powell.....Historian & Archivist

Vestry

James Chenot Senior Warden
Deborah Spath.....Junior Warden
George ScalaTreasurer
Ashley Closson, Sharon DeBonis, Christie Gordon,
Fred Hershey, Maria Holden, Mark Lundberg,
Malcom Moran, Jeff Russom

How to Contact Us

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Fax: 518-462-4419

E-Mail:

Receptionist@stpeterschurchalbany.org

Website:

www.stpeterschurchalbany.org

Services

Sunday

Holy Communion - 8:30 am.

Holy Communion - 10:30 am.

(1st & 3rd Sundays)

Morning Prayer - 10:30 am.

(2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

