

# THE Cornerstone

## December 2017

Newsletter of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church

107 State Street, Albany, New York

### ADVENT DREAMS

Sigmund Freud once observed that "dreams are the guardians of sleep." What he meant was that dreams are the working out by the unconscious mind of things that might jar us awake. In a way, dreams disguise thoughts and feelings that might otherwise cause us to break from sleep. It is an interesting theory. It got me thinking.

Advent's famous call is "keep awake!" It is the word of the Lord to us on the First Sunday of Advent. *"Therefore, keep awake-- for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."* (Mark 13: 35-37.) Yet does this kind of awake mean we are not to be dreaming? Quite the contrary. We are entering God's call to dream more.

Put another way, do we believe God wants a dreamless people? A dreamless people is pretty much the plan we see in action each day. A dreamless world reduces life to cyber-mondays and black-fridays, aptly named. We stay awake for the wrong kinds of things. It is dreamless way of being.

I felt myself going into a dreamless sleep in the way Jesus warns against on my way home from Thanksgiving. The turkey was barely digested before the jingles began. "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas." "He's checking his list and checking it twice. Gonna find out who's naughty and nice." These "Season's Greetings" were piped in on the overhead speakers everywhere. I couldn't even pump gas without "Frosty the snowman" attacking from above. It sure makes me want to go sleep just to make it stop. But like Pavlov's dogs, I am primed to go "How many shopping days left? I probably should have skipped talking to my loved ones at Thanksgiving and buried myself on the internet for those early deals."

Dreamlessness is a bad thing. We stay awake in the Jesus sense to dream big. Dream with God. Dream of the Savior of the dreamless. So, Advent is indeed a wake-up call. It says "wake-up" before Frosty by any other name comes to get you. Our God cannot be trivialized by such silliness, but we can. If we are not alert, we will cease to dream as God would have us dream. When you hear the silly "holiday-theme" music piped in overhead, say to yourself "Stay awake, my soul, they are coming after your dreams."

One last thought. No doubt Freud is right about the power of dreams to guard sleep in the ordinary cycle of life, but there is more to life than its ordinary cycle. Christian dreaming is the guardian of Life. May we all be found awake and dreaming Kingdom thoughts when He comes.

Blessed and Holy Advent,

Fr. Hartt+



## From the Associate Rector:

### *Happy Holidays...*

When did it become normative to say Happy Holidays? What are we referring to, exactly? I recently read that there are over 30 holidays celebrated this time of year across many religions. Perhaps this catch phrase it meant to encapsulate them all. However, even within Christianity, this time of year one celebration seems to bleed into another nearly with no distinction other than lots of candy at Halloween, turkey at Thanksgiving and gift wrap at Christmas. But each of these holidays blend together into one long Holiday with excess, big meals, glittery gatherings and large celebrations in the secular sense while nearly missing the religious connection to what is being celebrated.

This doesn't seem right, nor traditional. If we look at the word 'Holiday', it stems from combining the two words 'holy' and 'day'. The concept of one taking a holiday was to allow a person time off from work to attend the religious ceremony that highlighted the faith aspect of the Holy Day. This has been nearly lost in contemporary society.

One of my FaceBook friends posted a rant about people that take issue with Christmas lights and decorations being in place even before Thanksgiving. She didn't see a problem. I personally love Christmas lights and decorations and know that people put them up when they can. Time and weather permitting, people tend to decorate earlier and earlier each year. But, doesn't this trend add to the generalizing that the phrase "Happy Holidays" conveys? What, exactly are we decorating for and celebrating?

I'm a bit more traditional (if you hadn't guessed). I like to take one Holiday at a time. I like to focus fully on each holy day's significance, both historically and what it means in my own life. I'm one of those people who even likes to wait until after church services on 4 Advent to decorate my home for Christmas. This way, I feel I experience a full Advent before moving on. But this year presents a problem because the fourth Sunday of Advent IS Christmas Eve! Hmmm...what to do? There surely won't be time to decorate my home on Christmas Eve between 4 Advent and Christmas Eve services. And yet, this is what used to hold tradition. My mother told me that when she was a young child, she would go to bed on Christmas Eve to a plain house, and wake up on Christmas Day to all the decorations, lights, Christmas Tree and presents – everything having arrived and put in place during the night hours while she slept! Wow, I thought! This is a lot of work for the parents (or even Santa Claus) – but what a statement it made! Christmas happened FULLY on Christmas Day! I like that tradition even if I haven't held to it myself.

This causes me to wonder how we, as a society got from that practice to our present situation? The only answer I can come up with is either we are too impatient to wait for an actual Holiday to arrive to celebrate it and/or our celebrations have become so grand they require more time to fit in "all the fixings". Perhaps, too, is this idea of blending all of the holy days into one long Holiday. Reality is our current customs are probably a blending of all three.

I'm not going to recommend that you and your family change your own traditions, including when and how much to decorate or how and when to prepare for the upcoming Christmas celebration. But, I would like to encourage you to reflect on what each step of that preparation signifies, from a faith perspective, and how much emphasis your family should or shouldn't place on it. This might truly help you develop a more robust Holiday celebration this year than even before...that is my intent anyways!



So Happy Holy Days! There are a lot of them to honor this time of year and I, for one, don't want to miss one of them. Most of all, I am grateful that we, as a church family, will celebrate many of them together.

With Joy and Blessings,  
Mtr. Sue

## Advent and Christmas at St. Peter's

### **Advent Wreaths, Calendars, and Candles**

Available December 3rd

### **Messiah Concert**

December 3rd

3:00pm

### **Service of Remembrance**

December 6th

6:30pm Service

### **Sunday School Pageant**

December 10th

10:30am Service

### **Lessons and Carols**

December 17th

10:30am Service



### **Hanging of the Greens**

December 17th

12:00pm

### **Fourth Sunday in Advent**

December 24th

8:30am Holy Communion

### **Christmas Eve Services**

December 24th; 4:30pm

Family Service w/crèche

December 24th; 9:30pm

Choral Prelude

10:00pm Choral Service

### **Christmas Day Service**

December 25th

9:00am

### **Christmas Gifts for the Burmese Refugees**

St. Peter's Church is sponsoring recently arrived Burmese refugee families by providing Christmas gifts for all family members. Please see the giving tree in the Pumpelly Room for gift selections. The gift you select should be returned to St. Peter's wrapped (with gift tag attached) by Sunday, December 17th. Thank you for your generosity!

### **Daughters of the King - Julia Chapter**

The next DOK meeting will be held on Sunday, December 10th, at 11:45am in the vestry room. Women of the parish are invited to join us as we assemble Blessing Bags for the women of our overflow shelter.

### **Outreach Meeting**

The next Outreach meeting will be held Tuesday, December 12th at 4:30pm. Please join us to learn about Outreach ministries and hospitality events being planned!

### **Vestry Meeting**

The December Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 12th at 5:15pm.

### **Hanging of the Greens**

The annual Hanging of the Greens in which we decorate the church for Christmas with pine and balsam will take place immediately following the 10:30AM service on Sunday, December 17th. The traditional ham luncheon will be served at 1PM. We ask you to please dress comfortably and bring a dish to share. We need cooks, servers, set-up and clean-up help. Please contact Geoffrey Hoderath at [ghoderath@nycap.rr.com](mailto:ghoderath@nycap.rr.com) if you are available to help. We hope that you will join us for this long-time festive tradition.



### **Christmas Poinsettia &**

### **Hanging of the Greens Donation**

Your special gifts for poinsettias and greens to honor, show thanks, and to remember loved ones are crucial to this beautiful display and annual parish event. If you would like to be part of this floral tribute, please complete the enclosed Christmas Flower form and send it to the church office with your donation. The deadline is Sunday, December 17th. We urge you to be as generous as you can. Thank you for your support.

### **Annual Service of Remembrance**

We will gather at St. Peter's on Wednesday, December 6th at 6:30pm to remember our departed loved ones through prayer, candle lighting and presence. Scriptural readings and a homily will be part of this Ecumenical prayer service. Following the service will be a reception hosted by Judy Burns. Please join us to remember your departed loved one(s).

## Adult Education & Outreach



**Christ the King Spiritual Life Center.** For more information, go to [www.ctkcenter.org/page/advent\\_retreat](http://www.ctkcenter.org/page/advent_retreat)

### **OUTREACH**

The Outreach Committee of St. Peter's Church invites you to volunteer in both cooking and/or delivering meals for the First Lutheran Church Overflow Homeless Shelter. We are committed to providing a complete dinner for 20 people, cooked and delivered every Thursday evening. During the cold months of November through April when the other shelters fill up with women and children, the men can come to this overflow shelter and receive a hot meal and a good night's sleep. We are asking that you sign-up to cook a complete dinner. Please sign your name and include a phone number we can contact you at, next to the date on the board in the Pumpelly Room. Instructions and containers for the meal items will be in the Pumpelly Room. If you cannot deliver the meal, please return the meal frozen to the church on the Sunday before the date you signed up for. If you are delivering the meal you can call Debby Spath at (518)478-9389 for directions.

**Blessing Bag Donations:** To assist and offer comfort for the women who stay in our overflow shelter the Daughters of the King will be assembling Blessing Bags on Sunday, **December 10th**. These are small (quart size) bags of good will and hospitality that are given to people who may need some cheer and comfort. Please consider bringing an offering of women's care products such as tooth paste, tooth brush, a comb, scented lotion, hair rubber bands, mints, candies, wipes, granola bars, travel deodorant, lip balms, band aids, cotton swabs, small cracker packets, Slim Jim snacks, feminine pads/wipes, small tissue packets, small note pads and pens can also be useful. Products that contain alcohol such as mouth wash and hand sanitizer should not be included (hand sanitizer wipes are ok). Please **bring in your donations by Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**.

### **Overflow Homeless Shelter Opens December 1st !!**

Could you consider giving up one evening this winter to offer the gift of hospitality and show another the love and mercy of God? The St. Peter's Overflow Homeless Shelter will open for its 9th season on December 1st to augment the ministry of The Capital City Rescue Mission to Albany's homeless. Again this year, we will be housing up to 10 women each evening.

We are currently receiving donations of food items and are also scheduling volunteers (women volunteers only) to offer hospitality during the evening hours of 7PM until 11PM; or overnight from 7PM until 7AM the next morning in the Parish Hall on the 2nd floor of the Guild House (next to the church). To sign up to volunteer, please call Judy Burns at 518-441-7538 or email the church at [stpeterschurch.albany@gmail.com](mailto:stpeterschurch.albany@gmail.com). Food items needed include: coffee, tea, sugar, popcorn and snacks, cereal (hot and cold), peanut butter, bread, fresh fruit, milk and juice along with fresh baked items. These can be dropped off to the church office any weekday, or brought to church on Sundays and given to Pat. Thank you in advance for your continued support.



## Youth Formation & Sunday School



### December 3 - Rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant

Angels, shepherds, and more! We will be giving out parts and readers. Please bring the children up to get their costumes during Sunday School and perhaps an hour afterwards.

### December 10 - The Christmas Pageant, 10:30am

Please have the children upstairs by 10:00am sharp.

AFTER THE PAGEANT, I WILL TAKE THE CHILDREN UPSTAIRS TO MAKE GOODY BAGS FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE SOUP KITCHEN.

PLEASE JOIN US!

### December 24 - The Christmas Eve Family Service, 4:30pm

All the children of St. Peter's are invited to join in the procession of the Crèche. Each child will carry a piece of the Manger to be put together before the service. Meet us in the Pumpelly Room for your piece.

Questions? Give Laura Rulison a call at (518)368-4284.

### St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen

Saturday, December 16th ~ 11AM to 1PM

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.



### Making Pumpkin Bread!



Thank you all for donating coats for the children at Grace and Holy Innocence. We were able to bring warmth and comfort to 20 children and 10 adults. God Bless you all. I need to ask for a little more help. I am continuing the coat drive for the children sizes (2-14) and woman's coats all sizes. I will bring the buckets back to the Pumpelly room, and thank you in advance. Thank you to all that brought canned apple sauce for Equinox. Once again St. Peter's Parish went beyond expectations! Another thanks for all that volunteered at Equinox.

Sending blessings to All,  
Laura Rulison

## Did You Know?

Welcome to the newest  
member of St. Peter's!



**Nathan James Gordon**

**Born on November 1, 2017 at 1:40pm  
6 lbs. 12 oz., 20 inches**

**Proud parents are Christie and CJ Gordon**

**Grandparents are Jim and Janice Chenot**

**Aunt and Uncle are  
Caitlin Cehowski and Jordan Chenot**

**and very excited cousins are  
Cole and Ava Cehowski**



Diana Martin, one of St. Peter's longest  
members, holding our newest member,  
Nathan Gordon.

### Pledge Cards

Pledge cards for 2018 have been mailed out to all parishioners. If you did not receive a pledge card please call the church office. Those wishing to pledge that did not do so during the Stewardship Campaign, are welcome to complete a pledge card and return it to the church office or place in the offering plate during the service. Pledges may also be made by phone. Thank you to those that have promptly completed and returned their pledge card.

### DOK: December and Discernment

For members of the DOK, discernment is the starting point for joining an international organization of women who are committed to prayer, service and evangelism. If you have an interest in joining the Saint Peter's Chapter of the DOK, Discernment Classes are beginning December 17, 2017! These are an opportunity to reflect on your faith, to learn about the DOK and its mission, and to decide if the DOK is right for you.

***Discernment:*** 1. the ability to judge well. 2. (in Christian contexts) perception in the absence of judgment with a view to obtaining spiritual direction and understanding.

The classes are held immediately following the 10:30 service and typically last one hour. If you are interested, you will be provided a study guide prepared by the National Council of the DOK that offers a road map for learning about the philosophy and practices of the DOK. The first class will be held on December 17<sup>th</sup> and following a brief hiatus for the holidays, will resume on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Classes will conclude in February and will be followed by a service of admission with the Saint Peter's congregation on February 11, 2018.

As a reminder, everyone is invited to contribute to Blessing Bags for the women who are guests of the Saint Peter's overflow shelter. Blessing bags are quart-size bags of needed toiletries and supplies for women in need. These gift bags will include a special printed blessing prepared by Mother Sue! The DOK will be preparing the Blessing Bags at their December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

# *150th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany*

November 13, 2017

The upcoming Annual Convention of the Diocese of Albany, scheduled for June 8th – June 10th, is our 150th Diocesan Convention. We are planning many special events at Convention to celebrate this milestone in the life of our Diocese. This year's theme is *Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever* (Hebrews 8:13). This theme reflects our Diocesan milestone, but also God's faithfulness throughout our history as a Diocese and even more His faithfulness throughout the history of the world and beyond.

We are honored to have with us for this special year's Convention the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, the Most Rev. Michael Curry. We will again have with us many other Bishops from various parts of the Anglican Communion throughout the world. There will also be a special Convention choir.

In order to more fully celebrate the 150th Convention of the Diocese and recognize all the parishes that make up the Diocese of Albany, we would like to have each parish represented by a banner in a grand procession at the Eucharist on Saturday afternoon. In the next few days, each parish will receive a letter from the Banner Committee, with details on this magnificent part of the weekend and how your parish can participate. If you don't currently have a banner, or your banner is not in good condition, don't worry – the Banner Committee has found an affordable way for parishes to get a banner and all that's needed to carry it and display it for less than \$100. This letter will be sent via email for those parishes that have email, and via regular mail for those who don't.

We'll still have the usual highlights of Convention including a multitude of workshops, Spirit-filled worship, beautiful music (traditional and contemporary), excellent preaching and teaching, and a time for prayer and healing ministry. The Diocesan Youth Rally will be available for middle school- and high school-aged kids and Vacation Bible School will be conducted for the elementary school-aged kids, as usual, and day care will be provided for children who are not old enough to attend school yet. And as always, there will be many opportunities for Christian fellowship with family and friends from around the Diocese and the wider Anglican Communion, as well as enjoyable entertainment and recreation, all in a beautiful Adirondack setting at Camp of the Woods in Speculator, NY.


You don't need to be a deputy to participate in this celebration of our life together. If you have never been to the Diocesan Convention, this would be a great year to come and celebrate! If you have been before, please join us again and help make this a grand celebration!

Faithfully Yours in Christ,

**+Bill**

*The Rt. Rev. William H. Love*  
*Ninth Bishop of The Episcopal Diocese of Albany*

# December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			
<b>3 First Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Healing Prayers</b> 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion 12:00pm - Confirmation Class 3:00pm - Handel's Messiah	4 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal	5 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's	6 8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Ho 6:30pm - Servi
<b>10 Second Sunday of Advent</b> 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer with Sunday School Pageant 11:45pm - DOK Meeting 12:00pm - Confirmation Class	11 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal	12 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's 4:30pm - Outreach Meeting 5:15pm - Vestry Meeting	13 8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Ho
<b>17 Third Sunday of Advent</b> 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Lessons and Carols 12:00pm - Hanging of the Greens with Luncheon at 1:00pm 12:00pm - DOK Discernment Class	18 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal	19 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's	20 8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Ho
<b>24 Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> 8:30am - Holy Communion  <b>Christmas Eve</b> 4:30pm - Holy Communion 9:30pm - Choral Prelude 10:00pm - Holy Communion	<b>25 Christmas Day</b> 9:00am Holy Communion  <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>26 St. Stephen, Deacon &amp; Martyr</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>27 Saint John the Baptist &amp; Evangelist</b>  8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Ho
<b>31 New Year's Eve</b> 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer No Confirmation Class			



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 12:30pm - Organ Concert	2 9:30am - Messiah Rehearsal with the Orchestra
of the Hill ly Communion ice of Remembrance	7 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	8 12:30pm - Organ Concert	9
of the Hill ly Communion	14 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	15 12:30pm - Organ Concert	16 11:00am - Angel's in Training
of the Hill ly Communion	21 <b>St. Thomas the Apostle</b> 5:30pm - 7:00pm Full Choir	22 12:30pm Organ Concert	23
<b>John, Apostle vangelist</b> of the Hill ly Communion	28 <b>The Holy Innocents</b> No Choir Rehearsals	29 No Organ Concert	30

## St. Peters Music

### 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](mailto:stpmus@gmail.com) or 339-0137.

### **Choristers Honored:**

Two of our choir members, Nancy Lundberg and April White, have been selected to sing at the Suburban Council Music Festival - the only two Albany High School non-Seniors selected for voice. Our choir should be proud, and Neil especially so given the work he has put in developing these girls' talents! Congratulations!



**DECEMBER 3rd, 3:00PM**

St. Peter's Choir will present a performance of Handel's Messiah, accompanied by a chamber orchestra. All are welcome to this performance. There is no charge for admission, but donations will be gratefully received.

### **FRIDAY NOONTIME ORGAN CONCERTS**

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

### **FESTIVAL SERVICE of LESSONS & CAROLS**

December 17th at 10:30 am

## Composer of the Month Club



**Sir David Valentine Willcocks** (30 December 1919 – 17 September 2015) was a British choral conductor, organist, composer and music administrator. He was particularly well known for his association with the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, which he directed from 1957 to 1974. Prior to working at King's Willcocks served as organist at Salisbury and Worcester cathedrals.

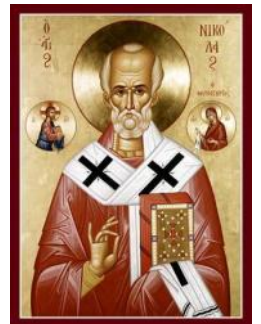
Several of the descants and carol arrangements he wrote for the annual service of Nine Lessons and Carols were published in the series of books Carols for Choirs which he edited along with Reginald Jacques and John Rutter. These carol books are a principal source of Christmas music for choirs the world over. They also sparked a wider interest in ancient carols and in the composition of contemporary Christmas carols on old traditional texts.

## Saint of the Month Club

### **Nicholas**

*Bishop of Myra, c. 342*

**Prayer:** Almighty God, who in thy love didst give to thy servant Nicholas of Myra a perpetual name for deeds of kindness both on land and sea: Grant, we pray thee, that thy Church may never cease to work for the happiness of children, the safety of sailors, the relief of the poor, and the help of those tossed by tempests of doubt or grief; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*



Very little is known about the life of Nicholas, except that he suffered torture and imprisonment during the persecution under the Emperor Diocletian. It is possible that he was one of the bishops attending the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea in 325. He was honored as a saint in Constantinople in the sixth century by the Emperor Justinian. His veneration became immensely popular in the West after the supposed removal of his body to Bari, Italy, in the late eleventh century. In England almost 400 churches were dedicated to him. Nicholas is famed as the traditional patron of seafarers and sailors, and, more especially, of children. As a bearer of gifts to children, his name was brought to America by the Dutch colonists in New York, from whom he is popularly known as Santa Claus.

## From the Archives

### *Bishop Doane's Contributions to the Arts*



Bishop Doane was not only an effective bishop with notable speaking and leadership skills. He also had an artistic flair that showed itself in areas that may be surprising.

#### **Contributions to Art:**

His contributions to art included support for a March 20, 1897, plan to include in the Albany Historical Society a new art gallery which would display in bi-annual exhibits many excellent and rare paintings held in the City of Albany. Other supporters of the art gallery included Mayor John Boyd Thacher, the Rev. Dr. W.W. Battershall, Jesse W. Potts and Robert C. Pruyn. In Doane's time the property was acquired and work on construction begun.

#### **Contributions to Architecture:**

His contribution in the area of architecture was amazing. The Cathedral of All Saints had an imposing plan. It was the first Episcopal cathedral in America to be built on the English model including a church, a hospital, a convent and a school. The cathedral was to be well made as are European cathedrals which are sometimes centuries in the making. Erastus Corning Sr. (creator of the New York Central Railroad in 1854) purchased the land for the cathedral in installments, beginning in 1872. The architect Robert Gibson, a graduate of the Royal Academy of Arts of London was chosen as cathedral architect. His grand design was in the style of Gothic Revival. An engraving of his original design hangs in our church archives.

The interior of the cathedral was to house ponderous pillars and narrow windows. There would be a side chapel to be called St. Michael's Chapel. There would be three rose windows, and a great east window, all highly decorated. When finished the cathedral would seat about 2500 worshippers.

By June of 1884 all the foundations were laid, and by the fall of 1888 the provisional building was ready for occupancy. The church was dedicated on November 20, 1888. It was the completion of almost twenty years of effort on the part of the bishop, chapter and diocese. And although in use for all services, the cathedral today still remains unfinished, with selected spires to be built.

#### **Contributions to Music:**

In the area of music Bishop Doane wrote the words for "Ancient of Days" with music composed by J. Albert Jeffery. It is a rousing five verse processional hymn. Even today our congregation sings this hymn.

#### **Contributions to Poetry:**

Bishop Doane wrote poetry. One example of his poetry was a little book dated 1901 entitled "Rhymes for Time to Time."

Another sample of his poetry is his famous poem to his dog Cluny.

"I am quite sure he thinks that I am God – since He is God on whom each one depends for life, and all things that His bounty sends – Not quick to mind, but quicker far than I To Him whom God I know and own; his eye, Deep brown and liquid, watches for my nod: He is more patient underneath the rod Than I, when God His wise corrections sends. He looks love at me, deep as words e'er spake; And from me never crumb or sup will take But he wags thanks with his most vocal tail; And when some crashing noise wakes all his fear He is content and quiet if I'm near, Secure that my protection will prevail; So faithful, mindful, thankful, trustful, he Tells me what I unto my God should be"

Cluny is now enshrined in a stained glass window in St. Andrew's Church.







Here are some of our members enjoying our Pre-Thanksgiving Feast!



We give thanks to God for our St. Peter's family.



**MINUTES FOR THE VESTRY MEETING**  
**ST. PETER'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**October 11, 2017**

**Present:** Fr. Hartt, J. Chenot, D. Spath, G. Scala, M. Lundberg, T. Murphy, K. Cehowski, C. Gordon, N. Creagan, M. Holden

**Absent:** Mtr. Sue Waldron, E. Stafford, S. Lencewicz,

Opening Prayer Led by Father Paul Hartt

**Approval of the Minutes of Vestry Meeting, September 12, 2017.**

The September 12, 2017 minutes were approved on a motion by C Gordon and seconded by K Cehowski. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

**Senior Warden Report** –J. Chenot

Jim started his report by thanking everyone who contributed and attended this year's annual picnic in September. Other than a great way to start off our new church calendar season, we took this beautiful fall day to celebrate the ministry of Pat Shortall, our church sexton who retired this summer after 33 years of service. Pat will stay on with us part time and we are grateful for the continued love and ministry that he has for St. Peter's. I would also like to thank Deb and Frank Spath for setting up the morning of the picnic as well as many others including Pat Shortall and Ian Mike, who is now shadowing Pat as the new sexton. We also need to thank to Jordan Chenot and CJ Gordon for all their assistance cooking on the grill. Lastly, many thanks to those who brought a dish to pass and making the picnic run smoothly and successfully. The picnic is always a great time for all to enjoy great food and enjoy each other's company.

First communion, confirmation and Bible study classes are in full swing. I would like to thank both Mother Sue and Father Hartt for all the work they put into these programs already in place as well as some new activities that have been added to the calendar.

We will be sending out the third quarter statements to our parishioners by the end of this week. The clergy, vestry and finance committee has begun getting the word out pertaining to the stewardship campaign. This year we have put important pieces of information in the weekly leaflets pertaining to stewardship and will be putting supplement information in the back of the church's informational area. Consecration Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, October 29th. Following the 10:30 service, we will have a luncheon at 90 State Street to celebrate the commitments parishioners have made, whether monetary or volunteering their time on many committees we have within the church. We hope many will take advantage of this great opportunity to join together and celebrate St. Peter's ministry.

The finance committee will also start working on next year's budget so the vestry can begin reviewing it at the next vestry meeting. It is so important that we continue to get the message out to the congregation the importance of stewardship, increasing the endowment annually as well as gifting in their wills and estate planning.

As November approaches, there are a few events that will be taking place to take note of. One to mention is our pre-Thanksgiving dinner which will be held on November 11th. Each year we have an incredible turnout for this event and I hope those who have not come in the past will please mark this date on your calendar. This event it is a great time to get the congregation together for great food and fellowship. On Saturday, November 18th, the choir will be baking pies for Thanksgiving as a fundraising event; fliers will be out for those who would like to preorder them. Also in November, we begin preparing steps needed to continue our efforts hosting the overflow homeless shelter again this year beginning the first week in December. This year will be our ninth year and we will continue as we did last year accommodating women looking for shelter for a second year. The Albany City Mission is still in the process of rehabbing an additional building in Albany dedicated to women, which is sorely needed in downtown Albany, and they have had a large calling for this important ministry helping these women in the local community every day. For those women in the congregation or others that may want to volunteer helping with City Mission coordinators welcoming these women and helping them get settled each night with light snacks and beverages, we will have two orientations beforehand at the church. The first one will be on Tuesday, November 7th at 7:00 and the second one on Saturday, November 18th at 10:00. The congregation has been very generous in the past supporting this ministry with food and monetary donations and we hope that this generosity will continue again this year for those who are in need of a safe and warm place at night during the upcoming winter nights.

Lastly, Jim wanted to thank the Clergy, vestry, choir and Neil for all their work and support during the very busy upcoming schedule of events that lead us from musical performances to special services and dinners that will be coming up in the near future as well as getting ready for the Advent season. Also, we keep those in mind who are on committees that dedicate so much of their time and talents behind the scenes each week as well as those in the office; your hard work does not go unnoticed. I want to thank each and every one of you for all your help and support.

## **Finance** – G. Scala - Treasurer's Report – October Meeting

George S. reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the month of September. Offerings for September were \$13,249. Total offerings YTD are \$162,871. This compares to a budgeted number of \$205,238. YTD through the same period in 2016 was \$164,458.

The investment/endowment accounts both showed for September. Merrill Lynch showed a positive return of +1.58%. YTD the Merrill Lynch account shows a positive return of 10.28%. The Key accounts showed a return of 1.26% for the month. YTD the Key accounts show a positive return of +11.14%. This leaves us with a positive budget variance in this area YTD of \$365,945. Both accounts performed favorably versus market indexes. Expenses YTD through September are \$35,992 over budget. YTD we show a gain of \$147,639, primarily as a result of performance of the investment accounts.

Pledges remain at 54 pledging units for a total amount of \$143,646.

## **Property**

A motion was made to approve \$7,800 in roof repairs and railings at the church. The motion was made by M Lundberg and seconded by T. Murphy. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

## **Outreach** – No report

## **Old Business**

## **New Business**

### **Associate Rector's Report** – Mother Sue - October 2017

The parish picnic on September 24th was well attended and a great "official" start to our new year. I was pleased to see some of our newer parishioners join us this year and thank those of you who have welcomed them to our midst and encouraged their increasing involvement in the life of our parish.

Women's Bible study began on October 19th and will meet on Tuesday evenings at 5:00 in the Vestry Room (on non-Vestry Tuesdays). We are reading and reflecting on Lazarus Awakening: Finding your Place in the Heart of God, by Joanna Weaver. The study lasts 10 weeks long and we welcome the women of the parish to join us.

The Blessing of the Animals was held on Sunday, October 8th at 3:00 with 4 dogs and 8 humans present! It was a great time of prayer and celebration of our pets and their places in our lives.

Daughters of the King are invited to the annual assembly of Daughters of the Diocese on Saturday, November 4th from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at Christ the King Spiritual Life Center. The title is The Kingdom of Heaven - Building a Nest in God's Tree.

Next Sunday, October 15th, is the Annual Neighborhood Prayer Walk, sponsored by the DOK during which we will offer prayers in various stops in downtown Albany. We invite all members of St. Peter's to join us as we pray for our downtown neighborhood.

This month and during November, the DOK are requesting parishioners bring in personal care items (shampoo, conditioner, hand/body lotion, toothpaste, lip balm/gloss, hand wipes, sanitizer, personal feminine products, etc.) for the Blessing Bags for the women of our Overflow Homeless Shelter.

We've had three deaths since the last Vestry meeting and the clergy thanks Pat, Ian, Neil, Angie, the altar guild, Gordon Lattey and Geoffrey Hoderath for their support for our services. Please pray for the Luther, Miller and Mahar families.

The annual Capital City Rescue Mission banquet was Tuesday October 10th, with the clergy attending. We continue to be moved by the amazing work and witness for our Lord the Mission is making in the City of Albany. Please continue to pray for and support this ministry. Their current appeal is to renovate a 40,000 square foot factory to provide 16 apartments for women and their children, along with instructional space, a children's room, exercise room, a teaching kitchen and rooftop patio.

The annual Diocesan Bible Symposium will be held on Saturday, October 14 at The Cathedral of All Saints, 62 S. Swan Street, Albany NY 12210. The speaker this year is The Rev. Dr. Michael Cover, an Episcopal priest and Assistant Professor of Ancient Christianity and Judaism at Marquette University, and a frequent contributor to The Living Church. The title of Fr. Cover's presentation is Not as Orphans: Praying and Preaching with the Saints of Scripture. I am registered to attend and hope additional members of St. Peter's will join us.

The clergy will be on the Diocesan Clergy Retreat November 7-10 at Christ the King Spiritual Life Center. Please contact us via cell phones for any pastoral emergencies. The week of 10/23 I will be on vacation...thank you!

## **Sunday Attendance** – ASA - 120.5

## **Rectors Report** - Father Hartt

Father Hartt spoke to the Vestry about the Stewardship program for this year, "Journey to Generosity." It is a program of The Episcopal Church Stewardship Office. The in-gathering of pledges will occur by mail and at both Services on our Stewardship Sunday, October 29th. Father Hartt thanked George Scala and Jimmy Chenot for their work on the campaign. Our stewardship drive will continue into November and will include a portion on legacy gifts.

Father Hartt spoke about his church history course. Participants are finding the book to be quite good. Many report learning important events in the life of the Church for the first time. There are some parish members who cannot attend the class, but are keen to read the book due to the good reviews. Father Hartt said that Mark Noll's Turning Points: Decisive Moments in Church History ought to be in every parish library. Given the rich history of Anglicanism and Saint Peter's, it is an especially important work for us.

The topic of Vestry elections was discussed.

Father Hartt thanked all who made the Parish Picnic a success. It was well attended. Most of all, our honoring of Pat Shortall was very moving. We give thanks for Pat and his work among us. Pat Shortall officially retired at the end of July. However, Pat will remain at Saint Peter's with the part-time hours permitted by the Church Pension Plan.

The Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner was discussed. We have only one more Vestry meeting prior to the event. Fr. Hartt asked about the volunteers needed for the event. The clergy will be at the Diocesan Clergy Conference November 7-10, but back for the dinner.

The Messiah is scheduled for December 3rd, Lessons and Carols will be 12/17. The pageant will be on 12/10. There will be a single Service of Holy Communion at 8:30AM on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, which falls on Christmas Eve this year. It is important to get the word out that this early Service is not an "early" Christmas Eve Service. Christmas Eve Services will fall at the usual times 4:30PM and 10:PM, with Caroling at 9:30PM.

Father Hartt spoke about Sunday attendance figures for the Diocese and surrounding Dioceses. Our own parish figures were discussed.

Mother Waldron and Fr. Hartt attended the Capital District Rescue Mission fundraiser last evening. The City Mission is placing a good bit of focus on women and children, including the construction of new program housing. Our overflow sheltering of women has proved helpful to the Mission in many ways. Father Hartt spoke of the hospitality shown by our members to the women, especially the "blessing bags." These bags provide personal items for the women.

Father Hartt spoke of our need to encourage more regular attendance.

Parking is a serious issue for the parish and the problem is getting worse with the development downtown. There are no easy answers. Part of the problem are the parking rates of the hotel are high enough to encourage guests to park on the street.

## **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by K. Cehowski and seconded by N. Cregan, then was passed unanimously by the vestry.

## **Compline**

Father Hartt led Compline.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin M. Cehowski



### *Clergy & Staff*

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

### *Vestry*

James Chenot.....Senior Warden  
Deborah Spath.....Junior Warden  
George Scala.....Treasurer  
Kevin Cehowski, Nancy Creagan, Christie Gordon, Maria Holden,  
Stephanie Lencewicz, Mark Lundberg, Tim Murphy, Earl Stafford

### *How to Contact Us*

#### **Office Hours:**

Monday -Friday

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

(And sometimes later. Call to check)

Telephone: 518-434-3502

Fax: 518-462-4419

E-Mail:

Receptionist@stpeterschurhalbany.org

Website:

www.stpeterschurhalbany.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 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

