

2018 Annual Reports ST. PETER'S CHURCH RECTOR'S REPORT

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. (2 Corinthians 4:7)

On the First Sunday after the Epiphany 2018, a remarkable bit of history occurred at Saint Peter's: we returned to our roots. The circumstance that led to this experience was the frigid cold. For many days, temperatures in the mornings were hovering near the negative degrees and the church was very cold indeed. The decision was made by the clergy to move services into the Pumpelly Room at 8:30AM and the choir room at 10:30AM. We used the wooden altar employed for the Children's Chapel and celebrated Holy Communion, including hymns, sitting on folding chairs.

The reason this emergency measure was historic could easily be missed, even as it was felt. The Church is not the building. The Church is the people. Such is how we began, first as a congregation. We quite rightly date the parish to 1712 for that reason, when the congregation was formed. Until we were able to build our own church in 1715, we met in a "dilapidated" Dutch Lutheran Church near the Fort. So, our church as a people existed before our first building. The experience on the First Sunday after the Epiphany drove home the point in its positive and glorious reality. We are first and foremost a beautiful church as a people. Indeed, the church building pales in comparison. The joy we felt that Sunday was more than the novelty of the experience. It was the truth about the very nature of the Body of Christ.

This Body of Christ has been working very hard. Anyone looking at the Annual Report for the past year would wonder how on earth we get this much done at Saint Peter's. The answer, of course, is that we don't get it done. God's grace gets it done through jars of clay. We could divide this laboring into six areas. They are outreach, worship, administration, education, fellowship and prayer. The reports speak for themselves. I can only highlight a few things in the time permitted.

Our Choir is more than an aid to worship. It is a sign pointing to the perfection of praise in heaven. This past year, Mr. Keen led our choir to Chichester Cathedral in England. Our Choir received rave reviews from a very demanding host. Hours and hours of practice went into their trip. The Messiah, Lessons and Carols, St. Matthew's Passion, Lenten Evensong, weddings and funerals, and our Sunday services are likewise prepared with great religious devotion. It is not a matter of technical competence alone. It is a faith offering. Our choir is here in rain, snow, and sleet. The caroling before the 10:00PM Service on Christmas Eve is the musical highpoint of the year for me. Neil Keen is a joy to work with and a treasure to the church. Our children are learning the very best of our Anglican musical heritage. It is a gift for a lifetime.

The Daughters of the King added three new Daughters this past year: Karen Chatman, Michelle Lundberg and Kate Marly. Three more Daughters will be installed at the Bishop's visitation on February 11th: Holi Frazier, Alexandra Whitcraft, and Donna Olman. We will soon have 15 Daughters at Saint Peter's. The Daughters of the King offer a ministry of prayer and service on our behalf. I have both felt and seen the fruit of their dedicated prayer and service. Prayer is the first labor of love. They are mighty laborers of intercession on our behalf. I want to thank Julie Drao for her leadership as President and Carly Crewell for her role as Vice President and chief evangelist, including Carly's card ministry.

Our beloved Pat Shortall retired this past year after 33 years of faithful service. Fortunately, Pat has continued to serve among us. The Church Pension Plan allows Pat to continue to serve on a part-time basis. We rejoice to see him Sunday morning as always and during the week as his schedule permits. Ian Mike joined the sexton staff this past year. It has been a tough start with the weather and snow removal. We thank Ian and Pat for working together so well in this time of transition. Wayne Hill has been a most faithful presence during the week for visitors and parishioners alike. Wayne was made a Deacon recently in his church tradition.

This past year we added to our office staff Angie Schlossberg. Angie is married to Fr. Schlossberg of St. John's in Troy. Angie has a deep Christian faith and love for St. Peter's. Her office skills are excellent. Angie is great with parishioners and our "street traffic." She knows Episcopal terminology, which is hard to find. We are delighted that Angie has joined the staff.

Parish outreach continues on many levels. I want to thank Judy Burns for her organization of so much of the outreach at St. Peter's. We are in the 9th year of our overflow shelter in partnership with the Capital City Rescue Mission. We have come a long way in impacting the downtown community. We continue to serve at Grace and Holy Innocents Soup Kitchen and provide meals for the First Lutheran overflow shelter. Laura Rulison leads the former and Debbie Spath the latter. We collected 54 gifts for Burmese refugee families at Christmas, which Janice Chenot coordinated on top of her many office duties. We sponsored four orphan girls for school in West Buganda and provided four scholarships to Beaver Cross Summer Camp for Burmese refugee children. 62 "Blessing Bags" were made for the women of our shelter through the Daughters. Fifty Backpacks and many coats were collected by the Sunday School. We have contributed to the Food Bank and Equinox at Thanksgiving. The list could go on. I thank the parish for taking Christian outreach into your hearts at such depth.

On the outreach front lines, it is my sad duty to report that the ravages of the opioid crisis are everywhere to be seen in downtown Albany and the suburbs alike. Each day your clergy respond to needs from the street, many driven by addiction. Please pray for deliverance from this scourge and don't let your elected officials off the hook on providing resources to meet this epidemic. The suffering is horrendous.

The face of St. Peter's to the downtown community has been one of compassion and engagement at ever-increasing levels. There is some amount of over-extending of our members in certain areas. Everything that we are doing is worthwhile. It is hard to scale back. We have a high level of participation. However, we do need to recruit a few more souls to make it all work more smoothly. If some of you feel tired, you have every right to feel so. We pray for more hands. "Come Labor On" is the hymn these days.

Janice Chenot has given tirelessly of her time in the service of the parish. Janice is an office volunteer and without her contribution we would require more paid staff. Janice's heart is big and her love for this parish cannot be overstated. We are blessed that she has undertaken not only substantial office and bookkeeping duties, but numerous parish fellowship events. In particular, the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Pre-Thanksgiving Thanksgiving Dinner could not happen without her. We are grateful.

Bishop Love will be coming to St. Peter's this year on February 11th. We have prepared two of our young people to be presented for Confirmation, Sydney Hardy and Molly Russom. They have been excellent and diligent students. It is in preparing our young people for the mature affirmation of their faith that the fruit of St. Peter's Christian formation is particularly evident. In Sydney's case, the service she has done in the Sunday School reveals itself in the depth of her personal responsibility and commitment to others. She is brave in her Christian faith among her peers. For Molly the very same has occurred through the life of the Choir. In both cases, parental dedication to the life of the parish has been central. Thank you all for your dedication to the faith formation of your children. In 2107, we were blessed to have seven members Confirmed at the Cathedral. Our 2017 class had both adults and teens: Matthew Clark, Caitlyn Connors, Holi Frazier, Hannah Grill, Mae Healy, Mckenzie Murphy, and George Saide. Confirmation has proved an especially important Sacrament for formation at St. Peter's.

Our Sunday School, led by Laura Rulison, provides excellent Christian Education and nursery care. The face of Christ is truly seen by our children in Sharon Vardabash, Kelly Welch, Vicky Pautler and Ashley Spath. Our children learn not only the teachings of Jesus, but the importance of serving in His Name. The fifty backpacks, the coats collected and even the pumpkin bread made reveal that serving the Lord knows no age. Children's Chapel continues to be life-giving to the parish as a whole. The children attend a simple private Eucharist and process from the church to the Pumpelly Room with the vessels, cross, torch, and Bible. It is a powerful moment for us each month as they process in the strength of their own faith.

Altar Guild has labored tirelessly this year with 150 Services. The clergy depend on their work to be ready for worship. Altar Guild means coming in early and staying late. It means being present when many would prefer to rush home, especially at Christmas and Easter. The 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday this year made for a demanding Altar Guild presence. Altar Guild involves polishing, changing frontals on the Altar and washing linens. I want to thank Cathy Schunk for her leadership and also every hand at work: Barbara Adams, John Cerniglia, John Davis, Adele Everett, Pam Gerfin, Laura Grill, Catherine Gabriels, Donna Hershey, Barbara Kelly, Ashley Spath, Michele Lundberg, Diana Martin, Vicky Pautler, and Debbie Spath.

Our Usher Guild does more than count heads and hand out leaflets. As a downtown parish, our Ushers must guide needful folks to the clergy and sometimes watch over them. They help members to their cars and up and down stairs. We are in need of more Ushers in the coming year. I ask that those interested in this service see Moses Kamya about joining the Guild. Our dedicated Ushers are Clark Daggett, Fred Lincoln, Bernie Burnell, John Davis, John Sterrett, Robert Hull, Teddy Hull, Sharon DeBonis, Julie Drao, Catherine Schunk, Bill Collins, Kevin Creagan, Jeff Russom, Frank Sapth, Chris Grill, and Mark and Michele Lundberg,

We receive countless comments on the beauty of the flowers. These arrangements are labor-intensive and are devotional acts. I wish to thank Sally Jennings for chairing the Guild. I also wish to thank the parish for the financial support of the Flower Guild through many memorial donations. Our Flower Guild members are Edith Allen, Sherry Bishko, Ann Collins, Nancy Creagan, Sharon DeBonis, Delly Everett, Catherine Gabriels, Laura Grill, and Jeffrey Hartt. Thank you for the beauty you create to the glory of God.

Our Altar Servers and Lay Eucharistic Ministers aid the Clergy with great devotion. These are men and women of deep faith and love for the Lord. I want to thank especially Gordon Lattey and David Nortey Noi at 8:30AM and Jack Ratzel and Susan Smith at 10:30AM. We have added to our ranks Kevin Cehowski and John Sterrett this past year. We are also delighted to have a new Acolyte in Julian Kovacs. We have many Lectors at St. Peter's who proclaim the Word with grace and care. We thank them for their willingness to serve in the essential work of reading the Scriptures.

Archives has been transformed by the dedicated work of Connie Powell. Not only has a yeoman's work been done on cataloging and organizing our Archives, but Connie has given us many detailed articles for the Newsletter and answered many inquiries. We thank Connie Powell for her important work in preserving our heritage.

Our church's finances have been strong this year. We have George Scala and Jim Chenot to thank for the diligence and prudence with which they manage our accounts. Obviously, the stock market has been strong. Yet through thick and thin George and Jim have guided our ship with wisdom and foresight. You can look forward to their report. We do, however, need to encourage more pledging members and an increase in total parish giving. We have many newer Episcopalians who are still learning Episcopal stewardship. I want to thank all who give sacrificially to the work and mission of St. Peter's.

This year Jim Chenot will be stepping down as Senior Warden. He has served with the devotion born of a profound Christian faith. His report will give voice to the love he has for this parish. We see the fruit of that love in no job being too small or great for him to undertake. Jim and Janice both are here night and day. Jim's heart for the outreach of the parish has been unwavering. We need Jim. It is the will of the Vestry that should Debbie Spath be elected as Sr. Warden this year, the vestry will appoint Jim Chenot as Jr. Warden until the next Annual Meeting, filling Debbie's vacated Jr. Warden seat.

Mark Lundberg is terming out this year after six years. I want to thank Mark especially for his strong and wise voice at vestry. Mark has always be willing to take on tough matters with gentleness and insight. Every vestry needs a Mark. We thank him for his service. Earl Stafford will also be stepping down from Vestry. He has served St. Peter's in many ways beyond the Vestry, from Coffee Hour to plumbing issues. We thank Earl for his service and know we will continue to see his labor in many other needed areas.

Your Vestry is godly. They hold you in their heart. They have no agenda but the well-being of this parish. There is a wonderful diversity of ages and tenure in the parish. Your Vestry reflects both the pillars of this parish and its future. You can be proud of the leadership that you have elected.

Many years back, we realized that we needed to raise up a new generation for future leadership. Such foresight is now yielding its fruit. Thank you Jim Chenot, Debby Spath, George Scala, Kevin Cehowski, Nancy Creagan, Christie Gordon, Maria Holden, Stephanie Lencewicz, Mark Lundberg, Tim Murphy and Earl Stafford for your labor of faith this past year. It is an honor to work with such a fine Vestry.

It is a privilege to work with Mother Sue Waldron. I do not need to convey to any parish member the devotion she has to pastoral ministry. Mother Waldron is also an excellent teacher and keeps me on the straight and narrow administratively. Mother Sue also does essential work for the Diocese as Chair of the Commission of Ministry. Her leadership on the Commission reflects well on St. Peter's. Mostly, I want to thank Mother Waldron for being a colleague whose spiritual discernment aids me daily. We are blessed beyond words by her ministry.

At the beginning, I wrote of church as the people, not the building – no matter how beautiful the building and St. Peter's truly has such a church. Simply put, the people of this parish have labored hard for the Kingdom. My report is to celebrate that truth and to give God the glory. I pray that the needed grace will continue more and more in this year.

Finally, I want to thank all who has been disciplined in their church attendance this past year. I am well aware that many competing claims are dangled as temptations. I also know that for our older members the weather has been a substantial hurdle to cross. Parking issues only make matters harder. The many events downtown, and especially the hotels, often cause parking to be tough to find. I can only thank you for putting up with it all.

Frequently, we ponder the good old days of full Sunday schools and pews. Some of it is myth, but there is some undeniable truth as well. It is worth looking back at what was different then. The virtues that filled Episcopal churches back then are the same virtues we need now. Church was at the center of life, not an add-on. Religious duty and community service were the norm. Keeping the Sabbath was assumed. Adult Bible study at church and home devotions were common. Strong parental expectations for religious formation helped the clergy greatly. School sports schedules presumed Sunday mornings were off limits. Community meant being with people in real time and space. Tolerance of others and social graces were cultivated virtues. I confess here to having mixed feelings about our church Facebook page. It has been helpful in many ways, but also allows for connection without genuine presence. We could say this about social media in general. Technical sophistication needs to meet the old school virtues of lived community.

Despite such cultural concerns, St. Peter's is doing a good bit better than the Diocese as a whole and the Episcopal Church in general. Our average Sunday attendance was 129.8. Meanwhile, sadly, there has been a 28% drop in Average Sunday Attendance in the Diocese from 2006-2016. There was a 6.1% drop in the calendar year 2015-16 alone. It is an accelerating decline. Obviously, such a drop in attendance across the Diocese is alarming. But we are not unique as a Diocese. Nearby Central New York had a 37.8 percent drop in average Sunday attendance in the same period. The Episcopal Church as a whole has joined the decline of the Mainline with very few exceptions. The point is that Saint Peter's attendance figures need to be contextualized. We are beating the trends, even as we suffer some loss. But we have young people and powerful laborers for the Gospel. Many parishes are enfeebled in a way we are not. We have commitment to the parish over multiple generations. We are seeing new faces in our midst. We have genuine Christian love for one another and the stranger.

If I may return to the First Sunday after the Epiphany, the truth of this parish is how we huddled against one another that morning and sang God's praise as a people. We are not a building. We are a people bound to one another in Jesus Christ, not in theory but in truth. The Holy Spirit is here working. We do love one another. We trust the Lord's plan for us and labor on by God's grace. In this and all things, to God be the glory.

Fr. Paul J. Hartt,

Rector

ST. PETER'S CHURCH ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S REPORT

This was yet again another amazing year of ministry at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Our weekly worship gatherings may seem customary to some, but I want you to know that our coming together, as the body of Christ, sustains me all week long. It takes each of us, our presence and our participation, to make that happen and I truly celebrate our common worship every week and thank you for your part in it. We have those behind the scenes: our altar guild and flower guild members, office staff and sextons. The preparatory work of these individuals is invaluable to us. We have those who are front and center: our ushers, readers, LEMS, Sunday school teachers and choir members. Their offering is incredible. We have the leaders of our church: Fr. Hartt, Jim Chenot, Deb Spath, Neil Keen, Laura Rulison and Vestry members. Their leadership blazes the trail for us all. Lastly, we have every person who walks through our doors and utters the Amen. Together, we truly fulfill Paul's words: "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." (1 Cor 12:27)

A large part of our ministry at St. Peter's includes Outreach to our community. We thank Judy Burns for her leadership of our Outreach Committee and her separate report on that ministry. There is other outreach ministry we do as well. Much of this occurs during the week as visitors stop by our church office. Others might stop in on Sunday mornings. They find among us the gifts of hospitality and encouragement, prayer and support, direction and Blessing. These are important faith witnesses to those beyond our membership role. Both Fr. Hartt and I meet many of the needs but many of you do as well. Beyond worship, this is a call of our community: "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:34b-36, 40b)

I am always blessed to witness the spiritual growth of others. We had many avenues for this during 2017 with Christian Education offerings I led or attended throughout the year:

• We lost no time in 2017 beginning January 1st with "Read through the Holy Bible in 90 Days". I was joined by a dozen individuals through a Facebook group as we read daily at home and posted reflections or questions to the group. This was quite an undertaking but we were forever changed by reading through the entire Bible in such a short time frame.

• In February, several members were blessed to attend the Women's Conference at the Spiritual Life Center "Women Going Deeper" and gain Biblical teaching from three extraordinary Christian leaders: Kay Arthur, Beth Moore and Priscilla Shirer.

• That month we also began "Discovery Bible Study", co-led by myself and Fr. Hartt. This group gathered on Wednesday evenings to reflect on short Scripture passages, set goals for their impact on our life, and gave thought to sharing that message with others.

• Also in February, the women of the church began their study of "Hearts of Fire: Eight Women of the Underground Church and their Stories of Costly Faith." This was difficult material to grapple with, yet a timely reminder of the ongoing suffering of Christians for their faith.

• In April we offered a Lenten Quiet Day with a series of meditations with quiet reflection time following, ending with Stations of the Cross in the Sanctuary. I thank the Daughters of the King who provided luncheon items for those attended the Quiet Day.

• During May and June, Fr. Hartt and I co-led another Bible study on the Acts of the Apostles. This coordinated well with our reading through the Book of Acts during Pentecost and helped us focus on the forming and ministry of the early Church.

• Also during May and June, the women of the Church gathered for weekly video teachings and reflection on Beth Moore's "Children of the Day" which led us through the 1st and 2nd Letters of Paul to the Thessalonians. We enjoyed this deep reflection and the fellowship the gatherings provided us.

• In May we celebrated the Confirmations of (7) of our Church members, following months of education and preparation. We continue to celebrate Matthew Clark, Caitlyn Connors, Holli Frazier, Hannah Grill, Mae Healy, Mckenzie Murphy and George Saide for their mature commitment of faith.

• Also, the fall provided another study for the women of the church: "Lazarus Awakening" by Joanna Weaver. Again, the ladies enjoyed not only reading one chapter each week, but also gathering to reflect and relate the material to our own lives.

• Last, but certainly not least, we remembered our adoring pets at the annual Blessing of the Animals in October. This gave us a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our pets as well as thanking God for his wonderful creation of them and placing them in our lives.

As you can see, there were many, many Christian Education opportunities for us during 2017. How Blessed we are! I am always eager to hear your thoughts on what Christian Education offerings you would like to see in the future. We remember that study of Holy Scripture is vital to our Christian growth. "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Youth ministry remains strong at St. Peter's as well. Over the course of 2017, we offered First Holy Communion classes, Confirmation instruction, monthly Youth Sundays (with youth leading many parts of our Sunday worship), Children's Chapel (with instructed Eucharist for our youngest members) and also weekly Children's homilies. All of this augment the extraordinary work of Laura Rulison, our Christian Education Director, and the Sunday school teachers who provide weekly care and nourishment to our youngest members. Please read their report for more details. We continue to instruct and baptize the new arrivals and welcome them into our fold. All of this gives us much hope for our future, knowing that the next generation is being formed from the start at St. Peter's. We are reminded of Christ's words: "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." (Matthew 9:14)

Another area of celebration and great growth in our church has been through the Daughters of the King. The year 2017 saw our ranks grow by the Installation of (3) new members: Karen Chatman, Michelle Lundberg and Kate Marlay. The Daughters commit to praying daily for the needs of the church, to service within the church and to evangelism. What an extraordinary gift to each of us: to have our prayers needs remembered before God every day! Supplementing the Daughters separate report, I was blessed to assist them by acting as the Chapter Chaplain through monthly gatherings, discernment classes, forming Blessing bags (personal care items for homeless women) and our Neighborhood Prayer Walk in the Fall. I thank Julie Drao, President and Carly Crewell, Vice President for their leadership, and Susan Smith for maintaining our Prayer List, and thank all the Daughters for their daily prayers for us and our loved ones. The Daughters remind us of the comfort promised to us in Holy Scriptures of lifting our prayers to Almighty God: "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

There were also many opportunities to share in both the joys and sorrows of you and your family's lives. Pastoral care remains a vital part of ministry at St. Peter's and provides for deep connection between members and their clergy. Hospital, nursing home and home visits, visits to the prison, blessing the newly born as well as praying for the sick and dying are all deeply meaningful experiences for me as your priest. I am always humbled at how you welcome me into these moments so that we might share them together in the Lord. I pray that I bear witness to him at such occasions and that you draw both strength and comfort from our faith and our time together. Through these you also enable me to fulfill my calling as pastor and priest: "Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son". (Acts 20:28)

Although St. Peter's is my main focus we are reminded that we are part of a much larger church and, therefore, I spent time and energy on Diocesan matters as well. In June I attended Diocesan Convention with our delegates which provided much spiritual growth through workshops and plenary sessions, great worship opportunities as well as connecting with friends across the Diocese. I was also blessed to offer a workshop there to others teaching "The Call to Forgive" which explored the stages of Forgiveness, a topic I hope to teach on again in the future. In September, I was enriched by Dr. Michael Cover's teaching at the annual Diocesan Bible Symposium, "Not as Orphans: Praying and Preaching with the Saints of Scripture." These teachings broadened my thoughts to include those who have gone before us, the "great cloud of witnesses" and all we can learn through them. I also attended the Diocesan Parish Leadership Conference with the theme "Introduction to Healthy Congregations". Although parish health at St. Peter's remains strong, there are always things for us to learn so that we continue to model spiritual, emotional and physical health. I also attended the Diocesan Priest's Retreat, offering a time of rest and refreshment with my Bishop and colleagues. Lastly, I continue to assist the Diocese and Bishop Love in the role of Chair of the Commission on Ministry. In this leadership role, I help guide the Ordination process for individuals in our Diocese. We continue to celebrate that God raises up Holy men and women for ordained leadership roles in our Church. Together, we remain a part of God's one, holy, catholic and apostolic church: "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God." (Ephesians 2:19-22)

I have saved my personal highlight of 2017 for last: the July Choir Trip to Chichester, England. I was very blessed to accompany our choir as Chaplain and take part in worship services (by reading of lessons) in Chichester Cathedral as well as enjoy many visits to places of worship as well as historical sites in London and along the southern coast of England. We learned much from our Anglican brothers and sisters across the pond and connected deeply to our faith. I enjoyed the quality time with the choir members of the church whose regular contribution to our worship services is unmatched. As clergy, I was proud to represent St. Peter's and also to receive the accolades of many Chichester cathedralites as they praised the singing of our choir and how much they enriched daily worship that week at Chichester. The choir remains a central part of St. Peter's and, as St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo stated, "He who sings prays twice". Our common life is much enriched by the dedication and ministry of our choir under the leadership of Neil Keen, all who deserve our great thanks. "Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name." (Psalm 30:4)

St. Peter's remains a wonderful place to serve, an extraordinary place to worship, and a loving place to grow within the body of Christ. As the place I have served and worshipped every year since my Ordination, I look forward to my tenth year serving among you. "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:3-6)

With Love and Blessings,

Mother Sue+

ST. PETER'S CHURCH SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

As I finish my eighth year serving as Senior Warden, I step down with feelings of heartfelt love and gratitude for the congregation, vestry and clergy of St. Peter's. My tenure in this position has been one of the most rewarding and fulfilling periods of time in my life. Although these eight years have been a highlight for me, my beginning here, as well as my family's introduction to St. Peter's, will always be what I look back upon most fondly. Forty-nine years ago, a piano teacher and parishioner at St. Peter's, Mrs. Bamford, spoke to my parents about the wonderful boys choir her church had and inquired as to whether I would be interested in joining. At that time my mother was faithfully bringing my brother and I to St. Michael's Catholic Church in Troy each week. Unaware at first that St. Peter's was an Episcopal church she thought it was a wonderful idea and I tried out for the choir. I became a treble at St. Peter's for many years. At that time there was also a separate girls choir here and it was there I met my wife Janice. From our very first meeting in 1976, through all of the years of dating, to our wedding in 1983 and the many happy years that have followed, St. Peter's has been so important to our lives. As the years have passed, our family has grown. Three children later, Caitlin, Christie and Jordan, all baptized and confirmed at St. Peter's, all singing in the choir at an early age, all attending Sunday service each week are now active members of the congregation. As their children, our grandchildren, grow they will also come to know and love this church and the people within it. Janice and I could not be happier or prouder to see what our children have become and what their children will become, largely because of the foundation of life in Christ that St. Peter's has allowed us to build.

So what does this story have to do with an annual report from the Senior Warden you may ask? – Everything. I bring this story up for a few important reasons. The invitation Mrs. Bamford extended to our family to attend a service at her place of worship resulted in three generations of my family as members of this congregation and having a mother with strong Christian convictions showed me the importance of attending church each Sunday. An invitation to a friend that hasn't been to church in some time and/or being an example to others by attending church each week to worship is so important to the future of St. Peter's.

The future success of St. Peter's is extremely important and very dear to me. It has become, and will continue to be, a large part of my life. I know that I am not alone in seeing how lucky we are to have such a beautiful church to worship in each Sunday. We have so many parishioners that truly care for each other inside and outside of St. Peter's and I can only pray that what God has blessed myself and my family with will continue for many generations to come.

What makes St. Peter's so special in so many ways are the traditions that have been passed on as well as recent ones that have been added. Starting with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Evensong held each Friday during Lent, Good Friday Service with a musical performance by our choir, followed by Easter celebration. In the fall we have our annual church picnic, Consecration Sunday, Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner, leading us to Advent with the performance of the Messiah, Lessons and Carols, the Christmas Pageant, the Hanging of the Greens and two beautiful Christmas Eve services followed by a Christmas Day service. For all these traditions to carry on for future generations, it requires much time and dedication from all of us. We must set an example to those who look up to us and will, hopefully, follow in our footsteps to be faithful servants to God and St. Peter's.

Having a healthy and loving spiritual family as we do at St. Peter's requires a loving and caring clergy. Our Rector, Father Paul Hartt has been a rock in his faithfulness and spiritual convictions. I have seen him in every setting - baptisms, weddings, funerals as well as daily hospital and home visits, sitting vigil with families during surgeries and supporting families during their loved ones' last hours and giving bedside last rights, all of which my family and I have been direct recipients of. His faithfulness and commitment to our Lord, St. Peter's and the congregation goes unwavered. The same goes for our Associate Rector; Mother Sue Waldron who has done so much with the leadership in outreach, supporting the women's needs at St. Peter's as well as covering for Father Hartt when he is not available. Mother Sue has also taken the lead on coordinating the overflow shelter which is now in its ninth year in conjunction with the Capital City Rescue Mission. Our congregation should be so proud to be able to take in less fortunate individuals each night during the winter season. I would like to thank everyone who has supported this ministry by volunteering, donating food as well as providing monetary donations. Again, we are so fortunate to have two ministers that care for all of us as well as others in the outer community.

We have an incredible vestry that has supported me throughout my eight years as Senior Warden. First I would like to thank our Junior Warden Deb Spath who has always been by my side offering her support and guidance. She has been a friend and someone whose opinion I have greatly valued. To George Scala, our Treasurer, he is the most humble, honest true friend I have had the pleasure knowing. His work on the finances, charting our budget and investments has kept us financially sound. All this would not be possible without the financial support from all of you that we heavily rely on as well as our investments. Without your support we would not be able to fund the programs, activities and traditions we are accustomed to having as well as the financial help needed for upkeep to the physical plant of the Church, Guild House and Rectory. Thank you to those who have filled out pledge cards helping us plan ahead each year for budgeting purposes.

As "noted" in the beginning of my report, if it wasn't for the wonderful musical program that St. Peter's offers, I may not have been writing this report. Neil Keen, who has been our organist and choir director since 1980, also plays a very big part in the life of St. Peter's. He leads our choir's performances on Sunday services, Feast Days and for other special services as well as playing for weddings and funerals. Neil recruits and trains the trebles of the choir which has led to many families joining the church and becoming active members. Neil works very hard providing musical training to the choir and continues to travel abroad to England showcasing our very talented members. I know firsthand the commitment and sacrifices rehearsing tirelessly for Sunday services and for special events and I am so honored to be part of this incredibly talented group of people. Also, a note of appreciation to our choir Mum, Diana Martin who spends her time making sure we look our best for all our performances as well as organizing the choir's amazing Easter breakfast each year.

Our Sunday school program headed by Laura Rulison has been a blessing to us knowing that our children are being taught the true meaning of God's Love. Laura is assisted by a selfless staff of teachers and nursery volunteers and we want to thank each and every one of them for the commitment they make to the younger generations that will lead the way in the future.

Sadly many times we to forget those who volunteer on weekly committees or for duties and tend to take them for granted. Ushers serving each Sunday and special events, the Altar Guild setting the Altar up each Sunday, the Flower Guild preparing arrangements for the altars to beautify our church. Please know all your selflessness, hard work and talent given for the betterment of St. Peter's does not go unnoticed. Connie Powell, our Historian and Archivist, is another individual who needs to be recognized for the countless hours unearthing long forgotten pieces of our history as well as organizing our archives.

The day to day operations would be impossible without others. We are now fortunate to have Ian Mike as our new Church Sexton as well as Pat Shortall, our retired Sexton who still works on a part time schedule, both making sure everything is presentable and in order each week as well as maintaining the church property. In our office, Angie Schlossberg started last fall as Administrative Assistant and has been an incredible asset to the office. Finally, my wife Janice who has volunteered countless hours each week for well over 8 years now, I cannot thank her enough. Her impeccable record keeping, accounting and compiling reports for all of us has made everyone's work in the office and vestry seamless. I truly feel God had a plan put together many years ago for both of us to meet at St. Peter's – thank you for all you do from all of us at St. Peter's.

Unfortunately, the vestry must bid farewell to Mark Lundburg who has completed his second – three year term as well as Earl Stafford who has decided to step down after four years of service. I would like to thank you both for your love and support of the vestry and St. Peter's.

I want to finish with a portion of a letter I wrote a few years back that I feel sums up what we need to all keep in mind for the future of St. Peter's.

Over the past few years, a few of our longest standing, most faithful parishioners have been called into their Father's arms, joining him in eternal light and happiness beyond this earthly realm. These individuals were in many ways considered to be the pillars of St. Peter's. They could be counted upon to support the church's every endeavor. They were our friends both inside and out of St. Peter's. They watched many of us grow from childhood and were always there to offer advice, a kind word or condolences when needed as we grew. They were members of our family in every sense of the word and we miss them dearly. While we can never hope to replace the spirit, laughter and love these individuals brought into our lives, it falls to those who remain to continue their legacy. We must be the pillars that support St. Peter's. We are the new old guard that our children will look to for guidance on matters of friendship, faith, love and sorrow. Participation, fellowship, volunteering, pledging – these are the hallmarks of a pillar of St. Peter's. If we all strive to follow the example of those who have gone before us, we will have left St. Peter's healthy and vibrant for future generations to come.

God Bless,

Jim Chenot

ST. PETER'S CHURCH ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild had a busy year in 2017, setting and clearing on almost 150 occasions for our services. Members also stepped up for Holy Week, Christmas, and Thanksgiving, holidays that require frequent altar changes.

We did not acquire any new frontals or linens this year, but cleaned and polished all of our silver service ware, and cleaned and polished all of our brass ware. Linens were repaired and mended so they could be returned to our regular rotation.

In addition to setting and clearing the altar, our members serve by washing and ironing our linens on a monthly basis.

Thank you to all members who have contributed their time and talent to the Altar Guild this year. New members are always welcome. We are especially in need of members from the 8:30 service. I am grateful to Pat Shortall and Sharon DeBonis for giving of their time, expertise and advice.

Cathy Schunk, Director

Barbara Adams, John Cerniglia, John Davis, Adele Everett, Pam Gerfin, Laura Grill, Catherine Gabriels, Donna Hershey, Barbara Kelly, Ashley Spath, Michele Lundberg, Diana Martin, Vicky Paulter, and Deborah Spath.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH ARCHIVES

This year the Church Archives accomplished the following:

- Cleaned out boxes of stored materials: Although many boxed materials have been taken out, classified, and placed in the Archives, there are still four boxes to go.
- *Wrote articles for each monthly Newsletter*: The Archives has supplied articles for each of the monthly newsletters. These researched articles have been intended to assist parishioners in learning about the church. The Archives is also assisting Joscelyn Godwin of Hamilton University in the writing and publication of an article on the Queen Anne Silver to be published next year in the academic journal *Silver Studies*.
- Reorganized of the materials on Stained Glass Windows: There are now stained glass sections on: The stained glass windows of the Cathedral of All Saints, the stained glass windows of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Troy (which contains many Tiffany windows), the stained glass windows of St. Peter's Nave, Chancel and Sacristy, and the stained glass windows of Worcester Cathedral in England.
- Added to our Picture Collection: Two new beautiful reprints have been hung: Jane Henrietta Russell painted by pre-Civil War painter Joseph Whiting Stock; and The Governor George Clinton a 1748 ship painted by famous artist Len Tantillo.
- Added to our Plaques Collection: Collected information on a plaque in honor of the Lord's Supper currently in the Sacristy
- Answered a variety reference and genealogy questions
- Attended the Cathedral of All Saints and accumulated and filed a collection of Cathedral Guides and Cathedral Programs.

Submitted by Evelyn Constance Powell, Archivist

ST. PETER'S CHURCH FLOWER GUILD

The Flower Guild has once again had a successful year, thanks to generous contributions from parishioners and friends wishing to provide memorial or thanksgiving flowers for the altars. We work hard to control expenses and provide appropriate arrangements for the altar each week.

We have decorated the Main Altar every Sunday, except for Lent, when the altars are bare, and Advent, when we use only greens. If there are special requests, we will also do flowers for St. Mark's and the Tower altars. Christmas poinsettias and greens, Palm Sunday palms, Easter lilies and our special Thanksgiving display of food are long-standing traditions at St. Peter's, organized and implemented by members of the Guild.

Help for the Guild is always appreciated. We welcome the generous contributions from so many at Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving. We also urge parishioners to think of requesting flowers for other specific Sundays (memorials for loved ones, honoring of birthdays, anniversaries or other special events). Flower for the main altar (\$50) and for St. Mark's or the Tower (\$35) are arranged through the Church Office. We also welcome new members, both men and women, to join this very satisfying ministry.

Sally Jennings, Chair

Edith Allen, Sherry Bishko, Ann Collins, Nancy Creagan, Sharon DeBonis, Delly Everett, Catherine Gabriels, Laura Grill, Jeffrey Hartt

ST. PETER'S CHURCH MUSIC PROGRAM

2017 was a busy year for music at St. Peter's. Friday noontime organ recitals continued, including performances by guest musicians. Our choir continued its work with great skill and dedication, and we welcomed several new singers to the choir. In addition to the Choir's principal work, providing music to enrich regular Sunday worship, we note these special services and events in 2017:

March/April:	Ash Wednesday service
-	Friday Lenten Evensongs (six services)
	Good Friday: Bach's St. Matthew Passion
	Easter Day: Two choral services, with trumpet and timpani
May:	Evensong for Ascension Day
	Sponsored an Art and Vintage sale
June:	Choral and Organ concert with organist Vaughn Mauren
July:	The Choir spent a week in residence at Chichester Cathedral - one of our most successful and rewarding trips yet. Thank you to
	all whose support made this experience possible.
November:	Thanksgiving Eve service
December:	A well received and well attended performance of Handel's Messiah
	Service of Lessons and Carols
	Two choral services for Christmas Eve, with trumpet and timpani
	A well received and well attended performance of Handel's Messiah Service of Lessons and Carols

The choral singing since September has been especially strong, and we applaud the choir's efforts and artistry.

We are grateful for the support that the parish gives to its music program. Choir Mother Diana Martin gives the choir invaluable service. She keeps the vestments organized, polishes medals, facilitates the Easter breakfast, is always there to help at every service and event, and plays a vital role in the training and orientation of new treble choristers. We also owe a great deal to the strong support of the parents of our young singers, without which we couldn't even begin. Thank you.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH OUTREACH PROGRAM

Outreach continues to grow and thrive at St. Peter's Church. We have had a wonderful year with many projects and programs. Thank you to all who have contributed in so many different ways and made this such a special year. Here are some of our many 2017 activities:

St. Peter's Overflow Shelter- This ministry in conjunction with the Capitol City Rescue Mission is in its 9th year. During the colder months, St. Peter's serves as an overflow shelter and host for up to eight homeless women from the mission. The support for this project has been truly amazing. We have received numerous monetary and food donations.

Grace and Holy Innocents Soup Kitchen- Laura Rulison and her "Angels in Training" together with other church members volunteer in the preparation and serving of a hot lunch to over 100 people on one Saturday a month.

West Bugunda- Outreach provided scholarships for four girls from West Bugunda to attend school.

Thanksgiving- For the sixth year, a large collection of food donations adorns our altar at Thanksgiving. Thanks to Jeffrey Hartt, the youth and flower guild members for arranging this beautiful display. Some of the food is kept at the church and much of it is donated to the food pantry at St. Mary's Church.

Adopt-A-Family for Christmas- St. Peters adopted some Burmese refugee families and provided 54 gifts for these families. Thank you to all who participated and contributed many gifts.

Equinox- Many members and church families helped prepare meals for the annual Thanksgiving Meal Program.

Overflow Shelter at the First Lutheran Church- This major outreach program provides a complete hot dinner for 20 men each Thursday evening from November 1st through April 30th. Volunteers from St. Peter's sign up for a week. They may either deliver the meals to the first Lutheran Church or to St. Peter's on the Sunday before for Pat Shortall (our sexton) to deliver the meals during the week. Many thanks to Pat Shortall and Deb Spath for seeing that this program runs smoothly.

Tea- a tea was held on April 23, 2017, to raise money for the choir's trip to England.

CROP Walk- Thanks to Tim Murphy for organizing the CROP Walk and the parishioners who walked to raise money for hunger.

Daughters of the King- The members of the DOK with donations from the parish members assembled 61 Blessing Bags for the women who stay in our shelter.

Siena College- The Siena College Franciscan center donated eight large bags filled with Christmas gifts for the women staying upstairs in our shelter.

Healing A Woman's Soul- A Five hundred donations was given to this organization that helps women and children who are victims of domestic violence.

Homeless Action Committee - Four Hundred dollars was donated to this organization.

Beaver Cross- St. Peter's also provided four Beaver Cross Scholarships.

Church Office Staff and Clergy Outreach- Father Hartt, Mother Sue and Pat, Ian, and Janice continue to provide outreach and welcome to the many daily "walk-ins" in need during office hours on a daily basis. A special thanks to our clergy and the staff for going the extra mile to help those in need.

Free Organ Concerts- Our very talented organist and Choirmaster, Neil Keen, continues to graciously reach out and generously provide free recitals on Fridays at 12:30 pm for the enjoyment of the public.

St. Peter's Softball Team- St. Peter's Angels Softball Team led by Peter Benson provides a wonderful athletic and fellowship program for church members.

Bereavement Program- A yearly Service of Remembrance is offered for those who would like to remember their loved ones.

Backpacks- Laura Rulison and the youth with donations from members filled back packs with school supplies for needy children.

Top of the Hill Group- This group of gentlemen gather together each Wednesday morning for fellowship and discussion.

Friends of St. Peter's- This is a new social group that meets weekly on Tuesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 PM.

As Chairperson of Outreach, I continue to be thankful and truly amazed by the support and generosity of so many members of this parish to our many outreach programs. I am grateful to Carol Daggett for all her years as Chairperson of Outreach and the many wonderful programs she helped start . A special thanks to Jim Chenot, Deb Spath, Father Hartt, Mother Sue, Carly Crewell, Janice Chenot, and Pat Shortall for all they do to assist with our Outreach programs, and to Laura Rulison for all she does to involve the children of the parish in outreach.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Burns

WOMEN OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH

The Women of St. Peters Church partnered with the Daughters of the King for lunch during the 2017 calendar year. In addition, the Women of St. Peters Church continue to be active with ministries of the church including the annual making of the Blessing Bags for the St. Peters Overflow Shelter. As always, the Women of St. Peters Church are looking for new ideas. Any interested member of St. Peters Church can contact the church office with any potential interest in this important ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Hotmer Drao

ST. PETER'S CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL

I want to begin my report by thanking James Chenot and the Vestry for their support with St. Peters Sunday School. The only way to have a successful Sunday school is to have full support of the Church. I want to thank Father Hartt and Mother Sue for the wonderful children's sermons each week. They continue to bring the children to the front row to hear the word of God! Thank you both.

I want to thank the parents and grandparents for bringing our little angels to church each Sunday. A big THANK YOU to some of the most fantastic Sunday School teachers; Sharon Vardabash and Kelly Welch in the nursery, Vicky Pautler and Ashley Spath, all bringing exciting lessons to our children every week. Thank you also to Pat, Ian, and Janice Chenot for all the behind the scenes support that allows me to do my best to reach our children.

This year we collected "Back to School Backpacks" in which the children and parishioners collected school supplies for St. Francis Mission (formerly known as Grace and Holy Innocents.) We collected over 50 bags and supplies to stuff them. Many children of the Soup Kitchen were able to start school with everything on their supply list. Thank You! On the same note, many thanks to the Daughters of the King for their help in collecting coats, gloves, and hats for the children and elderly of Grace and Holy Innocents. The congregation of St. Peters hit a home run! For two months I was able to bring children back to the kitchen and fit them with warm coats for the winter months. Blessings to all that donated.

Please check the monthly newsletter for more outreach opportunities to come, and please give me a call with any comments or suggestions you might have for our Sunday School, always love hearing from you. Thank you for letting me serve the children of our church. I am truly blessed.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura (Saffares) Rulison

ST. PETER'S CHURCH USHERS GUILD

The Usher Guild is a great way for parishioners to become active in the life of our historic church. Ushers are the official faces of welcome and hospitality that people encounter at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Ushers welcome, meet, greet, and offer service bulletins to our congregation. They keep order, collect and take up the offering, and guide the congregation during services. They assist our pastors and step in when urgent needs arise to ensure that all services proceed and flow smoothly. I am most grateful to all the members of the St. Peter's Church Ushers Guild.

Week 1

The Ushers at the 8:30 services are Clark Daggett and Fred Lincoln

The Ushers at the 10:30 services are Catherine Schunk, Julie Murphy, and Sharon DeBonis

Week 2

The Ushers at the 8:30 services are Bernie Burnell and John Davis The Ushers at the 10:30 services are William Collins, Kevin Creagan, and Jeff Russom

Week 3

The Ushers at the 8:30 services are Clark Daggett or Fred Lincoln, and John Sterrett The Ushers at the 10:30 services are Sherry Bishko, Moses Kamya, and Frank Spath

Week 4

The Ushers at the 8:30 services are Robert Hull and Teddy Hull The Ushers at the 10:30 services are Chris Grill, Mark Lundberg, and Michele Lundberg

Week 5

The Ushers at the 8:30 services are Fred Lincoln and Clark Daggett The Ushers at the 10:30 services are William Collins, Kevin Creagan, Jeff Russom, and Frank Spath

I want to extend a special thanks to all those that have volunteered their services over the years. We are always looking for new ushers to assist with both services. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested, please contact Moses Kamya at 518-441-6910 mmkamya@aol.com or any member of the Ushers Guild for more information.

Respectfully submitted:

Moses M. Kamya Ph.D., Head Usher

ST. PETER'S CHURCH DAUGHTERS OF THE KING, JULIA CHAPTER

The Julia Chapter of the Daughters of the King have had one Discernment class in 2017 with three additional DOK members in 2017. A 2nd Discernment Class began in December 2017 and will conclude in February 2018 which will add three more DOK members. The DOK continue to support St. Peters Ministries.

Julia Hotmer Drao Consilio et Animis



February 2018 👒



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
 4 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany Healing Prayers 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion 12:00pm - DOK Discernment Class 	5 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal	6 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's	7 8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Ho 5:45pm - His
 11 Last Sunday after the Epiphany Bishop's Visitation 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion, Confirmation & DOK Installation 12:00pm - Reception 	12 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 4:30pm - Outreach Meeting 5:15pm - Vestry Meeting	13 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's 5:00pm - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	14 Ash Wa &Valen 7:30am - Asl 8:45am - To 12:05pm - Asl 5:30pm - Ho w/ Lenten Study No History St
 18 First Sunday in Lent 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion 	19 President's Day No Treble Rehearsal Office Closed	20 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's 5:00pm - Lenten Study	21 8:45am - To 12:05pm - Ho 5:45pm - His
 25 Second Sunday in Lent Youth Sunday 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer w/ Children's Chapel 	26 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal	27 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's	28 8:45am - To 12:05pm - Ho 5:45pm - His

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	 2 Presentation of Jesus in the Temple 12:30pm - Organ Concert 	3
	8	9	10
of the Hill y Communion tory Study	5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	12:30pm - Organ Concert	9:00am - 2:00pm - Commission on Ministry meeting
dnesday	15	16	17
ine's Day Wednesday Service of the Hill Wednesday Service ly Communion Ashes begins at home udy	5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	12:30pm - Organ Concert	11:00am - Angels in Training
	22	23	24 St. Matthias the Apostle
o of the Hill ly Communion tory Study	5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	12:30pm - Organ Concert	
o of the Hill ly Communion tory Study			
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ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - 2018 BUDGET						
	20	17 Budget		2017 Actual		2018 Budget
INCOME						
Offering Income/Pledged/Envelopes	\$	230,000	\$	195,759	\$	236,900
Offering Income/Loose	\$	5,000	φ \$	4,229		5,500
Offering Income/Special Funds	\$	38,650	φ \$	40,905		34,900
TOTAL Offering Income:	۰ \$	273,650	φ \$	240,893		277,300
	Ψ	275,050	Ψ	240,095	Ψ	211,500
Other Income (Columbarium, Interest, Misc.):	\$	1,000	\$	750	\$	1,000
Investment Income						
Key Trust Return (Net of fees)	\$	50,250	\$	256,274		71,476
Merrill Lynch Return (Net of fees)	\$	72,000	\$	362,886	\$	99,659
TOTAL Investment Income:	\$	122,250	\$	619,160	\$	171,135
TOTAL INCOME:	\$	396,900	\$	860,803	\$	449,435
'======================================	========		====		====	
EXPENSES					-	
Outreach - Total Outreach	\$	12,000	\$	15,548	\$	15,000
Fellowship - Parish Events & Hospitality	\$	8,000	\$	10,458	\$	8,000
Music/Choir	\$	15,750	\$	14,626	\$	16,000
Pastoral Support						
Diocesan Conferences	\$	1,500	\$	1,931	\$	1,500
Travel	\$	3,500	\$	4,019	\$	4,150
Discretionary - Rector/Assistant	\$	8,900	\$	8,100	\$	8,400
Visiting Clergy Stipends	\$	1,000	\$	-	\$	1,000
Total Pastoral Support	\$	14,900	\$	14,050	\$	15,050
Christian Education						
Sunday School Supplies	\$	3,250	\$	2.484	\$	3.250
Youth Programming	\$	500	\$	-	\$	-
Total Christian Education	\$	3,750	\$	2,484	\$	3,250
Worship						
Altar Supplies	\$	3,000	\$	2,632	\$	3,000
Altar Flowers	\$	3,750	\$	7,296		5,750
Total Worship	\$	6,750	\$	9,928		8,750
Administration/Salaries						
Salary: Lay, Clergy, Other	\$	214,150	\$	232,147	\$	223,382
Diocesan Assessment	\$	66,000	\$	65,738		66,000
Total Administration	\$	280,150	\$	297,885		289,382
Operations						
Supplies, Equip Maint, Insurance, Office Exp.:	\$	67,200	\$	75,740	\$	75,700
Total Operations	\$	67,200	\$	75,740		75,700
Payroll Related Expense/Benefits						
Payroll Taxes, benefits, etc.:	\$	109,950	\$	128,353	\$	118,450
Total Payroll Related/Benefits	\$	109,950	\$	128,353		118,450
Plant Operations						
Utilities, Repairs, Property Maintenance:	\$	65,500	\$	71,491	\$	65,500
Total Plant Operations	\$	65,500	\$	71,491	\$	65,500
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$	583,950	\$	640,563	\$	615,082
GAIN/(LOSS):	\$	(187,050)	\$	270,641	\$	(165,647)

2017 VESTRY MEMBERS			
SR. WARDEN:	James Chenot		
JR. WARDEN:	Deborah Spath		
TREASURER:	George Scala		
VESTRY MEMBERS:	Kevin Cehowski		
	Nancy Creagan		
	Christie Gordon		
	Maria Holden		
	Stephanie Lencewicz		
	Mark Lundberg		
	Timothy Murphy		
	Earl Stafford		

PAROCHIAL REPORT FIGURES			
Baptisms	4		
Confirmation/Reception	7		
Weddings	1		
Funerals/Committals	11		
ASA 2017	129.8		

2018 VESTRY ELECTION RESULTS

Deborah Spath was elected Senior Warden for her first two-year term.

Ashley Spath was elected for her first three-year vestry term.

Tim Murphy was elected for his second three-year term.

Stephanie Lencewicz was elected for her second three-year term.

Fred Hershey was elected to fill Earl Stafford's seat who stepped down.

Congratulations to all!.

St. Peters Music

FRIDAY NOONTIME ORGAN CONCERTS

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



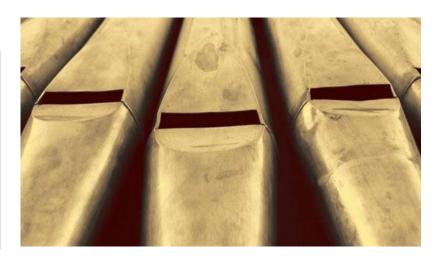
CHOIRChoir rehearsals are on the following schedule:Mondays:5:00pm - 6:15pm TreblesThursdays:5:00pm - 6:30pm Trebles5:30pm - 7:00pm Adult choristersSundays:9:30am rehearse for the 10:30am service

Please contact Neil Keen for more information at stpmus@gmail.com or (518)339-0137.

LENTEN EVENSONG

Fridays: February 16 & 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23.

Please join us for our Lenten Evensong services which will be held every Friday evening during Lent beginning at 5:45PM.



The Right Reverend William Love will be visiting St. Peter's Episcopal Church on Sunday, February 11th, for two services 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



The Bishop will be confirming Sydney Hardy and Molly Russom and he will be installing

Holli Frazier, Alexandra Whitcraft, and Donna Ohlman into the Julia Chapter of the Daughters of the King

Daughters of the King

There will be no regular DOK Meeting held in February as we will celebrate the DOK Installation on Sunday, February 11th.

Outreach Meeting

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

Vestry Meeting

The February Vestry meeting will be held on **Monday**, February 12th at 5:15pm.

SHROVE TUESDAY

Our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held on Tuesday, February 13th from 5PM to 6:30PM. Volunteers are needed to cook and should arrive by 4PM. Many other volunteers are needed for clean-up so that the Parish Hall can be ready by 7PM for the arrival of the women from the Overflow Shelter. If you have any questions or are volunteering to cook, please contact Janice Chenot at 518-786-1070.

Office Closed

In observance of President's Day, the church office will be closed on Monday, February 19th.

	The Season of Lent at St. Peter's Church				
•	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper:	Tuesday, February 13th 5:00 - 6:30pm			
•	Ash Wednesday Services:	Wednesday, February 14th			
		7:30am Ash Wednesday Service with Ashes imposed			
		12:00pm Ash Wednesday Service with Ashes imposed			
		5:30pm Holy Communion with Ashes imposed			
•	Friday Lenten Evensong:	5:45pm every Friday during Lent beginning February 16th			
•	Lenten Study	5:00pm on February 20th, March 6th & 20th, and April 3rd			
•	Lenten Quiet Day	Sunday, March 11th, 12:00 - 4:00pm			

The First Lutheran Church Shelter Dinners

The Capital Area Council of Churches runs a 20-bed shelter at First Lutheran Church (on Western Avenue in downtown Albany). During the cold months (November through April) when other shelters fill up quickly with women and children, the men can come to this overflow shelter and receive a hot meal and a good night's sleep. The Outreach Committee of St. Peter's Church invites you to volunteer in both cooking and/or delivering meals for the Overflow Homeless Shelter. We are committed to providing a complete dinner for 20 people, cooked and delivered, every Thursday evening to the Overflow Shelter. We are asking that you sign-up to cook a complete dinner. Please sign your name next to the date on the board in the Pumpelly Room and take an instruction form. Please include a phone number that we can contact you at. Containers will be in the Pumpelly room to take home to cook in. If you cannot deliver the meal, please return the meal **frozen** to the church on the **Sunday before** the date you signed up for. Pat will put the dinners in the freezer for delivery during the week. If you are delivering the meal you can call Deb Spath at 518-478-9389 for directions.

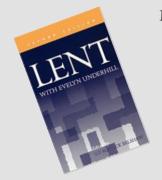
Adult Education

LENTEN STUDY

LENT with Evelyn Underhill, edited by G.P. Mellick Belshaw

Travel through Lent with spiritual guidance from Evelyn Underhill, a leading Anglican author. With daily readings, and bi-weekly gatherings, we will all draw closer to God this most Holy season of Lent. Women and men of the parish are all welcomed to join us. Daily readings take place at home and bi-weekly gatherings will meet in the Vestry Room of the Church Guild House on Tuesday evenings. Please see Mother Sue for more information or to reserve a copy of the book (Books may also be reserved through the church office). Suggested donation: \$13.

Daily readings (1-2 pages) begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14th, and the group's bi-weekly gatherings will be on Tuesdays at 5:00 as follows:



Meeting on Tuesdays at 5:00pm on: February 20th March 6th March 20th April 3rd



Third Annual CtK Women's Retreat

The Third Annual CtK Women's Retreat is happening Friday, February 23rd and Saturday, February 24th at Christ the King Spritual Life Center. This year the retreat will feature the in-depth Bible study Breathe by Priscilla Shirer. Information and registration can be found at www.ctkceter.org. **History Study Continues:** This study, led by Father Hartt, will continue for several more weeks as we complete the final few chapters of *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity* by Mark A. Noll. The time is Wednesday evenings at 5:45pm.

Overflow Women's Shelter

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 opened 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 8 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. 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

YOUTH SUNDAY / CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Sunday, February 25th 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 their 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.

<u>St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen</u> <u>Saturday, February 17th ~ 11AM to 1PM</u>

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.

BEAVER CROSS YOUTH MINISTRY: SONSHINE RETREATS

Christmas has passed and the New Year celebrations are over. Winter is here and temperatures are still reminding us of that. Brighten your winter by signing up to Sonshine! Sonshine is one of the Youth Ministry's Diocesan events bringing youth from all over our diocese together for a long weekend of fun and fellowship. To register, visit www.beavercrossministries.org.



JUNIOR:

WHEN: February 16-19, 2018 DROP-OFF: Friday 7PM *At ST. Mary's Lodge* PICK-UP: Monday 4PM *At ST. Mary's Lodge* WHO: 3rd - 7th GRADERS PRICE: \$190

SENIOR:

WHEN: February 16-19, 2018 DROP-OFF: Friday 7PM *At ST. Mary's Lodge* PICK-UP: Monday 4PM *At St. Mary's Lodge* WHO: 8th - 12th GRADERS PRICE: \$190

BEAVER CROSS YOUTH MINISTRY: SUMMER CAMP

Registration for Beaver Cross Summer Camp is officially open! Get ready for the summer by securing your place at the Diocesan summer camp. Beaver Cross has been *Building Community in Christ* since 1964. Camp activities include: Christian teaching, high ropes & low ropes course, swimming, worship, crafts, archery, sports, camp-wide games and more! For more information, www.beavercrossministries.org.

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

OVERNIGHT CAMP

DAY CAMP

Dates	Grades	Session	Regular Rate	Sibling Rate
Mon. July 2-Fr. 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

MINUTES FOR THE VESTRY MEETING ST. PETER'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH December 12, 2017

Present: Fr. Hartt, Mtr. Sue Waldron, J. Chenot, D. Spath, G. Scala, M. Lundberg, T. Murphy, C. Gordon, N. Creagan, M. Holden Absent: K. Cehowski, E. Stafford, S. Lencewicz

Opening Prayer Led by Father Paul Hartt

Approval of the Minutes of Vestry Meeting, November 14, 2017.

The November 14, 2017, minutes were approved on a motion by M. Lundberg_and seconded by T. Murphy. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

Senior Warden Report -J. Chenot

We started the first Sunday of Advent in the afternoon, Sunday, December 3rd with a magnificent performance of the Handel's Messiah done by our choir with orchestra, led by our dedicated choir director Neil Keen. The annual musical tradition was very well-attended and we want to thank all the musicians for all their musical talent and dedication that is needed to put a top notch performance such as this together. We would like to also thank Father and Jeffrey Hartt for opening their doors at the rectory hosting the traditional Messiah party for the choir after the performance. A special thanks to our choir director Neil Keen for all his hard work and dedication during this past year.

As the year comes closer to a close, I would like to thank all of those who have sent in their pledge cards already for next year and hope others will be able to fill out a card to help the finance committee properly budget for 2018. So far, this year's stewardship drive looks very successful and the celebratory luncheon was another great time that brought the congregation together in fellowship.

Just before Advent, in November, our church again volunteered at the Equinox helping prepare Thanksgiving Dinners for those in need. This year we volunteered on Thanksgiving morning at 9:00. Laura Rulison headed up this outreach and we thank her for her continuing support to this incredible community service held each year in Albany. In addition, we held a service on Thanksgiving eve which was well attended that included the choir.

On Friday, December 1st, we opened our doors for our women's shelter to those in need for a warm place to stay in the evening during the upcoming cold months in conjunction with the City mission in Albany. This is our 9th year at St. Peter's helping those in need in the immediate downtown area and 2nd year hosting women who direly need this important outreach ministry. Thanks to those on our outreach committee who have coordinated this important program, working with the City mission and volunteers that help out each night. Please remember that we are always looking for donations; drinks, snacks as well as momentary donations to support this program.

This past Sunday, December 10th, at the 10:30 service, the Sunday school performed their annual Christmas Pageant. Again, many thanks to Laura Rulison and all those in the Christian education department for all the coordination and rehearsing that went into this performance. Lessons and Carols will be performed next Sunday, December 17th, at the 10:30 service followed by The Hanging of the Greens at 12:00. Lunch will also be served for all those helping to decorate and prepare the church for Christmas. We always look forward to this Sunday event each year, beautifying the church for our Christmas services.

During this time of year there is an incredible amount of unseen extra work and time put in that is needed to for us to enjoy the Advent and the Christmas season. The vestry would like to thank the Flower Guild, Altar Guild and the Ushers who volunteer so much of their time during this busy time of year. We also need to thank Ian Mike and Pat Shortall for keeping the Church and physical plant clean and tidy especially during this Advent season. Lastly enough cannot be said to Janice and Angie for all their work throughout the year and especially this time of year in the office. We are truly deeply indebted to both of them and we thank them both for all their dedication and hard work.

Lastly, I would like to thank Father Hartt and Mother Sue for all their tireless work preparing for this upcoming Advent Season. We want to thank them for their love and commitment to St. Peter's Church as well as the work they for the immediate community in outreach. St. Peter's Church as well as downtown Albany is blessed to have both of them ministering to all of us.

I want to wish everyone a blessed and Merry Christmas and wish everyone a safe and Happy New Year.

Finance - G. Scala - Treasurer's Report

George S. reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the month of November. Offerings for November were \$22,250. Total offerings YTD are \$207,043. This compares to a budgeted number of \$250,846. YTD offerings through the same period in 2016 was \$206,730.

The investment/endowment accounts both showed gains for November. Merrill Lynch showed a positive return of +1.58%. YTD the Merrill Lynch account shows a positive return of 13.43%. The Key accounts showed a return of 1.50% for the month. YTD the Key accounts show a positive return of +14.20%. This leaves us with a positive budget variance in this area YTD of \$477,686. Both accounts performed favorably versus market indexes. Expenses YTD through November are \$47,971 over budget. YTD we show a gain of \$214,067, primarily as a result of performance of the investment accounts.

Pledges for 2018 are at 36 pledging units for a total amount of \$114,720. We should continue to receive pledges through the end of the year. **Property** – None

Outreach - Mother Sue

A group from St. Peter's, led by Laura Rulison, helped prepared meals for delivery by Equinox on Thanksgiving morning. Thank you to that group, and also the countless individuals who donated applesauce!

A wonderful donation was made to the St. Mary's Food Bank with your donations for our Thanksgiving Altar.

The Overflow Homeless Shelter opened for its ninth season on December 1st 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.

Outreach has coordinated Christmas gifts for Burmese refugee families this year. All 46 Gift Tags have been selected by St. Peter's parishioners with the wrapped gifts due back 12/17. Thank you, again for your generosity!

Old Business

The election nominations were discussed again as follows:

Deborah Spath will be running for her 1st two-year term as Sr. Warden.

Tim Murphy will be running for his 2nd three-year term on the vestry. He is running to fill his present seat. Stephanie Lencewicz will be running for her 2nd three-year term. She is running to fill her present seat. Fred Hershey will be running to fill out Earl Stafford's remaining term of two years. Earl will be stepping down.

Ashley Spath will be running for her first three-year vestry term to fill the seat formerly held by Mark Lundberg who completed his second term.

The elections were approved on a motion by T. Murphy and seconded by G. Scala, then unanimously approved by the vestry. They will be run in the January newsletter.

The 2018 budget was reviewed and approved on a motion by C. Gordon and seconded by M. Holden. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

New Business

Mother Sue's housing allowance was discussed and approved on a motion by N. Creagan and seconded by D. Spath. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

Associate Rector's Report - Mother Sue

Women's Bible study completed <u>Raising Lazarus</u> in December. We will start a new study in 2018 and welcome women to join us!

The Service of Remembrance was on Wednesday, December 6, with 9 in attendance. Prayers were also offered for the 10 members of St. Peter's that died in 2017. Thank you, Pat Shorthall and Judy Burns, for your assistance with this service.

The DOK collected donations and assembled 61 Blessing Bags for the women who stay in our Overflow Shelter this winter. Thank you, St. Peter's for your generosity! The DOK has also started a new Discernment Class to prepare women for Installation to our Julia Chapter on February 11, 2018, during Bishop Love's Visitation to St. Peter's.

Confirmation Classes begun and continue with two youth members preparing for a February 11, 2018, confirmation during Bishop Love's Visitation to St. Peter's.

We've had a tremendous start to our Advent and Christmas Celebrations. I want to thank the choir and musicians for an amazing Messiah Concert, and also Laura Rulison and the Sunday School teachers for a very heartwarming Christmas Pageant. St. Peter's is an incredible church to belong to always, and especially during this Holy time of year.

Sunday Attendance

ASA for 2017: 129.8

<u>Rectors Report</u> - Father Hartt

Father Hartt began by commending the Choir and Mr. Keen for a superb performance of the Messiah. The parish was almost as blessed by the attendance. It appears that there were some events downtown which brought in additional folks. They would not have been disappointed. We hope some will return for Christmas Eve. One comment relayed to Father Hartt concerned the number of young people in our Choir. A visitor was pleasantly surprised that the church had such a youth presence. Father Hartt said that we should keep in mind that this observation speaks to one of our significant strengths.

Father Hartt thanked Jim and Janice Chenot for all their work on the Messiah Party at the rectory. Each year we see afresh that the community born of the choir is another strength of the parish.

Father Hartt spoke of the Christmas schedule. He thanked Mtr. Waldron for working on scheduling the Altar servers. We are delighted to have Julian Kovacs serving as a new Acolyte. Veteran Acolyte John Barna will also be serving. John will be home for winter break from NYU. Jack Ratzel, Gordon Lattey, Susan Smith, and David Nortey Noi will serve as LEM's.

Father Hartt spoke of the Bishop's visitation on February 11th, 2018. The parish has two candidates being prepared for Confirmation. Father Hartt commended the parish for the outreach work of the Christmas season. The Christmas gifts to the Burmese refugee families are coming in this Sunday. This year the parish is supplying 54 gifts. The work of our women's shelter continues. 62 "Blessings Bag" were prepared for the women. The Daughters of the King were central to this work. Donations are many. Meals for the First Lutheran shelter are in need of more support, as is the Grace and Holy Innocent's Soup Kitchen volunteer pool. But the need really reflects the level of commitment to outreach by the parish. We are stretching our forces. Many helped at Equinox for Thanksgiving. Outreach remains strong at Saint Peter's and is especially visible this time of year.

Vestry elections were discussed. Father Hartt thanked Jimmy for his tireless work as Senior Warden. Father Hartt also thanked Mark Lundberg for his considerable contribution to the wisdom pool of the Vestry. Both Jim and Mark have reached their term limit. Father Hartt said that the ballots should reflect the desire of the Vestry to appoint Jim Chenot to fill Debby Spath's vacated Jr. Warden seat upon her election as Senior Warden. Jim Chenot would then serve until the next Annual Meeting at which time he would stand for election. The Vestry is empowered to fill vacancies until the next Annual Meeting.

Father Hartt thanked the Sunday School for another wonderful Christmas Pageant. Laura Rulison and the whole Sunday School staff are a blessing.

Father Hartt is looking forward to Lessons and Carols this coming Sunday.

Father Hartt wished the Vestry a Merry Christmas.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by M. Lundberg and seconded by T. Murphy, then was passed unanimously by the vestry.

<u>Compline</u> Father Hartt led Compline.

Respectfully Submitted, Christie J. Gordon

Clergy & Staff

	D
The Rev. Paul J. Hartt	
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 Scala	Treasurer
Kevin Cehowski, Nancy Creagan, Chris	tie Gordon, Fred Hershey,
Maria Holden, Stephanie Lencewicz, Tii	m Murphy, Ashley Spath

How to Contact Us

Office Hours: Monday -Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Telephone: 518-434-3502 Fax: 518-462-4419 E-Mail: Receptionist@stpeterschurchalbany.org Website: www.stpeterschurchalbany.org

Services

Sunday Holy Communion 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. (1st & 3rd Sundays) Morning Prayer 10:30 a.m. (2nd, 4th & 5th 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

