



# THE Cornerstone

## Summer 2023

Newsletter of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church

107 State Street, Albany, New York

**The Reverend Christina Hunter**

*"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" – Micah 6:8*

Beloved of God,

We've had quite a year, haven't we?

Since coming here last July to serve as your interim priest, I can say this: Christ is at work among us. I've heard many of you say it, too. There's a new energy here at St. Peter's, all playing out in different ways. Some of you are hungrier to know God. Others are growing more curious about the Bible. Still others have had surprising, everyday encounters with the divine.

I've loved these stories from you. And, I've loved being swept up into the story God has told for 300 years through St. Peter's, communicating the gospel through beauty, music, and acts of mercy. Hearing these stories – and hearing the stories of our neighbors – has borne good fruit in helping us ask the question before us: What is God calling us to do?

There are many ways we'll seek, together, to discern the answer to that question. This summer, we'll be shaped by Jesus' teaching on discipleship in Matthew's gospel during Sunday sermons. This fall, you'll be invited to a gathering to share some good food and tell of your dreams of God's future work through us.

I believe the vision and mission of St. Peter's will take a shape that resonates with our distinctive calling and story. But, there's also a simplicity to what God is calling us to do. As the Micah passage above says, we're to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

With that in mind, I'd like to briefly outline two new fall offerings and ask you to prayerfully consider whether you'd like to be a part of one or both. They are:

**Family Disciple:** This seasonal fellowship group – open to adults and children – will gather once a month by season with a different activity each month. The theme for Fall Family Disciple is "Do Justice." We'll gather once in September for age-appropriate teaching and snacks, once in October for an all-ages service project, and once in November for a fun fellowship gathering. More details to come.

**St. Peter's Prayer School:** This school will meet at noon on second Wednesdays of each month, September through June. Each month will feature a different type of prayer practice. Students can sign up to attend one month's session or can sign up for the year-long certificate option. (I am also open to offering a second monthly session at a different time/day if there is enough interest). Again, more details to come.

What adventures does God have for us in this next year? Let's walk with God and find out together.

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus,

Mtr. Christina+



Learn. Serve. Play.

## **Family Disciple**

A Threefold Way of Growing in Faith

Family Disciple is a seasonal fellowship group that seeks to grow closer to Jesus by learning, serving, and playing together. Our theme for 2023-2024 is “Do Justice. Love Kindness. Walk with God.” Both families with/without kids and singles are welcome to participate.

Participants sign up for Family Disciple by 3-month seasons (fall, winter or spring). There are three monthly gatherings in each season, each with a different activity. Participants are asked to sign up for a season only if they can commit to all three of the monthly gatherings in a season.

### **Month One: Learn**

The Learn Gathering will consist of a 90-minute gathering where we’ll break into age-appropriate classes for a themed teaching and snacks. These gatherings are generally held at St. Peter’s Church.

### **Month Two: Serve**

For the Serve Gathering, we’ll get our hands dirty doing some work of service in our community. These gatherings will meet wherever we’re serving for that season – we’ll begin with a short prayer and get to work.

### **Month Three: Play**

Our Play Gathering will consist of a fun event or activity where we enjoy fellowship, food, and fun together. These gatherings will also meet in varied locations.

Details about the Fall “Do Justice” session will be available soon. If you’re interested in learning more or signing up, email Ruth Manss at: [receptionist@stpeterschurchalbany.org](mailto:receptionist@stpeterschurchalbany.org)

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### **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:

**Gordon Lattey - June 25, 2023**



# Happenings

## Vestry

There will be no vestry meeting for the month of July. The next vestry meeting will be August 8th.

## 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](mailto:Gpleasant49@gmail.com) or (518) 505-6051.

LUNCH IN THE CHURCH GARDEN  
WEDNESDAYS - JULY AND AUGUST  
12:00pm - 1:00pm

NEW

**SUMMER OPEN MIC:** Calling all performers! On July 19th and August 23rd, St. Peter's will host an open mic in our garden at lunchtime (performances begin at 12:30PM). This fun, informal Wednesday event is part of our "Lunch in the Garden" offering where we're inviting downtown workers and visitors to enjoy their brown bag lunches in our garden area on Wednesdays in July and August. If you're interested in performing on either date, please talk to Mtr. Christina or email her at [priest@stpeterschurchalbany.org](mailto:priest@stpeterschurchalbany.org).

## Coffee Hour

Thanks to all our volunteers that have provided us all with great treats and outstanding hospitality. However, it's time to provide a summer break for all. Coffee hour will resume in September. Enjoy your summer!

## 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.

## **WANTED: Archivist-in-Training:**

St. Peter's is looking for a volunteer to be trained as Assistant Archivist, with the goal of eventually taking over as head Church Archivist. The assistant would help file documents and answer reference questions by email or letter. An interest in church history is desirable. Hours flexible. Interested? Contact Church Archivist Connie Powell at 518-479-1318.

## Discernment of the

### Tenth Bishop of Albany Candidate Profiles

Biographical sketches, videos, and answers to essay questions formulated by the Profile & Search Committee are now available publicly for all to review at: <https://albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/candidates-for-bishop/>.

Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to get acquainted with each of the candidates at this stage in the discernment process.

Convention Deputies and Alternate Deputies elected for this year, and diocesan Clergy, are especially urged to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in light of this additional information.

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Watch for news of the Candidate Excursion, August 13-17. Details will be announced soon!

Congregations and individuals are asked to pray daily, asking God to meet the needs of, and to grant spiritual gifts and grace to:

- the candidates and their families; for our diocese in this time of transition;
- the clergy and deputies of Convention who will vote;
- Alternate Deputies who may be called to serve;
- the officers and leadership of our diocese, as well as the many committee members and volunteers who give generously of their time and talent to plan, coordinate, and execute the multiple aspects of the discernment process;
- our consultant, Dcn. Brian Nordwick;
- the Presiding Bishop's Office of Diocesan Development; and
- our staff, whose workload has increased, and who labor gladly, yet often in obscurity, for our benefit

## AWARDS

St. Peter's gave awards on June 18 that honored parishioners who have retired from years of service or concluded a major leadership role. They went to:

Edward Jennings for his years of service as a choir member.

Mary Bon for her years of service to our choir, especially in her role as interim organist and choirmaster.

Moses Kamya for his years of service as head usher.

Jack Ratzel for his years of service as a lay eucharistic minister.

Gordon Lattey for his years of service as a lay eucharistic minister.

Deborah Spath for her service as senior warden (and being the first woman in that role).

## Youth Formation & Sunday School & Outreach



### ICE CREAM SOCIAL

On June 18th 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 Saffares

Teachers:  
Sharon Vardabash  
Kelly Welch  
Ariana Saffares

Thank you,  
teachers!



Laura presenting awards ~ June 18th

### South End Children's Café

**Thanks** to all who have been leaving canned food and non perishable items in the back of the church for me to fill the cabinets for our downtown community. I will be keeping the box out year round. When you are out shopping please think of picking up an extra can of soup or veggies. Every little thing helps.

## St. Francis Mission

**St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen - Saturdays,**  
**July 8th & 15th ~ August 12th & 19th**  
**11:00am to 1:00pm**

On the 2nd & 3rd Saturday of every month, Laura Saffares our Director of Christian Education and Chairperson of Outreach, along with other volunteers, get together to help serve the families of our community. 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, even for just a couple of hours, please contact Laura at (518)368-4284.



Thank you all that donated to the Father's Day bags for St. Francis loaves and fishes. It was an Overwhelming success! Thank you for helping with this community outreach.



## St. Peter's Choir



The St. Peter's Choir is on hiatus during the summer months but we will resume rehearsals in September.

Do you know of a child who might be a candidate for the choir? We will be actively recruiting Boys and Girls, age 8 to grade 8 to join the treble section for our fall start-up. Great music /musical training / performance experience / monthly salary.

The Schedule is:

Rehearsals - Mondays 5-6:15 pm, Thursdays 5-6:30 pm and Sundays 9:30 am before the regular Sunday Worship Service.

Contact Organist Choir Master, Mary Bon, for more information at [maryeb.music@gmail.com](mailto:maryeb.music@gmail.com) or 518-339-5460.

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### The Summer Choir

Come join the Summer Choir at St. Peter's, July through September 3. Everyone ages 8-88+ is welcome. Just come to the choir room for rehearsal at 9:45 a.m. to prepare an easy anthem, service music and hymns for the 10:30 a.m. service. No experience is necessary and there are no mid-week rehearsals. Just sing on the Sundays that are convenient for you. It's rewarding, fun, and an opportunity for the whole family to sing together. If you can sing in the shower, you can sing in the **Summer Choir**. Contact Mary Bon for more information at 518-434-3505 or [maryeb.music@gmail.com](mailto:maryeb.music@gmail.com) or just join us any Sunday.

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Choir awards Sunday was held June 18<sup>th</sup>.

We thank all the members of the choir for their talent, dedication, hard work and beautiful music throughout the year.

The following choristers were singled out for special recognition:

The Rector's Medal (to an adult chorister for distinguished service): RUTH BRIDGHAM

Retiring member EDWARD M. JENNINGS for forty-three years of faithful and distinguished service.

PETER BENSON, MAGGIE RUSSOM and WILLIAM CHENOT for forty years of faithful and distinguished service.

BARBARA ADAMS and MALCOLM MORAN for twenty-five years of faithful and distinguished service.

JORDAN CHENOT and CHRISTIE GORDON For twenty years of faithful and distinguished service.

COLE CEHOWSKI and NATHAN DOUGLAS for completing the year 2020 with the rank of Novice.

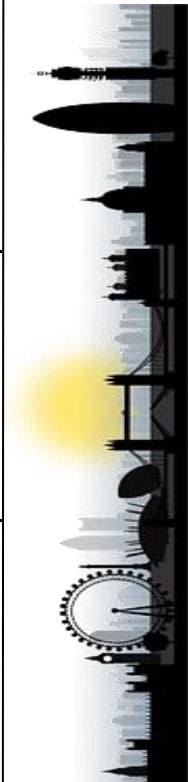
DIANA MARTIN for her continued invaluable service as Choir Mother, Robe Organizer, and (with Janice Chenot,) organizer of the Easter Breakfast for all who participated in both Easter Services.

A special thank you to Malcolm Moran who served as guest organist during the final period of Neil's illness and assisting organist throughout the year; Jordan Chenot, timpanist at the Messiah, Christmas and Easter Service and occasional carillonneur; and Janice and James Chenot who, among their many endeavors, graciously host the post Messiah Choir Party and Year End Picnic.


### THANK YOU

During this period since Neil Keen's passing, it has been a bittersweet joy to work with and serve with your wonderful, talented choir making beautiful music to the Lord. I am so grateful to the choir, congregation, staff and vestry for your care, support and companionship on this journey. Thank you! Mary Bon

# July 2023

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

# August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 12pm - Lunch in the Garden	3	4	5
6 The Transfiguration of our Lord 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion	7	8 5:15 - Vestry Meeting	9 12pm - Lunch in the Garden	10	11	12
13 The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer	14	15 St. Mary the Virgin Mother	16 12pm - Lunch in the Garden	17	18	19 11:00am - Angels in Training
20 The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion	21	22	23 12pm - Lunch in the Garden Open Mic	24 St. Bartholomew	25	26 11:00am - Angels in Training
27 The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer	28	29	30 12pm - Lunch in the Garden	31		

# BEAVER CROSS YOUTH MINISTRY



Beaver Cross is a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany and our mission is to build community in Christ. Located in Greenwich, NY Beaver Cross Ministries is a year round youth ministry program. Our focus is to be an active youth ministry with retreats and break camps during the school year and summer camp during summer break. Across our ministries, we provide youth and young adults opportunities to explore and deepen their faith through dynamic Biblical teaching, fellowship in a Christian community, and awesome camp activities; new friendships are created and old ones rekindled as Beaver Cross campers laugh and learn together in an environment devoted to faith, friendship and fun! For more information on Sonshine Youth Retreats and Beaver Cross Day/Night Camp please visit:

<https://www.beavercrossministries.org/summer-camp.html>

## Summer Camp 2023

**DAY & OVERNIGHT PROGRAMS**

**BEAVER CROSS  
19 64  
CAMPS**

Any person entering Kindergarten-Age 17  
8:00-5:30 Day Program (Optional 7:30AM Drop Off)  
Hot Lunch, Tuesday Field Trip, & Snacks Included  
Overnight Program Weeks Available By Age Group

High Ropes | Arts & Crafts | Bubble Balls | Sports | Archery  
Sling Shots | Axe Throwing | Fishing | Games & More !

Greenwich, NY | [www.BeaverCrossMinistries.org](http://www.BeaverCrossMinistries.org) | 518.692.9550 ex.114



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Attending to the Soul Retreat: Deepening Our Faith Journey

August 24-26, 2023

*But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.* ~ Isaiah 64:8 (ESV)

God cares about Holiness and He is always working to shape us into being more like His son. Like a potter, He leans into us and leans over us as He molds us into the shape He so desires. Like a patient artisan, He pinches, trims, and squeezes us into the shape He longs to see. Therefore, we must be willing to examine our hearts to name elements in our lives that resist His shaping of us.

Attending to our soul is necessary as we seek God's renewal and transformation in our lives. As we learn to pay attention to our soul we will become more aware of what lies underneath the energy that promotes sin, yet also awakens our longing and desire for more. Join us as we look into our own soul, not to self promote, but rather to promote spiritual formation that reflects more of the life of Christ in our lives.

**NOTE:** While this is a continuation of last year's retreat, it stands on its own. You do not have to have attended last year for this to be a fruitful retreat for you.

REGISTRATION (coming soon) | [SPEAKER BIOS](#) | RETREAT AGENDA (coming soon)

:<https://ctkcenter.org/events/9-events/290-attending-to-the-soul-retreat-2023>

**MINUTES FOR THE VESTRY MEETING**  
**ST. PETER'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Present:** Mtr. Christina, J. Chenot, D. Spath, S. Debonis, C. Gordon, F. Hershey M. Holden, M. Lundberg, M. Moran, J. Russom

**Absent:** P. Benson, A. Closson, S. Hartt, G. Scala

Opening Prayer Led by Mtr. Christina.

**Approval of the Vestry Meeting Minutes, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

The vestry minutes from the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved on a motion by M. Moran, seconded by M. Lundberg, then unanimously approved by the vestry.

**Priest in Charge Report – Mtr. Christina**

**Rector stuff:**

1. Completed marital preparation for Trisha Roohan and Tyler Hull. Their wedding is set for May 27.
2. Completed marital preparation for Katie Brillat and Sam Haynes. Their wedding is set for June 1.
3. Prepared the liturgy for, created the songbook for, and launched the new “Children’s Chapel” on April 30. Eleven of us were there, including eight children. We sang some songs and shared communion. It was a good start. (See attached liturgy).
4. Am preparing at least one child to receive first Holy Communion on Father’s Day/Awards Sunday. Also working with some of you on creating awards for several parishioners.
5. Continuing with regular Wednesday morning staff meetings with Ruth, Pat, and Wayne. Also met with Laura in the last month regarding her work in children’s ministry and outreach.
6. Working with Wayne to establish set hours that the church will be open to visitors on weekdays (probably during the lunch hour). We’re planning on posting set hours with signage once we work it out with Wayne’s other work duties.
7. Did three hospital visits in the last month.
8. I will be traveling the weekend of June 4, and I’ll be on vacation from July 21-28. Dcn. Helene Patterson has agreed to lead services for us during the two Sundays that I’ll be away.
9. Met with Ruth on May 4 and completed her annual review, using the updated job description assembled by the Personnel Task Force.
10. Imani Bryant will not be staying in the upstairs apartment this summer. Her first plan – working a campus job and living at New Paltz over the summer – worked out for her. She wanted to thank you the church for agreeing to be her fallback plan for housing.

**Interim stuff:**

1. Big Picture Update:
  - a. The Eastertide “Who is my Neighbor?” series is going well. We’re still expecting speakers from the Cathedral and the Children’s Café.
  - b. I led two “holy brainstorming” sessions on April 23 (after the 10:30) and April 25 (at 7 pm via Zoom). We had roughly a dozen participants between the two meetings who came up with some helpful lists of our assets as a parish. I’m planning on finding a way to share the results with the parish – possibly in the June newsletter.

Administrative Update: Have been in touch with various task force members regarding their work.

Submitted by The Rev. Christina Hunter

**Sr. Warden’s Report** –J. Chenot

Normally, the vestry meeting following our Easter season, I would normally report that we had begun to see a large decline in attendance at the Sunday services. It seems though this year may be an exception. Our Easter season continues each Sunday and all have been well attended. Many members are returning on a regular basis each Sunday, including new members who have just come around in the past few months. More encouraging is the amount of children we now have our Sunday school which continues to grow.

Mother Christina’s intense interest in the life and history of St. Peter’s has been so helpful in so many ways. The finding of the altar from the first edifice of St. Peter’s, had been in our vestry room for many years, has now been rededicated to our children’s Chapel for our Sunday School Services. We also have had small discussion groups led by Mother Christina following the 10:30 service, which also have been well attended. These discussions have been very helpful ... Thank you for those who have been able to attend these small meetings. We also have been hosting speakers from the local community the past few Sundays who represent many organizations that help those in need, who are quite frankly our neighbors. We hope in the near future we will reconnect with these organizations, finding areas we may be able to help their outreach mission.

All the interest in these activities that have followed after Easter Sunday has helped tremendously with attendance. Thank you for those who have been able to participated in any of these gatherings. This up-coming Sunday we celebrate Mother's Day. The Sunday school children, with the help of Laura Saffares, will be arranging flowers to hand out after the 10:30 service. Thank you Laura for all you do for our youth at St. Peters.

Looking ahead on Father's Day, June 18th, the Choir and Sunday school will be ending their regular schedule this year till fall. Awards will be given out to them, as well as others in the congregation marking their successes and milestones. We hope that many will attend this special service at 10:30 and celebrate with them, which is followed by an ice cream social hosted by the Sunday school at coffee hour.

Thank you all for your continued help and support.

Jim

**Sunday Attendance** - The Average Sunday Attendance is 86.7, as of June 4th.

**Finance** – G. Scala - Treasurer's Report Highlights/Summary – April 2023

	APR	YEAR-TO-DATE
OFFERINGS	\$18,233	\$60,264
EXPENSES	(\$41,688)	(\$183,119)
GAIN/(LOSS)	(\$23,455)	(\$122,855)
WITHDRAWLS FROM EN- DOWMENT TO FUND	\$39,906	\$126,951

Endowment Return (Merrill Lynch)

April: +0.66%

Index Calculated Return: +0.59%

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Updated 2023 Pledges:

32 for a total of \$116,880

YTD Offerings through April '23 are \$12,872 higher than '22

**Property** –

The church will be installing Verizon Fios for updated phone system, security system, fire alarms, and internet. This project will span quite a few months due to Verizon needing to install the fiber-optic lines, but the vestry is excited to move forward with these updates.

The blower for the organ has been out of commission since right before Easter. There is a plan to extract the blower and bring it to be assessed for repair. If it can not be repaired, we will be looking to purchase a new blower.

**Outreach** –

Laura Saffares continues to represent St. Peter's faithfully twice a month at Loaves and Fishes, the soup kitchen on Clinton Avenue in Albany. The Committee is preparing for the annual Damien Center cookout on May 27. There will be a meeting of the Committee on May 21, after the 10:30 service.

**Old Business** –

As of current, there are 15 applicants for the Organist/Choir Master position posting. We will leave the posting up until around May 20<sup>th</sup>. From there, a small committee will begin narrowing down the applicants and select which ones they would like to move forward with interviewing.

**New Business** –

We have received a generous directed donation restricted specifically for Altar Guild use. Refer to the attached letter for specific details. The vestry gratefully accepted this gift with the restricted terms on a motion by M. Lundberg, seconded by F. Hershey, then unanimously approved by the vestry.

The vestry began discussing the need for a security and safety team for Sunday mornings. There has been an increase in traffic on Sunday mornings and we feel possibly some security training could be beneficial to the congregation.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by C. Gordon and seconded by D. Spath, then was approved unanimously by the vestry.

Compline was led by Mtr. Christina.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Christie J. Gordon

## *Clergy & Staff*

The Rev. Christina Hunter.....Priest-in-Charge  
Mary E. Bon, M. Mus., CAGO, ARCM.....Organist & Choir Director  
Laura Rulison.....Director 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 Scala .....Treasurer  
Christie Gordon.....Clerk

Pete Benson, Ashley Closson, Sharon DeBonis, Samuel Hartt,  
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 8:30 a.m.

Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

(1st & 3rd Sundays)

Morning Prayer 10:30 a.m.

( 2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday )

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**107 State St.**

**Albany, New York 12207**

