



THE Cornerstone

June 2018

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

From the Rector

Knowing the Unknowable

"You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you." (John 14:17)

The two Gospel options for Pentecost are interesting. One Gospel account takes place after the resurrection and the other before it. In John 14, before our Lord's resurrection, we have the promise of the coming Holy Spirit, as the verse above indicates. The Holy Spirit is to come and will be with you and in you, Jesus says. In the post-resurrection Gospel for Pentecost, Jesus appears to the disciples behind closed doors and breathes on them -- "receive the Holy Spirit." Powers of forgiving sins are thereby conveyed to the Apostles. Such authority also relates to "binding and loosing" or permitting and forbidding in the Church. (Matthew 18:18.)

It is clear from the Four Gospels as a whole, especially when combined with Acts, that the work of the Holy Spirit is for each believer and for the community as a whole. The Holy Spirit makes things happen, guides, creates a new holy people, and empowers forward the new Christian Church. Indeed, without the Holy Spirit the Church simply is not. But there is this one thing that makes the Holy Spirit a mystery *par excellence*. It is the knowing of the unknowable.

We often fail as Christians to appreciate the gift of knowing God. I do not mean that we have penetrated the Mystery. I mean that God has offered the gift of revelation. We can only know of God those things which God chooses to disclose, reveal. Jesus is first and last that revelation. Wisely therefore does the Church offer the pre-resurrection Gospel option.

Philip said to Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?" (John 14: 8-10a)

It is in precisely this context that the promise is made of the Spirit to come. In other words, the revelation will continue. We will not be left orphans. (John 14:18.) The Father's self-disclosure in Christ continues through the work of the Holy Spirit. We can see here with clarity why the doctrine of the Trinity is fundamental to our Faith. Three in One and One in Three. There will be endless interplay among the Persons of the Holy Trinity in revelation.

God's self-disclosure cannot be limited. We will have revelation in whatever manner God so chooses. But the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Holy Trinity is revealing God in a special way; The Holy Spirit continues to remind us of the Father's work in Christ and to advance it. *"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."* (John 14:26.)

Every act of mercy from above ought to be rejoiced in by the Church. The mercy of knowing God as God gives the precious gift cannot be overstated. We are not entitled. We are loved. Whether by the fire of the Holy Spirit or the "still small voice" thereof, the Triune God is saying in effect, "Come closer. Know this of the unknowable." Let us never lose the wonder.

Pentecost blessings,

Fr. Hartt+

On Celebrating Pentecost – Are we charismatic enough?

I come from the generation of people that remember well the charismatic movement that swept across our churches, really holding prominence in the 1970's. The church my family belonged to was quite swept up in the movement. Hands began to wave to song, dance broke out, people spoke in tongues all around us. Some were drawn to this, for others it repelled. For our family, it became a great discomfort and we left that congregation. I was a child who clearly didn't understand what was taking place. Many of the adults didn't either. Misunderstanding is often found when engaging the charismatic leg of the Christian church.

Obviously, there remains a difference in thought about just how charismatic a church ought to be. However, I maintain that every church needs to be charismatic in the truest sense. What I mean is that acting charismatic, in the way I described above, is not the centerpiece of being charismatic.

Charismatic is defined as: "having, exhibiting, or based on charisma or charism" (Merriam-Webster). And so charismatic, for Christians, is really "having, exhibiting or based on the Holy Spirit." So, yes, we should be charismatic. Are we charismatic enough? We need to ask ourselves this deep question.

There are a variety of ways that the Holy Spirit can be with us and lead us. St. Paul writes about this: *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.* (1 Cor 12:4-6)

These verses plant us in an important foundation of the charisms: Unity is inherent within them. All charisms come from God and are for the common good. None are to be individualized. None should cause any division as their purpose is to build up the body.

Obviously, people will be gifted differently through the Holy Spirit. But we must acknowledge that the Holy Spirit will gift us, and then ask us to use our gifts within the body, the church. And so yes, we should be charismatic. Are we charismatic enough?

Being charismatic means that God acts first. It is he who gifts the charisms – who "activates all of them in everyone." We might ask how open we are to receive the gifts and using them in our church and in our world.

St. Paul continues to the Corinthians that the Spirit will give some wisdom, others knowledge, others faith, others gift of healing, others the working of miracles, others prophecy, others discernment of spirits and to others various kinds of tongues and the interpretation of them. (From 1 Cor 12:8-10) There are other spiritual gifts mentioned by St. Paul in other parts of Holy Scripture.

Some of these gifts may make us more uncomfortable than others – true – and yet "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." So, truly, we should embrace them all as they find a place among us and bless us.

The overall thought I can leave with you when considering the charisms is the question: Are we led by the Holy Spirit? Too often our own thoughts, desires, comforts or plans can lead us. But to be the church in the world is to be led by God's Holy Spirit – to be led by the Holy Spirit, to be gifted by the Holy Spirit, and to exercise those gifts in the power of the Holy Spirit. In fact, everything we are, and everything we do, should come from God's very Spirit and give glory to him. Truly, that is to be a charismatic church and people.

From a favorite hymn we sing on the Day of Pentecost: "Hail thee festival day! Blest day that art hallowed forever, day when the Holy Ghost shone in the world with God's grace." (1982 Hymnal, Hymn 225) May we be charismatically led people shining in the world with God's grace.

A Blessed Pentecost to each of you,

Mtr. Sue+



Upcoming Events

Awards Sunday and Ice Cream Social

This year the Sunday School Awards, Choir Awards, and Ice Cream Sundae Social will all occur on one day, Sunday, June 17th. The Awards will be presented during the 10:30am service. The Ice Cream Social will be held immediately following. Please join us in celebrating our esteemed choir members and Sunday School teachers.



PLEASE NOTE: Sunday school is smaller this time of year but will continue all summer.

Friends of St. Peter's

This group meets on Tuesdays at 1:00pm through the month of June in the Pumpelly Room. Come and enjoy coffee and conversation. All are welcome!!

Outreach

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

Vestry Meeting

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

2018 ST. PETER'S ANGELS SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

Games will be played at the following parks: Mullens Park (35 North First Street, Albany), Ridgefield Park (316 Partridge Street, Albany), or Fireman's Field, (1 St. George's Place, Albany). Directions are available on the website. Rather than doing a Google search, please type in your browser <http://www.softball-24-7.com/ESS-SundaySoftball/>. On the website, we are listed as St. Peter's Angels. To check on rainouts call (518) 269-1293.



<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PARK</u>	<u>OPPONENT</u>
April 22nd	Sunday	3:00PM	@Mullen's	Lost 5-2
April 29th	Sunday	4:30PM	@Mullen's	Rescheduled (TBD)
May 6th	Sunday	4:30PM	@Fireman's	Rescheduled (TBD)
May 20th	Sunday	4:30PM	@Mullen's	Rescheduled (TBD)
June 3rd	Sunday	1:30PM	@Ridgefield	Cake Eaters
June 10th	Sunday	3:00PM	@Mullen's	Albany Falcons
June 10th	Sunday	4:30PM	@Mullen's	Eagles
July 1st	Sunday	1:30PM	@Mullen's	Collar City Concrete
July 8th	Sunday	3:00pm	@Ridgefield	High Maintenance
July 15th	Sunday	1:30PM	@Mullen's	Toyota of CP/Philly's Vipers



Interior Restoration

We are thrilled to report the launch of our restoration project, with wall repairs and painting with the selected color in a test area near the Columbarium and along the east wall of the nave. Our contractor, Egan's Church Restorations, will complete a portion of the work by Sunday May 27th. Come see the results of this preliminary work. Your early support of the project serves as an inspiration to future donors. Please consider a contribution now!"

Albany Diocese Annual Convention

This year's convention will take place **Friday, June 8th – Sunday, June 10th**. As it is the **150th anniversary** of the diocese, we will welcome Presiding Bishop Michael Curry to help us celebrate this special milestone. Please pray for a unity of mind and spirit among the delegates and pray that those in attendance will be invigorated to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those at home.

Youth Formation & Sunday School

Beaver Cross Camp Registration Open

Registration for Beaver Cross Camp is now open! Experience the adventure of summer camp by being part of Beaver Cross Camp communities devoted to faith, friendship and fun. At Overnight Camp and Day Camp, campers explore and deepen their faith together through dynamic teaching and activities. New friendships are created and old ones rekindled as campers laugh and learn together in the environment they themselves help create to be safe, encouraging and fun. To register online for camp, www.beavercrossministries.org/camp-registration.html



Beaver Cross Camp Dates!

2018 Overnight Camp Dates:

Discoverers	July 1 - July 6	3-5 Grade
Beaver Bound	July 4 - July 6	K-2 Grade
Adventurers 1	July 8 - July 13	6-8 Grade
Adventures Weekend	July 13 - July 15	6-8 Grade
Adventurers 2	July 15 - July 20	6-8 Grade
Pioneers 1	July 22 - July 27	9-12Grade
Pioneers Weekend	July 27 - July 31	9-12Grade
Pioneers 2	July 29- Aug 3	9-12Grade

*Drop-off is Sunday, 2-4PM and Camper Pickup is Saturday at 10:00 followed by a closing ceremony and cookout for campers and their families.

2018 Day Camp Dates for K-8:

Day camp 1	July 2 - July 6
Day camp 2	July 9 - July 13
Day camp 3	July 16 - July 20
Day camp 4	July 23 - July 27
Day camp 5	July 30 - Aug 3
Day camp 6	Aug 6 - Aug 10
Day camp 7	Aug 13 - Aug 17
Day camp 8	Aug 20 - Aug 24

*A Day Camp Week runs Monday-Friday from 8:00-5:00 every day. An early 7:30 drop-off with breakfast is available for an extra charge. Every Day Camp week is open to kids grades K-6.

For registration forms pick one up at the church office, or visit www.beavercrossministries.org

St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen

Saturday, June 16th ~ 11:00am to 1:00pm

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

Diaper Drive is Back!

St. Francis Mission will have the Annual Diaper Drive at Convention this year. Our refugee babies need disposable diapers because Day Care requires them and refugee homes do not have washing machines. We appreciate every gift of diapers (sizes 2, 3, 4, and 5) or monies donated to St. Francis Mission.

Thank you!

I want to take a minute to thank Father Hartt and Mother Sue for always supporting the Sunday School in so many ways. Thank you to the amazing Sunday School teachers: Sharon Vardabash, Kelly Welch, Ashley Spath, and Vicky Pautler. To all my young adults: Kareem, Nicole, Hanna, Kaitlyn, and Sydney who come upstairs to help with lessons and activities, THANK YOU. Thank you to all the parents, grandparents, and families who bring the little angels to Sunday School each week! We will be here all summer, upstairs during 10:30 service. Join us any time! God bless. Laura Rulison

P.S. Thanks also to Janice, Pat, Ian, & Angie for all the hard work behind the scenes. The Sunday School is truly blessed.

Youth Sunday

Children's Chapel and Youth Sunday will return **in the fall**, but Sunday School and Nursery care will continue throughout the summer.



Con GRAD ulations !

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR 2017-2018 HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES

KATHERINE GRILL graduate from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts with a B.A. in sociology. (Katherine is the daughter of Chris and Laura Grill).

SAMUEL A. HARTT graduated from Siena College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology. (Samuel is the son of Fr. Paul and Jeffrey Hartt).

CHRISTIAN JOHN KEENAN graduated from the University of Rochester with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biomedical Engineering. He will be returning to the University of Rochester to pursue his Master's Degree in Biomedical Engineering. (Christian is the grandson of Elaine Keenan).

JOSEPH JEROME KEENAN graduated from the University at Albany with his Master's Degree in Elementary Education. (Joseph is the grandson of Elaine Keenan).

JOSIE MADISON graduated from the University at Albany with her PhD. (Josie is a member of the choir and is the daughter of Ruth Bridgham, who also sings in the choir).

KEVIN MURPHY will graduate from Guilderland Central High School with a Regents Diploma. He will be attending Prep School at Bridgton Academy in Maine. (Kevin is the son of Tim Murphy and Julie Hotmer Drao).

KEVIN SCHULT will graduate from Hamilton Central School and will receive the honor of National Merit Scholar. He will be attending Tufts University majoring in chemistry. (Kevin is the grandson of Edith Allen).


WILLIAM BRADFORD SCHULT will graduate from Albuquerque, NM Public High School. He will be attending SOKA in Metro Los Angeles. (William is the grandson of Edith Allen).

Volunteer Schedules

We wish to thank our volunteers for their service to St. Peter's. If you would like to volunteer, please call Angie at the church office (518) 434-3502. The blanks below indicate areas of need.

	<u>June 3, 2018</u>	<u>June 10, 2018</u>	<u>June 17, 2018</u>	<u>June 24, 2018</u>	<u>July 1, 2018</u>
<u>8:30am</u> <u>Lectors</u>	John Sterrett Ray Roohan	Gordon Lattey Michele Vennard	Gordon Lattey Janell Hobson	Gordon Lattey John Davis	John Sterrett Gayle Hartz
<u>10:30am</u> <u>Lectors</u>	Laura Grill Fred Hershey	Chris Grill Catherine Schunk	Victoria Pautler John Cerniglia		Ashley Spath Earl Stafford
<u>Flower</u> <u>Guild</u>	Ann Collins	Sherry Bishko	Sharon DeBonis	Laura Grill	Ann Collins
<u>Coffee</u> <u>Hour</u>	Holli Frazier		Ice Cream Social		
<u>8:30am</u> <u>Ushers</u>	Clark Daggett Fred Lincoln	Bernie Burnell John Davis	Robin LaPlante John Sterrett	Robert Hull Teddy Hull	Clark Daggett Fred Lincoln
<u>10:30am</u> <u>Ushers</u>	Sharon DeBonis Julie Hotmer Drao Catherine Schunk	William Collins Kevin Creagan Jeff Russom	Sherry Bishko Moses Kamya Frank Spath	Chris Grill Mark Lundberg Michele Lundberg	Sharon DeBonis Julie Hotmer Drao Catherine Schunk
<u>Altar</u> <u>Guild</u>	Barbara Kelly Pam Gerfin	Pam Gerfin	Michele Lundberg	Michele Lundberg	

June 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed
			
<p>3 Second Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion 11:45am - DOK Meeting</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Hol</p>
<p>10 Third Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer</p> <p>Diocesan Convention</p>	<p>11 Saint Barnabas</p>	<p>12</p> <p>1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's 4:30pm - Outreach Meeting 5:15pm - Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Hol</p>
<p>17 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Father's Day</p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion</p> <p>Ice Cream Sundae Social following the 10:30am service</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Hol</p>
<p>24 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer</p>	<p>25 The Nativity of St. John the Baptist</p>	<p>26</p> <p>1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Hol</p>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 12:30pm - Organ Concert	2
o of the Hill y Communion	7	8 12:30pm - Organ Concert Diocesan Convention	9 Diocesan Convention
o of the Hill y Communion	14	15 12:30pm - Organ Concert	16 11:00am - Angels in Training
o of the Hill y Communion	21	22	23
o of the Hill y Communion	28	29 Saint Peter & Saint Paul	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 stpms@gmail.com or 339-0137.

FRIDAY NOONTIME ORGAN CONCERTS

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

Musicians Needed

Any musicians who are interested in performing at the Coffeehouse in *The Teepee* on Saturday night of Convention weekend (June 9th), please contact Father Marty Wendell at: 518-852-8484. This event is enjoyed by many who attend the Convention.

Composer of the Month Club

John Rutter, b.1945

John Rutter (b. 1945), English choral conductor and composer grew up living over the Globe pub on London's Marylebone Road. He studied music at Clare College, Cambridge, where he was a member of the choir. While still an undergraduate he had his first compositions published, and served as director of music at Clare College from 1975 to 1979 and led the choir to international prominence. His Christmas carols and arrangements brought him international popularity, and his more extended compositions, including a *Requiem* and *Gloria*, have also earned acclaim.



A master craftsman, Rutter composes music with instant appeal, and widely, though not universally, admired. Some see it as "neither quite classical nor pop, and tends towards mawkish sentimentality." Nevertheless, our choir enjoys singing a number of Christmas pieces in our repertoire.



Saint of the Month Club

Enmegahbowh, Priest & Missionary, 1902

John Johnson Enmegahbowh, an Odawa (Ottawa) Indian from Canada, was raised in the Midewiwin traditional healing way of his grandfather and the Christian religion of his mother. He came into the United States as a Methodist missionary in 1832. At one point Enmegahbowh attempted to abandon missionary work and return to Canada, but the boat was turned back by storms on Lake Superior, providing him a vision: "Here Mr. Jonah came before me and said, 'Ah, my friend Enmegahbowh, I know you. You are a fugitive. You have sinned and disobeyed God. Instead of going to the city of Nineveh, where God sent you to spread his word to the people, you started to go, and then turned aside. You are now on your way to the city of Tarsish....'"

Enmegahbowh invited James Lloyd Breck to Gull Lake, where together they founded St. Columba's Mission in 1852. The mission was later moved to White Earth, where Enmegahbowh served until his death in 1902. Unwelcome for a time among some Ojibway groups because he warned the community at Fort Ripley about the 1862 uprising,

Enmegahbowh was consistent as a man of peace, inspiring the Waubanaquot (Chief White Cloud) mission, which obtained a lasting peace between the Ojibway and the Dakota peoples.

Enmegahbowh ("The One who Stands Before his People") is the first recognized Native American priest in the Episcopal Church. He was ordained deacon by Bishop Kemper in 1859 and priest by Bishop Whipple in the cathedral at Faribault in 1867. Enmegahbowh helped train many others to serve as deacons throughout northern Minnesota. The powerful tradition of Ojibway hymn singing is a living testimony to their ministry. His understanding of Native tradition enabled him to enculturate Christianity in the language and traditions of the Ojibway. He tirelessly traveled throughout Minnesota and beyond, actively participating in the development of mission strategy and policy for the Episcopal Church.

Prayer: Almighty God, thou didst lead thy pilgrim people of old with fire and cloud: Grant that the ministers of thy Church, following the example of blessed Enmegahbowh, may stand before thy holy people, leading them with fiery zeal and gentle humility. This we ask through Jesus, the Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.

From the Archives

Please note: We are returning to our practice of printing "From the Archives" articles in *The Cornerstone*. Note also that previous issues of the newsletter may be accessed via the church website at www.stpeterschurchalbany.org, under the heading "Info Center."

Creating the Church Chancel - Part II

(Continuation of Part I printed in the April Newsletter)

While the mosaic floor of the Chancel itself contained only the wavy lines symbolic of the waters of baptism, the pavement of the Sanctuary above was an elaborate mosaic containing symbols of the four Evangelists and the Sacred Monogram. It was given by Sarah Meads and Charlotte Meads in memory of Orlando Meads, vestryman for the Parish for twenty-seven years and a warden for eight years, who died February 11, 1884.

In 1886 (incidentally the year of the city of Albany's centennial), the Tibbits Memorial Pulpit was installed by Ellin & Co. of New York, from the designs of Robert Gibson. It was a gift of Mary Tibbits in memory of Benjamin Tibbits, Elizabeth B. Tibbits, John Rutgers Bleecker and Eliza Attwood Bleecker. In that same year a new organ was installed by Hilborn Roosevelt of New York City. It was an instrument of "unusual delicacy and power." Also in 1886 a Memorial Choir Room was built. The stone doorway to the room was inscribed as follows: "This Choir Room was built in sacred Memory of Harmon Pumpelly, entered into rest September 28th A. D. 1882."

The bronze Macdonald Memorial Lectern, opposite the pulpit, was the work of the Gorham Company of New York. Installed in 1892, it was in the form of an angel whose uplifted hands supported a frame on which could be placed sacred readings. At the base, in the form of a globe, the inscription reads "To the Glory of God's Word and in loving memory of John Macdonald entered in Rest March 27, A.D. 1892." "For so He giveth His Beloved sleep."

At Christmas of 1897 the Tiffany Sanctuary Candelabra were placed in the Chancel. They were dedicated to Luther Henry Tucker by his wife and children. Tucker was a member of the Vestry for forty years serving as vestryman, clerk and warden. He died on February 23rd, 1897. These candelabra were massive brass structures in Italian Gothic style with each candelabra holding seven candles. The Archives has pictures of these candelabra. But, like the Doremus windows, they have disappeared.

Much later there were several additions to the Chancel. The Epiphany Star above the Chancel was, given on January 8, 1981 in memory of Alice C. Atkiss. The Bishop's Chair was taken apart so that while the top remained in place, the lower chair became Rector's Chair at the front of the Nave. Choir chairs came from the Cathedral of All Saints. The Chancel Stair Removeable Rail was the gift of Constance Stewart and Elizabeth Campbell in 1963. The needlepoint altar kneeling cushions were the design of parishioner Mrs. Curtis L. Hemenway, and were dedicated in May of 1967.

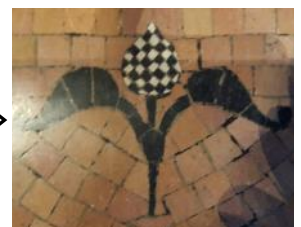
Despite these later changes, it was under Reverend Battershall and his congregation that the Chancel received its major renovations. And Battershall never failed to show his appreciation. In one of his later sermons he said: "... the completion and embellishment of the edifice, in large measure has been due to the desire and purpose of the congregation of St. Peter's to build into the walls of this church, memorials of sanctified love and memory."



Mystery in St. Peter's Church

There's been a lot of talk about royalty lately. You may already be familiar with this noble image located somewhere in St. Peter's Church. If not, we welcome you to go in search of this stately visage.

May's mystery may have proven too difficult, so here's a hint: This small flower blooms in the center aisle.



**MINUTES FOR THE VESTRY MEETING
ST. PETER'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
April 10, 2018**

Present: Fr. Hartt, Mtr. Sue Waldron, D. Spath, J. Chenot, K. Cehowski, N. Creagan, C. Gordon, F. Hershey, S. Lencewicz, T. Murphy, G. Scala, A. Spath

Absent: None

Opening Prayer Led by Father Paul Hartt

Approval of the Minutes of Vestry Meeting, March 13, 2018.

The March 13, 2018, minutes were approved on a motion by C. Gordon and seconded by G. Scala. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

Warden Report –D. Spath and J. Chenot

We started March off already in the Lenten season and ending with Holy week in the last week of the month. The last Sunday of the month, March 24th we celebrated Palm Sunday at both the 8:30 and 10:30 services, both well attended. It was also great to see the choir continue its traditional Ride On procession at the end of the 10:30 service. The Sunday school also was busy during the Palm Sunday service decorating Easter eggs for the Easter egg hunt for the following Saturday at the Rectory. We would like to thank our Sunday school director Laura Rulison and all the Sunday school staff for all the hard work and guidance working with the children each Sunday as well as those who help in the nursery.

Each Friday evening during Lent, the choir performed an evensong service and, also, participated in the Maundy Thursday service the night before Good Friday. Neil and the choir were also well rehearsed to perform the Haydn's "Seven words of Christ on the Cross" on Good Friday with full orchestra that immediately followed the noon time service. We would like to thank all those who participated at those services.

The first Sunday of this month, April 1st, was Easter Sunday. We had two wonderful services with a large turnout for the 10:30 service. The choir performed joyous Easter music at both the 8:30 and 10:30 services. Thank you to Neil and the choir for their entire dedication performing beautiful music at all these services. Also, I would like to thank our choir Mom, Diana Martin who coordinated the brunch in between the Easter Services for the choir as well ensuring the Choir to look their best at all the services.

During this busy Holy Season, we want to thank our devoted and loving clergy, Father Hartt and Mother Sue for all their preparation for all the services during the Lenten season; the Sunday services, services during the week and Holy week that all lead us to Easter Sunday. This time is an extremely busy time for both of them working on sermons as well as tending to those that are shut-ins and those in the hospitals looking to pastoral care. Many thanks to the both of you for all you do for all of us at St. Peter's.

The vestry would also like to thank the altar guild, the flower guild and ushers for all their time and talents that is volunteered during the Lenten and Easter season. Also, thanks to Pat and Ian for keeping the Church and physical plant clean and in order for all the parishioners and newcomers. We also want to recognize and thank both Janice and Angie for working tirelessly in the church office during this Lenten season. The amount of work that is processed in the office during this time is an incredible task – printed items for the extra services as well as all the record keeping for Easter Lilies memorials. We are sincerely thankful for both of them for all their tireless work during this busy season.

This past Sunday, the second Sunday of Easter we had a Baptism for Nathan James Gordon. The Gordon and Chenot family would like to thank all those in the congregation, the choir and clergy who made this a special day for all of us and thank those who were able to celebrate with all of us and our families at the luncheon that followed the service.

Finally, we would to thank Ashley Spath and Christie Gordon for all their efforts on the work done to our new Facebook page as well as looking ahead on many other ways to connect everyone on social media. There was a lot of positive feedback from many regarding the informational insert that was put together and distributed in the Easter Sunday leaflets. Thank you both for all your insight on this and other projects you are both working on.

Finance – G. Scala - Treasurer's Report

George reviewed the Treasurer's Report for March. Offerings for March were \$18,216. Year-to-date offerings are \$51,170. This compares to a budgeted number of \$69,325. YTD Offerings through the same period in 2017 were \$53,339.

The investment/endorment accounts both showed losses for March. Merrill Lynch showed a negative return of -0.89%. YTD return of Merrill Lynch is -1.18%. The Key accounts showed a negative return of -1.36% for the month and is at -4.7% YTD. This leaves us with a positive negative variance in this area YTD of (\$58,512). Both accounts performed favorably versus market indexes. Expenses YTD through March were \$710 under budget.

Pledges for 2018 remain at 42 pledging units for a total amount of \$119,720.

Property –

The window in the guild house door was fixed by Jim Johnson. There is a cracked window in the vestry room that requires repair.

Outreach – Mother Sue

The annual Spring Tea is this Sunday, April 15th following the 10:30 service. Please see Judy Burns if you can provide baked goods or a raffle basket. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Homeless Action Committee (HAC) Van, who provides support to the homeless in the City of Albany.

Sunday May 6, 2018 is the Albany CROP walk. A bulk of the proceeds benefits local food pantries, with the rest providing support nationally. St. Peter's recruiters are Maria Holden and Tim Murphy (thank-you)! Please see them for the walker paperwork and recruit walkers. We invite you to consider walking or sponsoring another walker.

Old Business

Church Restoration – A Capital Fund Campaign was presented by F. Hershey which included a detailed outline proposing how we should go about announcing the restoration project and fundraising for the project along with a generalized timeline. M. Holden also presented a letter to the vestry that will be sent to the congregation to announce the project. This letter is to be sent out as soon as any proposed revisions are made.

Convention delegates were announced to be Tim Murphy, Caitlin Cehowski, and Alice Sanigular with Carly Crewell as an alternate. These delegates were approved on a motion by D. Spath and seconded by N. Creagan then unanimously approved by the vestry.

New Business

The Parochial report was presented and looked over by all vestry members. It was approved on a motion by J. Chenot and seconded by C. Gordon then unanimously approved by the vestry. It was then signed by Father Hartt, Mother Sue, G. Scala as Treasurer, and C. Gordon as Clerk.

The crop walk is on May 6th and Mother Sue reminded that we still need a delegate to pick up the information for our church to be involved. M. Holden and T. Murphy volunteered to both be liaisons to organize this event.

Associate Rector's Report – Mother Sue

Adult Education: The Lenten Study that began Ash Wednesday, February 14th 2018: *Lent with Evelyn Underhill* ended with our last group discussion on Tuesday April 3, 2018. The people really connected with the readings and our group has decided our next study will be Evelyn Underhill's *Abba* which is a deep meditation on The Lord's Prayer. We will plan this for the Fall – please join us!

We had a very strong Holy Week with great commitment on the part of many who attended and served, especially the altar guild, altar servers and office staff who all deserve our thanks! I also greatly appreciate the commitment of the choir members and their dedication to preparing and being at so many of the services. The Good Friday liturgy, in particular, moved me deeply and I am so thankful to serve with Fr. Hartt, a priest who I admire greatly and ministers to me even while we serve together.

Easter services were amazing. It was wonderful to worship with a full house and reconnect with so many people and visitors. The baptism of Nathan Gordon on Easter 2 was also a great celebration for our whole parish. There is a great “pulse” in our common life lately. I'm prayerful it continues!

The Daughters of the King will begin a study together: *Continuing the Journey: Spiritual Formation Guide*. We invite women of the parish to inquire if they are interested in learning more about joining the Daughters and their commitment to Prayer, Service and Evangelism. A new discernment class will take place next year.

The clergy will join our colleagues at the annual EDOA Clergy Conference at the Spiritual Life Center April 16-18. Please contact us via cell phone if there are any pastoral emergencies.

Registration for Diocesan Convention (June 8-10) Is now open. One need not be a delegate to attend Convention – it is open to everyone for all or part of the weekend. This year's special guest, our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, is an enthusiastic preacher and I encourage you to attend Saturday's Eucharist to hear him preach.

Sunday Attendance – Fr. Hartt - 134.6

Rectors Report - Father Hartt

Father Hartt began by saying that he was encouraged by attendance during Holy Week. Total Easter attendance was 336. Good Friday and the following Seven Last Words by Haydn overlapped tightly. Perhaps the start time of our musical offering needs to be about 15 minutes later. It appears the attendance the Service attendance was 83 and for the music about 100. Palm Sunday attendance was 182. Maundy Thursday was 47. These are solid numbers for us, although Maundy Thursday was a little weak. 5 Lent was also strong at 135. Fr. Hartt mentioned this because there is a building momentum prior to Holy Week. Easter II was exceptionally strong with the Baptism of Nathan Gordon. We had 176 in attendance. The reception was a joy in fellowship. Fr. Hartt thanked the Chenot/Gordon family for the festive celebration that followed. Our fellowship around meals always points out the strength of relationships in the parish. We are a family.

Father Hartt reported that his church history class has concluded. The course ran for 14 sessions. Father Hartt also thanked Mtr. Waldron for her course on Evelyn Underhill. Christian Education in the parish has been formative for those who attend. Often it has helped to integrate new members. Fr. Hartt did say that he would like to see greater levels of parish participation and is looking at Sundays for occasional offerings.

Father Hartt said that he is again hearing stories from visitors/parishioners that parking remains a major issue. A member of the parish told Fr. Hartt of a family wishing to come to Christmas Eve service who gave up upon circling the block many times.

Father Hartt said that Average Sunday Attendance is now 134.6. He is concerned that this more positive number will soon be compromised by the summer exodus. Fr. Hartt said that such "rhythms" of a parish are hard to change. Saint Peter's does not have a membership problem. Easter and Christmas Eve reveal this every year. The issue for us is frequency of attendance. We are not alone.

But Fr. Hartt then said how delighted he is by the influx of new energy and ideas from Christie Gordon, Ashley Spath and Vicky Paulter. The launching of the new Facebook page has been a huge success. Christie has also been working on a parish brochure. These three young women are very savvy and adept at social media and newcomer engagement. Vicky recently invited a family from work. They came and were delighted. It is this sort of courage that we need. Vicky also posted a fine video on the Facebook page that involved our kids. It was a powerful presentation on sin and atonement. Other faces of the parish have been ably posted by Ashley and Christy, including Palm Sunday Choir footage. The Easter Egg Hunt pictures were fun. Father Hartt is encouraged by the power and commitment of our new generation of church leaders.

Diocesan Convention Delegates were discussed. We thank Tim Murphy, Caitlin Cehowski, Alice Singular and Carly Crewell for their willingness to represent the parish. This Convention will be significant because the Diocese will be visited this year by our new Presiding Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry. A booklet is being assembled with a brief history of each parish along with a photograph. Fr. Hartt submitted our entry before Holy Week.

The beginning of next week will be a clergy conference at the SLC. Father Hartt and Mtr. Sue will be out of the office until Wednesday afternoon.

Father Hartt thanked Judy and Christy Burns for their work on the Spring Tea fundraiser. Donations will go to support the Homeless Action Committee vans that bring the homeless to shelters during code blue events. Father Hartt shared that the need in downtown continues to be severe. Our overflow shelter for women has made a meaningful contribution to helping with this crisis.

Father Hartt spoke of the Parochial Report. He thanked both George Scala and Mtr. Sue for their work on preparing the report which will be approved this evening. This report details financial and other figures of various kinds for the Diocese and Episcopal Church headquarters.

Plans for the painting of the interior of the church are moving along and completion of the work is scheduled by the end of the summer. This work is the product of much hard work. Fr. Hartt thanked Jim Chenot, Maria Holden, and Fred Hersey. The painting project was greatly aided by architect Jack Waite's Historic Structures Report which allowed us to understand the true historic paint colors. These colors were confirmed by samples taken by an expert known to Maria Holden. The parish will be kept informed.

In sum, Father Hartt says that he has been much encouraged of late with the influx of ideas and important projects. May God bless it forward.

Adjournment

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

Compline - Mother Sue led Compline.

Respectfully Submitted, Christie J. Gordon

Clergy & Staff

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

Vestry

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

Please note: Newsletter submissions are due by the 20th of each month.

How to Contact Us

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Website:

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Services

Sunday

Holy Communion 8:30 a.m.

Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

(1st & 3rd Sundays)

Morning Prayer 10:30 a.m.

(2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Holy Communion 12:05 p.m.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

