



# The Cornerstone

## October 2024

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

“Let all things their Creator bless, and worship Him in humbleness. O praise Him! Alleluia!”  
— *From Hymn 400 “All Creatures of our God and King”*

Beloved of God,

By the time you're reading this, home pet blessings will already be underway in honor of St. Francis' Day. And, we'll be gearing up for a church liturgy of animal blessing on Oct. 4 — the first St. Peter's has held since 2019.

Have you ever wondered where this tradition comes from? Let's explore a little of that question.

The concept of blessing animals — and of care of our earth in general — is fundamental to our understanding of who human beings are and what God has made us to be. In our creation story that we share with our Jewish friends, the very first human is formed from the soil of the ground and commanded to serve and to protect it. This human names all of the creatures who God has made. This story tells us that, in our very bones and marrow, we are part of this good earth, and it is our responsibility.

Animals are a part of that responsibility. There are stories throughout Scripture of God's delight in animals — even in swarming insects and terrifying sea monsters and wild beasts that we may not value or love. But God loves them all. When Israel was freed from Egyptian slavery, it's worth noting that their animals were freed as well (“not a hoof shall be left behind” Exodus 10:26), and when God commanded that Israel observe a weekly day of Sabbath rest, animals were included in that rest from work.

But these stories do not only appear in Hebrew Scriptures. The visionary Christian book of Revelation contains imagery that implies a restoration of all of the creatures of the created world, swept up in worship and adoring God. We also have many stories of Christian saints who had animal companions throughout church history — a lion (St. Jerome), ducks (St. Cuthbert), a pig (St. Anthony the Great), frogs (St. Ulphia), and a deer (St. Giles).

St. Francis of Assisi, however, is widely recognized as the patron saint of animals. This Italian son of a merchant tried his hand at military life before being taken prisoner and falling ill. After his ransom and return home, he went through a period of deep sadness and soul searching. This led to a visionary encounter with Christ and a call to imitate the life of Jesus, especially his poverty. Francis became a wandering preacher, and others began wandering with him, ultimately leading to the creation of the Franciscan religious order.

It may seem strange to think of joy and poverty together. Yet, joy is one of the hallmarks of Franciscan spirituality. St. Francis' relinquishing of possessions also led him to a deep sense of freedom and gratitude for creation. Francis had a familial affection for nature, calling elements like the sun, the moon, water, earth and fire his brothers and sisters. He famously tamed a fierce wolf that was terrorizing a town, preached to flocks of birds, and mirrored the overflowing love that God has for the cosmos.

So if you are a pet owner or an animal lover, know that the friendship you share with your creaturely companions is a holy impulse that your Creator gave to you. And when we bless animals, we are — as the servants and protectors of the earth — pronouncing the ancient blessing that God spoke over all the world.

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus,

Mtr. Christina+



Giving Hope... Transforming Lives.

# Capital City Rescue Mission and St. Peter's Episcopal Church Overnight Men's Shelter

Partnering together for Winter Emergency Shelter since 2009



Please consider volunteering with the Mission and the Church as this vital ministry is offered to needy men in Albany! **Attendance at one of the orientation sessions is required, so please sign up today!**

## Upcoming Orientation Sessions:

Thursday, October 24, 7:00PM

Saturday, October 26, 10:00AM

**Location:** St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
107 State St, Albany, NY 12207

Volunteers will assist Mission and Church Staff with hospitality, ministry, and oversight of all guest needs. Specific duties include explaining shelter guidelines, serving snacks and drinks, and settling in guests for the night. Additional time may be spent exchanging stories and enjoying Christian movies. Volunteers may choose to volunteer a few hours a night, or volunteer for a full night, Overnight Volunteers have the option to sleep in reclining chairs provided by the Church.

Thank you for considering! The rewards of serving the homeless far outweigh the sacrifices!

## For more information, please contact us today!

To volunteer through the Mission, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator!  
Hope Smith Office # 518-462-0459 ext. 237 [vcoordinator@albanymission.com](mailto:vcoordinator@albanymission.com)

To volunteer through St. Peter's, please call or email one of the following:  
Ruth Manss, Office # 518-434-3502 x 2 or email [receptionist@stpeterschurchalbany.org](mailto:receptionist@stpeterschurchalbany.org)  
Mtr. Christina Hunter, Office # 518-434-3502 x 1 or email [priest@stpeterschurchalbany.org](mailto:priest@stpeterschurchalbany.org)  
Or Jim Chenot, cell phone 518-669-3096

For St. Peter's Shelter and Mission Operations, please contact the Mission's Admissions Director  
Lance Rowland, 518-462-0459 ext. 246 (office) or (cell) 518-320-5758  
or email [Lrowland@albanymission.com](mailto:Lrowland@albanymission.com)

**Thank you for considering joining us this winter!**

**May Jesus Christ our Lord richly bless you as you work with us as His hands and feet to the  
needy people of Albany!**



**Vestry Meeting**

The October Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 8th at 5:15pm.

**Blessing and Hot Dog Roast Benefit**

October 4 | 6:00pm - Hot Dog Roast  
7:00pm - Animal Blessing

St. Peter's is offering an animal blessing for St. Francis Day on Friday, Oct. 4 at 7 pm. This special service will be preceded by a hot dog roast that begins at 6 pm. Proceeds from the meal and other donations will be shared with the PAWS program of the Damien Center, which assists pet owners living with HIV/AIDS, ensuring that they are not separated from their animal companions. Beef and tofu dogs will be available. All are welcome!

**Home Pet Blessings Available**

Mtr. Christina is offering to do home visits to bless pets that cannot make it to the Animal Blessing service on Oct. 4.

Signups are in the Pumpelly Room this week, or you can email Mtr. Christina to set up a visit at: [priest@stpeterschurchalbany.org](mailto:priest@stpeterschurchalbany.org)

Also, deceased pets will be remembered at the St. Francis Day Pet Blessing on Oct. 4. If you'd like your pet to be named during the service but cannot personally attend, please email Mtr. Christina.

**Take a Hike!**

On Sunday, October 20, the Rock and Root Hikers will tackle the Indian Ladder Trail at John Boyd Thatcher State Park. We'll meet at the Park's Visitor Center and go from there. This 1-mile trail is rated as moderate and includes some stairs and steep drop offs, so families with young children will want to use caution. It also includes some of the most gorgeous fall views in the area! Note that the park has a \$6 entry fee per car. Contact Mtr. Christina at (518) 423-4891 with questions.

**The Apostle Weekly!**

This weekly email goes out each Thursday and contains the latest church news. If you'd like to sign up for *The Apostle Weekly*, email Ruth Manss at: [reception-ist@stpeterschurchalbany.org](mailto:reception-ist@stpeterschurchalbany.org). You can also submit items to be included in *The Apostle Weekly* – the deadline for each issue is 12 noon on Wednesdays.

**Teen Breakfast Club**

Beginning on Sunday, Oct. 6, a Teen Breakfast Club will have its first meeting. All teens are welcome. The Club meets in Mtr. Christina's office from 9:30am to 10:05am. We'll enjoy breakfast, a short spiritual discussion, and end with prayer. The Club will meet the first Sunday of each month unless otherwise announced in church communications.

**Coffee Hour**



Thank you to the many volunteers who have stepped forward to provide St. Peter's with their time and talent and have volunteered to host coffee hours this fall. There are a few weeks that have no hosts at this time, and it would be good to maintain a list of others if needed. The list is in the Pumpelly room kitchen, please take a look to see if a Sunday would work for you this fall. And again, thank you to all. Questions: [mlvennard@gmail.com](mailto:mlvennard@gmail.com), 518-858-0525

**Walking with Peter in October**

Our Adult Education course, Walking with Peter, will meet both Sunday Oct. 13 and Oct. 27 at 12 pm for about 45 minutes. This month, we'll be reflecting on the stories of Peter portrayed in the first two glorious windows in our chancel – Peter's Call on Oct. 13 and Peter's Confession on Oct. 27. Using these symbols and images as points of reference, we'll explore how Peter's story intersects with our own stories of faith.

**First Holy Communion, Baptism and Confirmation Classes**

Children in first grade and older are invited to prepare to receive First Holy Communion on All Saints' Sunday (Nov. 3). Children will undergo a two-session preparation with Mtr. Christina sometime in October. If interested, message Mtr. Christina or contact the church office. In addition, please contact the church office if you're interested in learning more about preparing for the sacrament of Baptism or for Confirmation.

**CHURCH COMMUNICATION**

**If you haven't already, please update your contact information, so we know how best to communicate with you. And if you already have, we thank you!**

# St. Peter's Music

## Parish Choir has Started Up!

St. Peter's Choir is currently having regular rehearsals on Thursdays at 5:30pm and singing on Sundays for the 10:30am service. New singers are always welcome!

If anyone is interested in joining the choir, please contact Daniel Romero at [ddorganman@gmail.com](mailto:ddorganman@gmail.com).

## Treble Choristers

Do you know a child who loves music?

St. Peter's Choir School is for them!

St. Peter's Treble Choristers is starting up again after a multi year hiatus. Children ages 8-18 who participate benefit from the following:

Free Music Instruction

Opportunities for Singing Services and Concerts

Kids Get Paid To Sing

We believe that music helps make children into good whole people and sets them up for success. Won't you join us?

## Memorial for John Cerniglia

St. Peter's will have a memorial service for our beloved departed choir member, John Cerniglia, on Sunday, November 3, at 3:00pm. John passed away in September of 2020. The choir will sing the Requiem, by Gabriel Fauré for the service.

Please join us as we remember and pray for John.

## Handel's Messiah

St. Peter's annual performance of Handel's Messiah will be on Sunday, December 15, at 3:00pm. Please join us for this festive annual event for the holidays.



## Offering Envelopes for 2025:

We are in the process of preparing a final list for the printers of those parishioners who wish to receive weekly Offering Envelopes for the first quarter 2025. Once again you will receive your contribution envelopes quarterly instead of the entire year all at once. Please review your envelopes for accuracy in your name and address. Should you wish to make any changes, or if you do not presently receive offering envelopes but would like to, or if you would like to discontinue your envelopes, please send your changes and/or information to Janice Chenot at: [office@stpeterschurhalbany.org](mailto:office@stpeterschurhalbany.org) or call the church office at (518)434-3502. In order for you to receive your first quarter contribution envelopes by the first of the year, your changes must be received by **Monday, October 28th**.







# October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		1 4:00 - 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal	2 12:05pm - Holy Communion
6 <b>Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost</b>  8:30am - Holy Communion 9:30am - Teen Breakfast Club 10:30am - Holy Communion	7	8  4:00 - 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:15pm - Vestry Meeting	9  12:05pm - Noonday Prayer
13 <b>Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost</b>  8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer 12:00pm - Walking with Peter	14 <b>Columbus Day</b>  Office Closed	15  4:00 - 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal	16  12:05pm - Noonday Prayer
20 <b>Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost</b>  8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion 1:30pm - Hike at Indian Ladder Trail	21	22  4:00 - 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal	23 <b>St. James of Jerusalem</b>  12:05pm - Noonday Prayer
27 <b>Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost</b>  8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer 12:00pm - Walking with Peter	28 <b>St. Simon &amp; St. Jude, Apostles</b>	29  4:00 - 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal	30  12:05pm - Noonday Prayer

# 2024



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Communion	3 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	4 6:00pm - Hot Dog Roast 7:00pm - Animal Blessing	5
Day Prayer	10 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	11	12 11:00am - Angels in Training
Day Prayer	17 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	18 St. Luke the Evangelist	19 11:00am - Angels in Training
Jerusalem	24 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	25	26
Day Prayer	31 <b>HALLOWEEN</b> 		

## From the Archives

### Nave of the Church - Stained Glass Windows of Henry Holiday

The Nave of the Church or the Church Proper is decorated on all sides by stained glass windows. To understand these windows we will separate them by artist. The first is Henry Holiday, an artist who worked in Britain in the 1800s. He designed five beautiful windows in St. Peter's Church Nave.

On the west side of the church the first is the **Wells window**, done in 1884, depicting the raising of Lazarus. The women depicted are, Mary of Bethany, the Virgin Mary and Mary, wife of Cleopas. The third Mary is of Pre-Raphaelite design depicting beautiful women. In this depiction the third Mary has hair so long she supports it on her arm. This window was placed in memory of vestryman Agur Wells and his wife Abigail.

The second window going clockwise around the church, is the **Owens Window**. This window was placed in 1885 and depicts the Sacrament of Christian Baptism. The top of the window shows Christ blessing the children. Below is the Baptism of the Lord with the legend "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." Below are other biblical scenes. This window was placed in memory of Edward Owens and his wife Poly Sabrina Hawley. The church's original baptismal font was underneath this window.

The third window is the **Kidd Window** placed in 1884, and showing the infancy and boyhood of Christ from his nativity, and the adoration of the Magi. Underneath are small windows depicting the flight into Egypt and the boy Christ in the Temple and in the carpenter shop. The inscription reads:

*To the Glory of God in in memory of James Kidd, died May 20, 1879. James Kidd was a vestryman during selected years for 1839 to 1879.*

The fourth window which is often considered the most beautiful is the **Dexter Window**. Placed in 1884 it depicts Faith, Hope, and Charity. Under Faith are the words "Earnestly contend for faith. The scene below depicts Peter's confession of the divinity of our Lord. Under Charity are the words "Love one another for love is of God." And the scene depicts Peter and John healing the lame man in the temple. Under Hope are the words "Looking for that blessed hope" and the scene below is John's vision at Patmos and a banner reading, "And behold a door was opened in heaven."

This window was given in memory of Dr. Samuel Dexter who died August 28, 1825. Both of his sons, George and James would serve as vestrymen in St. Peter's Church.

The fifth window is the **Lansing Window** depicting the night of the Nativity, as angels proclaim to the shepherds:

*"Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will toward men. Born this day unto you is a Savior which is Christ the Lord."*

The sexfoil about the lancets depicts the Blessed Virgin and the Divine Child. The Memorial Inscription reads "In loving memory of Abraham Lansing who died October 4, 1899, son of Christopher Y. Lansing and Caroline M. Thomas."

Respectfully Submitted, Connie Powell, Archivist





# Parish Picnic 2024



**Thank you all  
for coming to our Parish Picnic!**

&

A Special Thanks to the chefs  
and all who contributed to make this such a wonderful day !

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

August 13, 2024

**Present:** Mtr. Christina, J. Chenot, C. Gordon, M. Holden, M. Lundberg, W. Pettit, G. Scala

**Absent:** D. Spath, P. Benson, S. Hartt, J. Russom

Opening Prayer Led by Mtr. Christina.

**Approval of the Vestry Meeting Minutes, June 11th, 2024**

The vestry minutes from the June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting were approved on a motion by W. Pettit, seconded by M. Lundberg, then unanimously approved by the vestry.

**Rector Report – Mtr. Christina**

**Pastoral updates:**

- Concluded the St. Peter's Prayer School Adult Education series on Wednesday, June 12.
- Did three home visits.
- Officiated at Fred Hershey's funeral on June 14.
- Leading Noonday Prayer in the Garden throughout the summer, with some help from John Davis on weeks where I was traveling.
- Led the "Play" session on Spring Family Disciple with Strawberry Picking on June 15.
- Concluded Spring Family Disciple with the Pizza Party/Treasure Hunt on Sunday, June 23. Thanks to Katie Brillat for creating the Treasure Hunt for the final "Learn" session of our yearlong Disciple group.
- Participated in Summer Music Adventure, our choir camp which ran from July 7-12 and July 14. I ran the games for each day, helped our leaders Daniel and Malcolm, and did a ukulele demonstration.
- Celebrated Holy Eucharist for the Feast of the Transfiguration on August 6.
- Continuing work on our web redesign.
- Continuing work on the Narthex Cleanup Project, in cooperation with our staff. Update later in this meeting.
- Met with the Albany Downtown Business Improvement District on July 11 to brainstorm ways to promote St. Peter's and to join in events going on in the downtown area to reach our neighbors with greater success.
- Served with my husband as a chaplain for Beaver Cross Summer Camp from July 21-26.
- Have accepted a call to serve as the Chaplain for the Albany Diocese Daughters of the King for three years.
- Took vacation July 27-Aug. 2 and taking a second week beginning tomorrow.

**Big Picture and Mission/Vision work:**

Continuing missional planning for Fall 2024. Updates forthcoming.

**SAVE THE DATE:**

Full Choir Returns & Christian Ed Programs Begin – September 8

Vestry Retreat – September 7

Parish Picnic – September 22

**Sr. Warden's Report – J. Chenot**

The summer months at St. Peter's traditionally slows down a bit, many parishioners on vacation and on summer break. Fortunately, many have continued to worship each Sunday with us, as well as many volunteering, participating and singing during the summer with our "summer" choir. Last month in July, we also had the opportunity to host our first choir camp for one week. Many thanks to all who were able to participate in our summer camp, as well as those volunteering each week in the choir. We pray that these outreach programs involving music will introduce some who may have some interest in choral music, with the possibility of pursuing to join our choir in the fall.

This summer we also had the opportunity to host HBO, filming another episode for the Gilded Ages. Our hospitality working with HBO and many others that work with them (many local vendors), gives us additional exposure to the downtown Capital District, with many visitors and onlookers. In addition to the exposure given, St. Peter's was also compensated \$30,000 for using our space.

We are all looking forward to a fun packed September with the Sunday School start up, Choir rehearsals, new programs and parish picnic just to name a few. Please remember to review our monthly newsletter for the most upcoming events!

Hope to see everyone soon.

**Sunday Attendance** - The Average Sunday Attendance is 85.0 (as of September 6, 2024)

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

Treasurer's Report Highlights/Summary – June 2024

	JUNE	YEAR-TO-DATE
OFFERINGS	\$40,011	\$115,128
EXPENSES	(\$51,292)	(\$296,661)
GAIN/(LOSS)	(\$11,281)	(\$181,533)
WITHDRAWALS FROM ENDOW- MENT TO FUND SHORTFALL	\$10,927	\$185,219

Endowment Return (Merrill Lynch)

June: +1.94%  
Index Calculated Return: +0.68%

Updated 2024 Pledges:

32 for a total of \$123,937

YTD Offerings through June '24 are \$30,676 higher than '23

Treasurer's Report Highlights/Summary – July 2024

	JULY	YEAR-TO-DATE
OFFERINGS	\$10,376	\$125,504
EXPENSES	(\$36,760)	(\$333,421)
GAIN/(LOSS)	(\$26,384)	(\$207,917)
WITHDRAWALS FROM ENDOW- MENT TO FUND SHORTFALL	\$8,687	\$193,906

Endowment Return (Merrill Lynch)

July: +1.47%  
Index Calculated Return: +2.54%

Updated 2024 Pledges:

32 for a total of \$123,937

YTD Offerings through July '24 are \$1,714 higher than '23

**Property – None**

**Outreach –**

The Outreach Committee continues to accept donations for backpacks and back to school items. The donations will be dropped off to The South End Children's Café and Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen a week earlier than previous years so children will have them for the first day of school.

**Old Business –**

The Narthex at the back of the church has been undergoing some changes over the Summer. Tables have been moved to better view and display the Queen Anne silver. The open pew area has also been cleaned out of excess clutter with hopes of the space becoming a child friendly space. This will be beneficial for visiting families who may not be comfortable sending their children up to the nursery, but need a space for some quiet play while still being able to partake in the service.

**New Business –**

The Vestry has voted to change the November meeting from Tuesday November 12<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday November 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by W. Pettit and seconded by M. Lundberg, then was approved unanimously by the vestry.

Compline was led by Mtr. Christina.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christie J. Gordon

## *Clergy & Staff*

The Rev. Christina Hunter.....Rector  
Daniel Romero.....Organist & Choirmaster  
Malcolm Moran.....Assistant Music Director  
Laura Saffares.....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

Pete Benson, Christie Gordon, Samuel Hartt, Maria Holden,  
Mark Lundberg, William Pettit, Jeff Russom

## *How to Contact Us*

**Office Hours:** Monday - Friday  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Telephone: 518-434-3502  
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 am

### **Wednesday**

**Holy Communion** - 12:05pm  
( 1st Wednesday of the month )  
**Noonday Prayer** - 12:05pm  
( All other Wednesdays )

**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

