



THE Cornerstone

April 2018

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

From the Rector

RISEN JESUS

On a few occasions, your clergy have mentioned the care that is taken in finding our bulletin covers. We do not order covers from a church publishing house, but rather search the internet for appropriate images. As one might imagine, Easter presents an array of interesting images. It occurs to me that this array speaks a theological word to us.

We should first dispense with the eggs. I recall my son at a very young age speeding around the kitchen on his tricycle singing, "God loves Easter and we do too!" Later that day he said, "Not too much with the eggs, Dad." For some reason, the eggs had really captured his attention. Perhaps it was his first memorable dyeing project. Anyway, he thought the eggs ought to depart center stage. Right he was, of course. So too the Easter Bunny. Many bunny pictures appear in our online searches. Time to hop on.

Fortunately, we do find the serious Easter images. They range from the women coming to the tomb early in the morning to inside the light-filled empty tomb itself. They include images with the three crosses of Calvary in the background. There are many images of the angel making the announcement to the women: "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." (Matthew 28: 5-7.) A few images show Jesus appearing to Mary Magdalene. Sometimes it is with a scene of recognition. Other times it is Mary weeping at the tomb before she realizes that it is Jesus and not the gardener. The very occasional picture appears of Jesus emerging triumphant from the tomb. Yet by far and away the most images are of the empty tomb alone -- empty but light filled. Why?

We could begin with the mystery. Certainly, it is hard to depict what the resurrection of Jesus would look like. Jesus is risen before the women arrive. Peter enters the tomb later and finds the burial cloths rolled up and laid to the side. But no detail is given of the initial rising of Jesus. It is understandable then that the tomb would be shown empty, but with that hopeful light bursting forth. It is fair to ask if the empty tomb image doesn't hold a still deeper meaning.

I think that it does. On one level, we need to say clearly that we celebrate the Risen Lord and not the empty tomb as such. But, of course, if we believe as we do in bodily resurrection then Jesus will not be in the tomb. If for no other reason than a clear pointing to Christ's bodily resurrection, we ought to lean heavily on empty tomb images. The only concern here is that we not be punting theologically speaking. In other words, we need to be careful that bodily resurrection is the very core of the empty tomb's proclamation and not a failure of nerve about the mystery of our Lord's resurrection in the body. Empty here does not mean empty. Empty means everything. It means just as the angel says.

What image comes to your mind when Easter is mentioned? For me it is not so much a single image. I find virtue in many of the images mentioned. Rather, it is for me the spirit with which my son traveled on his tricycle that day. "God loves Easter and we do too!" Jesus came to bring this kind of joy, abiding and childlike joy. Our joy did not come on the cheap. It cost Him everything. But the Easter message is how the joy remains. The light remains. The love remains. The hope of eternal life remains. The resurrection of the body remains. Jesus remains, risen, ascended, glorified. We can mount our tricycles and get on with it. On with the life that really is life. Christ is Risen! Forever and ever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia! Easter blessings,

Fr. Hartt+

From the Associate Rector

Happy Easter! What a joyous sound our Easter hymns make with Alleluia's abounding! Christ our Lord is Risen Today, Alleluia! There is nothing like worship at St. Peter's Church on Easter Day. The fragrance of the Easter Lillies, the booming of the tympani, the heralding of the trumpet and pews filled with multiple generations of beaming people. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

That phrase - Alleluia - means "Praise God"! Yes, Easter is the climax of our highest praises to God for His triumph over death and sin through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Death has no victory. We herald Jesus' triumph for us all. Yes, Easter and Resurrection has a corporate affect. It is true that only one man has been resurrected from the dead. And yet God's promise holds that Christ's resurrection becomes the gateway for all who believe in him. Because Christ was raised from the dead, those who believe in Him will be raised from death to everlasting life! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Does one ever stop to consider how profound this tenet of our faith is? What does life, or death, without faith in Jesus Christ look like? Recently the world mourned the death of Professor Stephen Hawking. A brilliant man, his contributions to science are unmatched. We have lost a great mind. And yet Stephen was an admitted atheist - he believed there was no God. Yet even his research could not explain what came before the "Big Bang". His research showed that there was nothing before that. We know this fits nicely with the Creation account in Genesis which relays that God Created ex nihilo - from nothing. It is unfortunate that his brilliant mind could not see there is no disharmony between his science and faith. When I learned of his death I knew that this one understanding of his - atheism - was wrong and that now he knew it too. At death, I'm certain he came into the fullness of the knowledge of God and, I pray, was met by Jesus who bid "Come, follow me."

Jesus, who died and rose again, died and rose for us all; for the believer and those who do not yet believe. Jesus' resurrection is corporate - for everyone and for everything. In fact, our entire world - the entire universe - all that Professor Hawking knew of and even that which he didn't know of - is affected by Christ's Resurrection.

The Dawn of Easter promises that those who believe in Jesus will rise to new life in Him. It also promises that Jesus will come again, and when he does, he will set all of Creation into right order under Resurrection life. All of Creation - all of our world - all of our universe - the far reaches of space that we can only dream about today - all will be healed. Anything and everything that has been tainted by sin in all the universe will be made right. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

As big as any man's contribution to society may be, there is none bigger than the gift made to us through Jesus Christ. Each generation of people will have brilliant men and women whose contribution to science and our world remains unmatched. Yet a humble carpenter from 2,000 years ago trumps them all. And his gift cannot be explained by science or by any method known to us. It can only be received through faith.

So, when we leave church on Easter day, when the smell of Easter Lilies is gone and the triumphant sound of the trumpet and timpani fades away, what are we left with? Everything my friends - everything. Resurrection affects everything. Resurrection is everything. Faith in Jesus brings life to every part of us and every part of our world. History is changed - all of reality is changed - we, too, are to be changed.

So my hope is that we go forth from church a changed people. My hope is that we experience the Easter Alleluia much longer than our church services allow, but rather in every nanosecond of our lives. My hope is that we bring Easter joy out into the world and lavish it upon everything and every person we meet. My hope is that we live as Easter people - bringing Christ's triumphant joy to every corner of our world. This is the knowledge that our world is so hungry for and needs so very much. Easter joy triumphs over death, and pain, and fear, and doubt, and isolation, and depression, and all limits of humanity. Our world needs Easter Joy. Our world needs Alleluia's. Our world needs us to herald them loudly and joyfully! Be Easter people out in our World - that is how we can show God our deepest praises, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Blessings,

Mtr. Sue+



Upcoming Events

Spring Tea

Our Annual Spring Tea will be on Sunday, April 15th, following the 10:30am service. Each year, this event raises funds for a worthy cause, with this year's proceeds to benefit the Homeless Action Committee Outreach Van. Please see Judy Burns if you can help donate baked items or sponsor a gift basket for the raffle.



Outreach

The April Outreach meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 10th at 4:30pm. Please join us to learn about Outreach ministries and hospitality events being planned!

Vestry Meeting

The April Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 10th at 5:15pm.

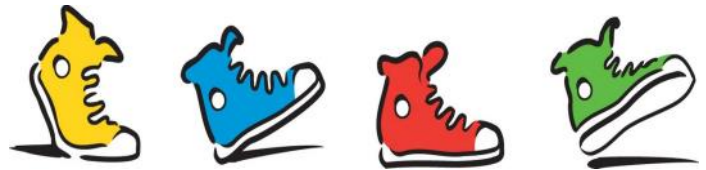
St. Peter's Angels Softball Team

The Angels' 13th season will begin on Sunday, April 22nd. Games will still be played only on Sunday afternoons, and again this year they're part of the Empire State Sunday Softball League. Anyone interested in playing should contact Pete Benson at 518-269-1293. Their Annual Pass-the-Cap Fundraiser Coffee Hour will be held in the near future. The game fields and schedule will be posted as soon as they are finalized.



Crop Walk

Save the Date - Sunday, May 6th! The Albany Crop Walk is one of the largest in our nation and raises funds for both local and national food programs. Locally, it supports the Capital District Food Pantries. Now is the time to begin collecting sponsors. We hope you will walk with us or consider sponsoring the St. Peter's team!



Ministry News & Opportunities

Flower Memorials

During the year, our Flower Guild arranges flowers to bring beauty to our sanctuary and joy to our congregation. Those wishing to make a donation for flowers for a memorial, thanksgiving or celebration should call the Church Office to confirm available dates. During Advent, we use only greens; during Lent, the altars are bare. Other Sundays, we welcome contributions. Cost of flowers: Main Altar is \$50, St. Mark's Altar is \$35, and the Tower Altar is also \$35. All requests are payable in advance.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Are you looking to increase your religious experience? We are looking for members of St. Peter's who might be interested in becoming a Lay Eucharistic Minister. Experience the joy of serving God by assisting at both the Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharistic Sunday Services. If interested please call the parish office at 434-3502.



Homeless Action Committee SLEEP-A-THON IN THE PARK



Townsend Park (corner of Henry Johnson Blvd. & Central Ave.)

Friday, April 6th, 5:00pm - 12:00am

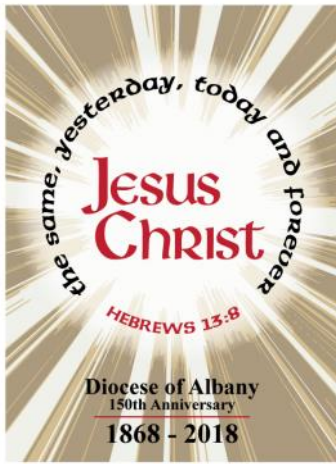
Held rain or shine or inclement weather

Get sponsors for your hour!!!

Pledges can be a one-time flat rate or an hourly rate where your donation grows each hour you spend at the Sleep-A-Thon.

Proceeds will benefit the Homeless Action Committee's Single Room Occupancy (SRO) housing and Outreach Van programs. The SRO is a home for chronic alcoholics who previously were homeless. HAC's Outreach Van program makes rounds on the streets assisting homeless people with food, clothing, blankets, referrals and transportation to area resources. HAC raised over \$16,300 from this event last year, with 75 people attending including college/high school students, elected officials, and church groups! To register, go to www.homelessaction.com.

Adult Education



Join us for the 150th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany!

June 8th - June 10th, 2018

at Camp of the Woods

Christian Family Resort and Conference Center

We will welcome ***Presiding Bishop Michael Curry*** to help us celebrate this special milestone. There will be a festive banner procession at the Eucharist on Saturday, and, as usual, **many workshops** to help us learn how to live the life that Jesus is calling us to live!

The Lenten Study group will meet one last time to finish the book: Tuesday, April 3th, 5:00pm, here at the church.

The History Study group will meet one last time to finish the book. Meet Wednesday, April 4th, 5:45pm, here at the church.

Men's Cursillo Weekend - Friday, April 27th through Sunday, April 29th at Christ the King Spiritual Life Center. Please contact either the clergy or Jack Ratzel for sponsorship/information, or contact John Hyde by phone at (518) 376-9477 or by email: jhyde11@roadrunner.com

Youth Formation & Sunday School

YOUTH SUNDAY / CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Sunday, April 29th during the 10:30am Service

On the last Sunday of each month we invite the children of our parish to take special part at the 10:30am service. The teens fill important roles during the service in the Sanctuary. Additionally, we offer **Children's Chapel** for our youngest members. In lieu of our traditional Sunday School offering, pre-Confirmation youth and Sunday School teachers celebrate a Youth Eucharist in the Pumpelly Room during the service. Children begin worship with the parents in the main Sanctuary and following the first reading the children are invited to process into Children's Chapel for their own Gospel message, homily and instructed Eucharist service. Please speak to Fr. Hartt or Mtr. Sue if your child would like to have a special role during an upcoming Youth Sunday.



St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen

Saturday, April 21st ~ 11:00am to 1:00pm

On the 3rd Saturday of every month St. Peter's Church is committed to preparing and serving lunch to 100+ people at the St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen (formerly known as Grace and Holy Innocents) located at 498 Clinton Avenue in Albany. We invite you, and the youth of our church (the Angels in Training) along with their friends, to join Laura Rulison (our Director of Christian Education) in helping with this outreach program that is in such desperate need of volunteers. For information or to let her know you are coming please call Laura at (518)368-4284.

SPRING BREAK!

Beaver Cross Spring Break Camp: Monday April 2nd - Friday April 6th 2018

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.

BEAVER CROSS YOUTH MINISTRY: SUMMER CAMP

Beaver Cross Overnight Camp sessions are designed for campers in Kindergarten all the way up through 12th grade. Each session can range from 2 to 6 nights, and are tailored to the unique age group with developmentally appropriate, games, activities, and Christian Education. Each camp session shares a commitment to developing a community where faith can be nurtured, close friendships made, and young people can learn together how to put their faith into action. Registration and Information can be found at: www.beavercrossministries.org.


OVERNIGHT CAMP

Dates	Session	Grades	Regular Rate	Sibling Rate
Sun. July 1-Fri. July 6	Discoverers	3rd-5th	\$490	\$410
Wed. July 4-Fri. July 6	Beaver Bound	K-2nd	\$170	\$140
Sun. July 8-Fri. July 13	Adventurers I	6th-8th	\$490	\$410
Fri. July 13-Sun. July 15	Adventurers Weekend	6th-8th	\$100	\$100
Sun. July 15-Fri. July 20	Adventurers II	6th-8th	\$490	\$410
Sun. July 22-Fri. July 27	Pioneers I	9th-12th	\$490	\$410
Fri. July 27-Sun. July 29	Pioneers Weekend	9th-12th	\$100	\$100
Sun. July 29-Fri. August 3	Pioneers II	9th-12th	\$490	\$410

DAY CAMP

Dates	Grades	Session	Regular Rate	Sibling Rate
Mon. July 2-Fri. July 6	K-8	DC 1	\$255	\$225
Mon. July 9-Fri. July 13	K-8	DC 2	\$255	\$225
Mon. July 16-Fri. July 20	K-8	DC 3	\$255	\$225
Mon. July 23-Fri. July 27	K-8	DC 4	\$255	\$225
Mon. July 30-Fri. Aug. 3	K-8	DC 5	\$255	\$225
Mon. Aug. 6-Fri. Aug. 10	K-8	DC 6	\$255	\$225
Mon. Aug. 13-Fri. Aug. 17	K-8	DC 7	\$255	\$225
Mon. Aug. 20-Fri. Aug. 24	K-8	DC 8	\$255	\$225

April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
1 Easter Sunday 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion	2 Office Closed No Treble Rehearsal	3 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's 5:00pm - Lenten Study Group	4 8:45am - Top of 12:05pm - Holy C 5:45pm - Histor
8 The Second Sunday of Easter 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion with Baptism	9 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal	10 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's 4:30pm - Outreach Meeting 5:15pm - Vestry Meeting	11 8:45am - Top of 12:05pm - Holy C
15 The Third Sunday of Easter 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion Spring Tea Following 10:30am service	16 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal EDOA Clergy Conference	17 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's EDOA Clergy Conference	18 8:45am - Top of 12:05pm - Holy C EDOA Clergy Co
22 The Fourth Sunday of Easter 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer 3:00-5:00pm - EDOA Holy Orders Interest Meeting	23 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal	24 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's	25 8:45am - Top of 12:05pm - Holy C
29 The Fifth Sunday of Easter Youth Sunday 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer	30 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal		

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>of the Hill Communion Study</p>	<p>5</p> <p>No Choir Rehearsals</p>	<p>6</p> <p>12:30pm - Organ Concert</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>of the Hill Communion</p>	<p>12</p> <p>5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir</p>	<p>13</p> <p>12:30pm - Organ Concert</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>of the Hill Communion Conference</p>	<p>19</p> <p>5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir</p>	<p>20</p> <p>12:30pm - Organ Concert</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11:00am - Angels in Training</p>
<p>of the Hill Communion</p>	<p>26</p> <p>5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir</p>	<p>27</p> <p>12:30pm - Organ Concert</p>	<p>28</p>

Welcome
Spring

St. Peter's Music

Composer of the Month Club

Edward Cuthbert Bairstow, 1874-1946

Edward Cuthbert Bairstow was an English organist, choirmaster, and composer. He studied the organ at Oxford, and was articled under Frederick Bridge of Westminster Abbey received tuition from Walter Alcock. He studied organ and theory at the University of Durham, receiving the Bachelor of Music in 1894, and the Doctor of Music in 1901.

He served as organist of York Minster from 1913 to his death. Notorious for his terseness and bluntness, Bairstow did not always endear himself to others. Asked whether he would be willing to follow the example of his predecessor at York, Thomas Tertius Noble, and emigrate to the United States, he replied that he would "rather go to the devil". Comfortably ensconced in Yorkshire, he refused an offer to succeed Frederick Bridge at Westminster Abbey.

Bairstow's compositions are mainly for the church. He wrote 29 anthems, ranging from large-scale works for choir and organ such as *Blessed City*, *Heavenly Salem* to elegant miniatures like *I Sat Down Under His Shadow* and *Jesu, The Very Thought of Thee*. Among his anthems, the masterly *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* is perhaps the best known. Our choir has a number of these anthems in our repertoire.

Laurence Slater, Organist and Choirmaster of St. Peter's in the early 1950s, was, as a 16 year old, senior chorister at York Minter under Bairstow, before moving to Canada and later the US.

FRIDAY NOONTIME ORGAN CONCERTS

Free half-hour recitals each Friday at 12:30pm

CHOIR

Choir rehearsals are on the following schedule:

Mondays: 5:00pm - 6:15pm Trebles

Thursdays: 5:00pm - 6:30pm Trebles

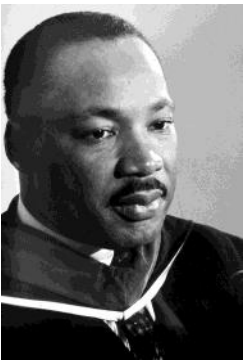
5:30pm - 7:00pm Adult choristers

Sundays: 9:30am rehearsal for the 10:30am service

Please contact Neil Keen for more information at stpmus@gmail.com or 339-0137.

Saint of the Month Club

Martin Luther King, Jr. *Civil Rights Leader, 1968*



Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta. As the son and grandson of Baptist preachers, he was steeped in the Black Church tradition. To this heritage he added a thorough academic preparation, earning the degrees of B.A., B.D., and Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from Boston University. In 1954, King became pastor of a church in Montgomery, Alabama. There, Black indignation at inhumane treatment on segregated buses culminated in December, 1955, in the arrest of Rosa Parks for refusing to give up her seat to a white man. King was catapulted into national prominence as the leader of the Montgomery bus boycott. He became increasingly the articulate prophet, who could not only rally the Black masses, but could also move the consciences of Whites.

King founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to spearhead non-violent mass demonstrations against racism. Many confrontations followed, most notably in Birmingham and Selma, Alabama, and in Chicago. King's campaigns were instrumental to the passage of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, 1965 and 1968. King then turned his attention to economic empowerment of the poor and opposition to the Vietnam War, contending that racism, poverty and militarism were interrelated.

King lived in constant danger: his home was dynamited, he was almost fatally stabbed, and he was harassed by death threats. He was even jailed 30 times; but through it all he was sustained by his deep faith. In 1957, he received, late at night, a vicious telephone threat. Alone in his kitchen he wept and prayed. He relates that he heard the Lord speaking to him and saying, "Martin Luther, stand up for righteousness, stand up for justice," and promising never to leave him alone—"No, never alone." King refers to his vision as his "Mountain-top Experience." After preaching at the Washington Cathedral on March 31, 1968, King went to Memphis in support of sanitation workers in their struggle for better wages. There, he proclaimed that he had been "to the mountain-top" and had seen "the Promised Land," and that he knew that one day he and his people would be "free at last." On the following day, April 4, he was cut down by an assassin's bullet.

Prayer: *If Almighty God, who by the hand of Moses thy servant didst lead thy people out of slavery, and didst make them free at last: Grant that thy Church, following the example of thy prophet Martin Luther King, may resist oppression in the name of thy love, and may strive to secure for all thy children the blessed liberty of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now*

Creating the Church Chancel - Part I



The renovation of the Church Chancel began under the rectorship of the Reverend Battershall in 1876. One of the first changes was in the Chancel windows. The designs of the early chancel windows had been requested in 1859 from stained glass designer Owen Doremus. There are pictures of the early graceful windows in the Church Archives. These windows were removed to be replaced with windows that were the work of Clayton and Bell of London and installed subsequent to 1885. These windows depicted angels playing musical instruments as well as significant activities in the life of St. Peter. It was felt that scenes of the life of St. Peter were more appropriate. After their removal, the Doremus windows were lost.

Other remodeling included moving to the back of the church the Memorial Font inscribed: "He shall gather the lambs with His arms." This has since been moved back to the front. Also, the organ and choir were moved from the back balcony to the front of the church and choir vestments were introduced. In 1885 Mary Porter gave an Organ Chamber to house the organ pipes. It was dedicated to her father, Giles Porter who died in 1859.

In 1885 the Pruy Altar and Reredos, (see illustration above) was donated by Charles L. Pruy in memory of his wife Elizabeth McClintock Pruy who died December 20th, 1884. The altar was designed by Richard M. Upjohn and executed by Ellen & Co. of New York. It included many sculptures, the most prominent of which were two winged angels kneeling in adoration of the cross. These figures were modeled by Louis St. Gaudens in the studio of his brother Auguste.

At the time the altar was placed, a Credence Table was built into the wall on the south side of the altar. It consisted of a recessed arch enclosed in a square with exterior molding terminating in sculptured corbels (designs). Below the table were the words "Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God." It was inscribed "In loving memory of Catherine Elizabeth Van Vechten Ten Eyck."

A brass trefoil Communion Rail supported by standards of beaten brass separated the Chancel from the Sanctuary above. Designed by Robert W. Gibson, it is inscribed "In memory of Mary Jane Perry, wife of John S. Perry and their deceased children. *(To be continued in next month's Newsletter.)*

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

February 12, 2018

Present: Fr. Hartt, Mtr. Sue Waldron, D. Spath, J. Chenot, G. Scala, A. Spath, T. Murphy, C. Gordon, N. Creagan, M. Holden

Absent: K. Cehowski, F. Hershey, S. Lencewicz

Opening Prayer Led by Father Paul Hartt

Approval of the Minutes of Vestry Meeting, January 9, 2018.

The January 9, 2018, minutes were approved on a motion by T. Murphy and seconded by N. Creagan. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

Warden Report –D. Spath & J. Chenot

The wardens began their report by congratulating those elected at the annual meeting in January, Deb Spath beginning her first term as Senior Warden, Ashley Spath (1st term), Tim Murphy (2nd term), Stephanie Lencewicz (2nd term) on their three year term to the vestry, and Fred Hershey who was elected to finish out Earl Stafford's term (2 years) as Earl stepped down. We are all looking forward to work with our very committed vestry and clergy moving ahead this year.

We are all very grateful for those in the congregation who stayed after the 10:30 Sunday service for the annual meeting which was well attended and received. Many thanks to all those who were involved making the day a very successful and informative meeting, including Maria Holden, Jim Adams and George Scala for all their help with the PowerPoint presentation. Also, thanks were given to those who prepared their reports from each guild sharing their ministry missions that took place during the past year. Lastly, thanks to Janice and Angie who compiled and printed all the reports and information for the guilds. A copy of the annual report was sent out in the beginning of February as part of our newsletter for those unable to attend and will be to review the reports.

It was an honor and privilege to have Bishop William Love visit our church yesterday, February 11th at both the 8:30am and 10:30am services. At the 10:30 service, the Bishop confirmed two of our younger parishioners, Sydney Hardy and Molly Russom. We also had the DOK installation at the end of the service, installing Holli Frazier, Alexandra Whitcraft, and Donna Ohlman. Congratulations to the confirmands as well as those new members to the Daughters of the King. Lastly, many thanks to Janice Chenot who coordinated the reception after the service in our parish hall.

We will start our Lenten season tomorrow Tuesday, February 13th with our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner from 5 to 7 pm, followed by services on Ash Wednesday and Evensong at 5:45pm each Friday during Lent.

Finance – G. Scala - Treasurer's Report

George S. reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the month of January. Offerings for January were \$15,383. This compares to a budgeted number of \$23,108. YTD Offerings through the same period in 2017 were \$18,028 but it should be noted there were 5 Sundays in January in 2017 versus 4 in 2018.

The investment/endowment accounts both showed gains for January. Merrill Lynch showed a positive return of +3.74%. The Key accounts showed a return of +3.71% for the month. This leaves us with a positive budget variance in this area YTD of \$145,669. Both accounts performed favorably versus market indexes. It should be noted that the market seems very volatile so far in February so we need to be prepared for a loss/negative return. Expenses for January were \$4,619 over budget. This is primarily due to quarterly/annual expenses such as insurance being recorded in January.

Pledges for 2018 are at 41 pledging units for a total amount of \$119,371. We hopefully will continue to receive pledges through the annual meeting.

Property –

The radiators in the gym were fixed and updated with new thermostats. This was to fix the issue of them leaking into the ceiling of the Pumpelly Room. The next project discussed was the painting of the church interior. This will take 4-6 months of work and the equipment that will be used to do this work is specialized so that unlike normal scaffolding, it will be able to be taken down on the weekends. This will allow us to be able to continue our normal Sunday morning services seamlessly without any interruption. This work was quoted at \$220,000. We have received an offer for a matching grant of up to \$100,000 from an anonymous parishioner. The vestry decided a small committee should be created in order to organize fundraising for this project. M. Holden was voted as the chair of this committee on a motion by T. Murphy and seconded by C. Gordon. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

Outreach – Mother Sue

Outreach Committee has sent funding, on behalf of St. Peter's church, for (4) scholarships to the needy children of the Diocese in West Buganda totaling \$2400. which covers schooling, books, uniforms, housing and meals for the year 2018. These scholarships are aimed at providing assistance to secondary school-age girls with priority given to orphans who are victims of the AIDS/HIV epidemic.

The Overflow Homeless Shelter continues its ninth season and is housing up to (8) women nightly. Thank you to those who have contributed, volunteered and prayed for the women served by this ministry. We also thank Mary McDonald of CCRM who is leading the women's ministry this year and is not only doing a wonderful job but does so with a Servant's heart and the love of the Lord leading her.

Outreach has set a date for this year's Soup Sampler which will be on Sunday March 4, 2018 following church services. We thank Judy Burns for coordinating this event. Please let Judy know if you can make and donate soup!

Old Business - None

New Business

Due to D. Spath being elected Sr. Warden at the annual meeting, her spot as Jr. Warden was therefore vacated leaving the vestry to nominate someone to fill the spot until the next election. J. Chenot was nominated to fill the Jr. Warden spot on a motion by D. Spath and seconded by G. Scala. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

The past few vestry meetings, the idea of Bylaws has been discussed. There are no St. Peter's Vestry Bylaws that can be found in any literature, and the vestry feels it is important to have bylaws created for future generations of vestry members to refer to. This would include things such as term limits and attendance expectations. In addition to bylaws, it was discussed that there should be a document created to state general guidelines for parishioners to purchase spots in our columbarium. These guidelines would simply state that the purchaser must be a member in good standing of St. Peter's. This is to ensure that there will be space for those parishioners who choose St. Peter's as their final resting place. N. Creagan was nominated to chair the committee on a motion by C. Gordon and was seconded by D. Spath. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

In speaking about the Average Sunday Attendance, the vestry discussed how we can improve in bringing in new members and how to keep them coming back, as well as how to get current members to attend church more regularly. Many ideas were discussed, from improving our social media presence to improving the way we greet newcomers, which could include bringing back welcome bags that we had assembled in the past. It was decided that a committee should be created to work on how to reengage our current parishioners and pull in potential new members. C. Gordon and A. Spath were nominated as co-chairs on a motion by M. Holden and seconded by J. Chenot. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

Associate Rector's Report – Mother Sue

I want to thank the outgoing Vestry members, and Jim Chenot (outgoing senior warden) for their leadership to our church. Your dedication and care for this community is life-giving! We welcome, also, the new Vestry members and our new senior warden, Deb Spath, who add a tremendous amount of faith, care and talent to our group of church leaders.

Bishop Love's visitation, with the Confirmations of Molly and Sydney and the Installations of Holli, Donna and Alexandra as new Daughters of the King was a wonderful celebration for us all. Many thanks to those who prepared for this event.

A Lenten Study program is planned for the parish to begin Ash Wednesday, February 14th 2018. We will read Lent with Evelyn Underhill daily at home with gatherings on Tuesday evenings at church, throughout the Lenten Season, to reflect and discuss. Our first group gather is February 20th at 5:00pm.

The clergy also invite you to our Lenten Quiet Day on March 11, 2018 from noon – 4:00pm. Lunch will be provided by members of the DOK – thank you Daughters! We will have spiritual readings with time for reflection ending with the Lenten practice of Stations of the Cross.

On a personal note: I am on vacation 2/25-3/3 to use the balance of my 2017 vacation time – thank you for this week of rest!

Sunday Attendance

ASA: 104.2

Rectors Report - Father Hartt

Father Hartt welcomed our newest Vestry members, Fr. Hersey and Ashley Spath. Fred is filling out the remainder of Earl Stafford's term. Ashley has begun her first three-year term. We look forward to Fred's and Ashley's contribution to the governance of the parish. Fr. Hartt congratulated Debbie Spath for her election as Senior Warden. Fr. Hartt also thanked Jim Chenot for his faithfulness in serving as Senior Warden these past eight years. Much has been accomplished during Jim's term as Sr. Warden. The Vestry has appointed Jim Chenot as Jr. Warden to fill out Debbie's unexpired term. Jim will run for election next year. Both Tim Murphy and Stephanie Lencewicz were elected to a second three-year term. We thank them both for their continued service to the parish.

Fr. Hartt reported on the Bishop's visitation. Fr. Hartt thanked Mtr. Sue for her help in preparing our Confirmands Molly Russom and Sydney Hardy, both of whom worked very hard at their studies. The newly admitted Daughters of the King Donna Ohlman, Holi Frazier, Alexandra Whitcraft bring us up to 15 in the DOK. We now have one of the largest chapters in the Diocese. Bishop love was impressed with the substantial presence the Daughter represent at St. Peter's. This is one area of growth spiritually and numerically.

The experience of the Bishop's visit on parishioners was profound. Many were visibly moved by his preaching and manner. Bishop Love is a godly man. We are blessed to have leadership of his kind in the midst of a generally turbulent national Church. Whatever theological issues may confront us and the difference in opinions about them, Bishop Love loves us all equally and preaches the Gospel with power. He is a true guardian of "the faith once delivered."

Father Hartt thanked the parish for the wonderful reception held for the Confirmands and new Daughters at the Bishop's visitation.

Father Hartt expressed a growing concern about attendance. There is so much that is good and strong at St. Peter's, but we must show up consistently to make parish life vital and attractive to newcomers. Church growth for us is mostly a matter of mutual accountability. The clergy as the sole force for growth and motivation will not work in our context. Fr. Hartt believes that we will also need to establish some vestry initiatives to speak to individual members about presence.

The women's shelter continues to go well. The severe weather has made for serious demand for services of all kinds. We can give thanks that we have resources to help with sheltering in this time of great need. Last Sunday, during the Bishop's visit, a young man appeared between services and was somewhat disruptive. It was a clear case of the combination of mental health issues and homelessness. We simply do not seem to have the social services that we need in Albany to address the issues we face. Much of what the clergy address daily in the parish office reflects a severely overtaxed social service network. At Saint Peter's, we are earnestly doing our part to help. However, lack of social service resources impedes us.

Ash Wednesday Day Services are 7:30AM, Noon, and 5:30PM. Mother Sue is offering a study based on daily reflections for Lent by Evelyn Underhill. Fr. Hartt is continuing his history course which takes up many theological and historical issues relevant at all times. The class is presently focused on the Reformation. The issue of faith and works is especially pertinent in Lent. Friday Lenten Evensongs continue. The Evensongs will continue to include a Lenten spiritual reading.

Father Hartt wished us all a Holy Lent.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by C. Gordon and seconded by G. Scala, then was passed unanimously by the vestry.

Compline Mother Sue Waldron led Compline.

Respectfully Submitted, Christie J. Gordon

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Paul J. Hartt..... Rector
The Rev. Susan Waldron.....Associate Rector
Neil K. Keen, F.A.G.O.....Organist & Choirmaster
Laura Rulison Director of Christian Education
Ian Mike..... Sexton
James P. Shortall.....Assisting Sexton
Angie Schlossberg.....Administrative Assistant
Janice Chenot..... Office Volunteer
E. Constance Powell.....Historian & Archivist

Vestry

Deborah Spath.....Senior Warden
James Chenot.....Junior Warden
George ScalaTreasurer
Kevin Cehowski, Nancy Creagan, Christie Gordon, Fred Hershey,
Maria Holden, Stephanie Lencewicz, Tim Murphy, Ashley Spath

How to Contact Us

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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 Sundays)

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Holy Communion 12:05 p.m.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

