



# THE Cornerstone

## May 2018

Newsletter of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church

107 State Street, Albany, New York

### From the Rector

#### Made New

*And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." Revelation 21:5*

There is nothing "newer" than a birth. We have been blessed at St. Peter's this year with many infants reminding us of the gift of life, the gift of newness in the flesh. As we approach Pentecost, we are invited to celebrate the gift of new life and birth. It is the birth of the Church and the newness of God's work among us. I am reminded here of one of the Collects appointed at Good Friday:

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light:  
Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery;  
by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation;  
let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up,  
and things which had grown old are being made new,  
and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made,  
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Church is indeed a sacred mystery. She bears witness to the great mystery of God's completed and ongoing work in Christ. It is a work of telling and a work of seeing. The Collect prays it gloriously in the words, "let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus." The very nature of the Kingdom Jesus proclaimed and brought is to be active and breaking into our world afresh. The Resurrection is not only a moment in history, but proclaims the ongoing work of God's providence. This resurrected life is being renewed among us every day by our living Lord. The Church bears witness.

The gift of the Church, that sacred mystery, is to point to those works of God as Jesus Christ risen is proclaimed. The Church through her members says "See, here what was old is being made new." "See, here is something that was cast down being raised up." "See, here is the effectual working of God's providence." "See right there how Jesus is with us always as He promised." See... ."

At the very heart of this work of seeing and telling is the Holy Spirit. The Church is born of the Holy Spirit and born afresh by the same Holy Spirit. The work of conversion is of the Holy Spirit. The seeing of "the mystery" is born of the life of the Holy Spirit among us. We invite others into this life, to receive this gift of new birth in the Holy Spirit through Baptism. We exist to share the life of "See, here... ."

Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit. It doesn't get any better than a fresh anointing of the Spirit. May this Pentecost be abundant for us in this way. May Saint Peter's Church ever be about telling, seeing, and inviting.

Alleluia, Christ is Risen! The Lord is risen, indeed. Alleluia! Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire.

Fr. Hartt+

## From the Associate Rector

### Spring has Sprung!

Spring has Sprung! I can't remember a recent year where this statement has felt so profound. We waited a long time for Spring this year, for certain. And, because of this, it feels wonderful now that the warm weather has arrived!

I imagine that the first Easter felt similarly to the disciples. What I mean by this is even though our calendar said "spring" we sure didn't experience the fullness of spring. Likewise, they probably did not experience the fullness of Easter on that one day, like we do today, but rather they experienced the joy of Easter build over several weeks. As the days and weeks after Easter unfolded, the truth of the Resurrection became more and more clear to the Disciples. Like the snow melting slowly, and buds starting to appear above ground which we experienced during our slow Spring this year, each resurrection appearance of Jesus Christ must have brought more and more hope, joy, and life to the Disciples. Imagine what the culmination of that felt like on Ascension Day when Jesus Christ "was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God."

Jesus rising from the dead is astounding! Many people saw him after he rose from the dead. But, the ascension of Jesus was witnessed first hand by those disciples – they saw him "lifted, and a cloud took him out of their sight." Easter had Sprung...fully! It was time in the disciple's lives to begin living Easter.

The Ascension of Jesus marks the culmination of the Easter season and was the season of disciples going out to share the Easter joy and faith the Lord has brought them! Before he ascended, Jesus told his disciples, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Mark tells us he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation!" That is the mission of the disciples – the mission of you and me! We are to proclaim the good news to the whole creation!

How can we do this? How can we do this today? Should we become a missionary, like Paul, and travel to new places sharing the Word of God? Some may, but most will not. Most of us are called to proclaim the good news right here where we are. One the easiest, and perhaps best, ways to proclaim the good news is by living Easter. Can people around you see Easter joy within you – dictating your life and the choices or priorities you make?

I read an article recently that posed the question, "Why are AA meetings and yoga classes so full on Sunday mornings while churches remain empty?" The author proposed the answer is because people go to AA or yoga class expecting to change drastically from the experience. Do we, as Christians, hold the same expectation from Church? Do we expect our faith to change our lives drastically? It can – if we let it. But it will only change us, and change our lives, if we live Christianity.

This is a hard calling, and especially today. Christianity is often at odds with the world around us, it stretches our call to love and charity, it asks us to put ourselves behind others. Christianity calls us to repentance, to sacrifice, to forgiveness. Yet, without these, we can never experience the fullness of Easter joy.

Just like the disciples that lived 2,000 years ago, we are called to bring our Easter joy out into the world: whatever part of the world we might be in. When we do this, Easter has Sprung fully in our lives and with it, the fullness of the fruits of our faith: peace, hope, love and joy. They will begin to bud in our lives – breaking through any hardness of heart and blossoming just like the early Spring flowers. How beautiful indeed!

Spring has sprung...has Easter sprung fully in your life?

With Blessings,

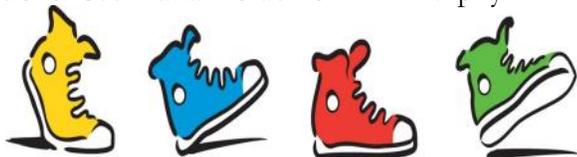
Mtr. Sue



## Upcoming Events

### Crop Walk

Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> - Step-off is 1:30pm! The Albany Crop Walk is one of the largest in our nation and raises funds for both local and national food programs. Locally, it supports the Capital District Food Pantries. Now is the time to begin collecting sponsors. We hope you will walk with us or consider sponsoring the St. Peter's team! Information packets are in the Pumpelly Room. Questions? See Maria Holden or Tim Murphy.



### Vestry Meeting

The May Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:15pm.

### Outreach

The May Outreach meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm. Please join us to learn about Outreach ministries and hospitality events being planned!

### Daughters of the King

The May DOK meeting will be held on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. They will meet after the 10:30am service in the Vestry room.

### Ascension Day Evensong

Please join us as we celebrate the fullness of the Easter Season with Ascension Day Choral Evensong on Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. The music will include C. V. Stanford's Evening Canticles in A, the grand English anthem *Lord, Thou Hast Been Our Refuge*, by E. C. Bairstow, and organ voluntaries by Marcel Dupré.



### Pentecost is Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>

We will have wonderful services including baptisms (at our 10:30am service). As is customary within our tradition, we are encouraging you to wear red to church on Pentecost (red symbolizes the fire of the Holy Spirit).

## 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. Please type in your browser <http://www.softball-24-7.com/ESS-SundaySoftball/> do not Google search it as it will not appear. On the website, we are listed as St. Peter's Angels. To check on rainouts call (518) 269-1293.

| DATE                  | DAY    | TIME   | PARK         | OPPONENT |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------------|----------|
| May 6th               | Sunday | 4:30PM | @ Firemans   | (HMN)    |
| May 20 <sup>st</sup>  | Sunday | 4:30PM | @ Mullens    | (BOM)    |
| June 3rd              | Sunday | 1:30PM | @ Ridgefield | (CAK)    |
| June 10 <sup>th</sup> | Sunday | 3:00PM | @ Mullens    | (FAL)    |
| June 10 <sup>th</sup> | Sunday | 4:30PM | @ Mullens    | (EAG)    |



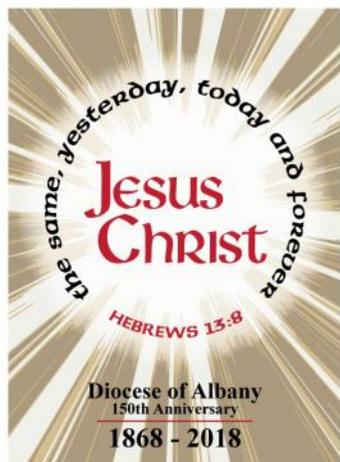
## Join us for the 150<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany!

June 8<sup>th</sup> - June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018

at Camp of the Woods

Christian Family Resort and Conference Center

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



# 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](http://www.beavercrossministries.org/camp-registration.html)



Mark your calendar! On Mother's Day, the Sunday School children will be making very special gifts for the moms, grandmoms, etc. Please join us on May 13<sup>th</sup> during 10:30 service.

## ATTENTION 2018 GRADUATES

We would like to acknowledge all graduates for the 2017-2018 school year. If you, your child, or even your grandchild will be graduating from high school or college or has already graduated anytime during this past school year, please complete the form that was included in your May Newsletter and return it to the church office. If you did not receive a form or need another one please call the church office. The deadline is Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> if you would like it to be included in the June Newsletter.



## **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](http://www.beavercrossministries.org)

## St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen

Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> ~ 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.

## YOUTH SUNDAY

**Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup> 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, most months (but not this one) we offer **Children's Chapel** for our youngest members. In lieu of our traditional Sunday School offering, pre-Confirmation youth and Sunday School teachers celebrate a Youth Eucharist in the Pumpelly Room during the service. Children begin worship with the parents in the main Sanctuary and following the first reading the children are invited to process into Children's Chapel for their own Gospel message, homily and instructed Eucharist service. Please speak to Fr. Hartt or Mtr. Sue if your child would like to have a special role during an upcoming Youth Sunday.



**Easter Festivities!**

**Easter Egg Hunt at the Rectory**

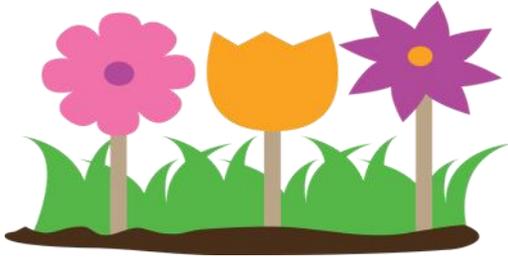
## Ministry News & Opportunities

### 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>May 6, 2018</u>                                      | <u>May 13, 2018</u>                             | <u>May 20, 2018</u>                          | <u>May 27, 2018</u>                              | <u>June 3, 2018</u>                                     |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--|--|---|
| <u>8:30am</u><br><u>Lectors</u>  | John Sterrett<br>John Davis                             | Gordon Lattey<br>Gayle Hartz                    | Gordon Lattey<br>Robert Hull                 | Gordon Lattey<br>Connie Powell                   | John Sterrett<br>Ray Roohan                             |
| <u>10:30am</u><br><u>Lectors</u> | Julie Hotmer Drao<br>Jack Ratzel                        | Ted Jennings<br>Cate Clark                      | Sally Jennings<br>Moses Kamyia               | Youth Sunday                                     | Laura Grill<br>Fred Hershey                             |
| <u>Flower</u><br><u>Guild</u>    | Ann Collins   | Sally Jennings                                  | Edith Allen                                  | Nancy Creagan                                    | Ann Collins   |
| <u>Coffee</u><br><u>Hour</u>     |   |   |  |  |   |
| <u>8:30am</u><br><u>Ushers</u>   | Clark Daggett<br>Fred Lincoln                           | Bernie Burnell<br>John Davis                    | Robin LaPlante<br>John Sterrett              | Robert Hull<br>Teddy Hull                        | Clark Daggett<br>Fred Lincoln                           |
| <u>10:30am</u><br><u>Ushers</u>  | Sharon DeBonis<br>Julie Hotmer Drao<br>Catherine Schunk | William Collins<br>Kevin Creagan<br>Jeff Russom | Sherry Bishko<br>Moses Kamyia<br>Frank Spath | Chris Grill<br>Mark Lundberg<br>Michele Lundberg | Sharon DeBonis<br>Julie Hotmer Drao<br>Catherine Schunk |
| <u>Altar</u><br><u>Guild</u>     | Catherine Schunk  | Catherine Schunk                                | Catherine Schunk                             | Catherine Schunk                                 |   |

# May 2018

| Sunday  | Monday                                  | Tuesday  | Wed                                  |
|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|
|    |   | 1<br>1:00 pm - Friends of St. Peter's  | 2<br>8:45 am - Top<br>12:05 pm - Ho  |
| <b>6 The Sixth Sunday of Easter</b><br>8:30 am - Holy Communion<br>10:30 am - Holy Communion with Baptism<br>12:30 pm - Registration for CROP Walk,<br>1:15 - Opening Ceremony<br>1:30 - Walkers Step-off | 7<br>5:00 pm - Treble Rehearsal         | 8<br>1:00 pm - Friends of St. Peter's<br>4:30 pm - Outreach Meeting<br>5:15 pm - Vestry Meeting<br>7:00pm - EDOA Pre-Convention Meeting at the Cathedral of All Saints | 9<br>8:45 am - Top<br>12:05 pm - Ho  |
| <b>13 The Seventh Sunday of Easter</b><br><b>Mother's Day</b><br>8:30 am - Holy Communion<br>10:30 am - Morning Prayer  | 14<br>5:00 pm - Treble Rehearsal        | 15<br>1:00 pm - Friends of St. Peter's   | 16<br>8:45 am - Top<br>12:05 pm - Ho |
| <b>20 The Day of Pentecost</b><br><b>Whitsunday</b><br>8:30 am - Holy Communion<br>10:30 am - Holy Communion<br>DOK meeting following 10:30 am service  | 21<br>5:00 pm - Treble Rehearsal        | 22<br>1:00 pm - Friends of St. Peter's   | 23<br>8:45 am - Top<br>12:05 pm - Ho |
| <b>27 Trinity Sunday</b><br><b>Youth Sunday</b><br>8:30 am - Holy Communion<br>10:30 am - Morning Prayer  | <b>28 Memorial Day</b><br>Office Closed | 29<br>1:00 pm - Friends of St. Peter's   | 30<br>8:45 am - Top<br>12:05 pm - Ho |

| Wednesday                   | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday                            |
|-----------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| of the Hill<br>ly Communion | 3<br>5:00 pm - Treble Rehearsal<br>5:30 pm - Full Choir               | 4<br>12:30 pm - Organ Concert  | 5                                   |
| of the Hill<br>ly Communion | 10 <b>Ascension Day</b><br>5:30 pm - Full Choir<br>7:30 pm - Evensong | 11<br>12:30 pm - Organ Concert   | 12                                  |
| of the Hill<br>ly Communion | 17<br>5:00 pm - Treble Rehearsal<br>5:30 pm - Full Choir              | 18<br>12:30 pm - Organ Concert   | 19<br>11:00 am - Angels in Training |
| of the Hill<br>ly Communion | 24<br>5:00 pm - Treble Rehearsal<br>5:30 pm - Full Choir              | 25<br>12:30 pm - Organ Concert   | 26                                  |
| of the Hill<br>ly Communion | 31<br>5:00 pm - Treble Rehearsal<br>5:30 pm - Full Choir              | <div data-bbox="873 1654 1393 1921" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="824 1927 1432 1999">Thank You to all the Men and Women who have served our country.</p> |                                     |

# St. Peters Music

## FRIDAY NOONTIME ORGAN CONCERTS

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

### CHOIR

Choir rehearsals are on the following schedule:

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

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

5:30pm - 7:00pm Adult choristers

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

Please contact Neil Keen for more information at [stpemus@gmail.com](mailto:stpemus@gmail.com) or 339-0137.

### Evensong for Ascension Day

On Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm, the choir will sing a service of Choral Evensong, with Mother Sue Waldron preaching. The music will include C. V. Stanford's Evening Canticles in A, the grand English anthem, *Lord, Thou Hast Been Our Refuge*, by E. C. Bairstow, and organ voluntaries by Marcel Dupré.



## Composer of the Month Club

Marcel Dupré, 1886-1971



Marcel Dupré, French organist and composer was a hugely influential force in the 20<sup>th</sup> century organ world. He performed over 2000 concerts in Europe, Australia, Canada, and the USA – including performances of the complete organ works of Bach, played from memory. He was the teacher of many prominent organists in Europe and the USA, including two of my own teachers. His teaching editions of the works of Bach and others provided many of us an introduction to the technique of organ playing. His compositions, some of the most famous of which arose from his extraordinary improvisations, are widely performed concert favorites. Dupré served for decades as organist of the Church of St. Sulpice in Paris, and briefly as the Director of the Paris Conservatory. His 65 opus numbers represent compositions for orchestra, chamber groups, voices and piano, as well as for organ.

## Adult Education

### *2018 Through the Door to Holiness Conference*

October 1 - 3, 2018

Christ the King Spiritual Life Center



Once again the Sisters of St. Mary and Christ the King Center will offer an ecumenical conference with speakers from several denominational settings to address to topic of Holiness in personal and corporate life. Look for inspiring talks, uplifting worship from varied settings and challenging discussions on the role and witness of Holiness in contemporary life. Led by Keynote Speaker, the Most Rev'd and Rt. Hon. George Carey, 103rd Archbishop of Canterbury, leaders from multiple Christian traditions will address questions like:

- Why is holiness so important?
- What happens when it collides with culture?
- Can one be holy alone or is holiness a corporate activity?
- What if the Church goes astray? How do we challenge it? Is it ever right to leave a disobedient Church?
- How does holiness reflected in sacrificial living become a gift for the world?
- If holiness is a corporate gift from God that transcends denominations, how might the beauty of holiness transform ecumenical life?

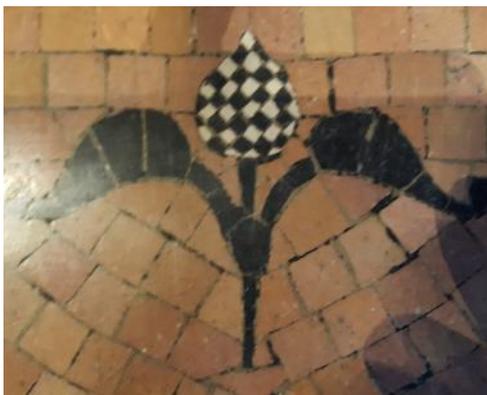
## From the Archives

Starting in April, articles labeled *From the Archives* will be placed on the display table in the back of the church rather than in the Newsletter. At present there are three months worth of articles on display. So, when you come to church, please take a look! And please help yourself!

E.C. Powell, Archivist



## Mystery in St. Peter's Church



# Calling all Super Sleuths!

April showers are bringing May flowers, and we have this little beauty hidden somewhere right here in our church building. The first person who contacts the parish office with its location will be listed in the next newsletter as "Super Sleuth."

Phone: 518-434-3502, Email: [receptionist@stpeterschurchalbany.org](mailto:receptionist@stpeterschurchalbany.org)

## Saint of the Month Club

**[John Eliot]** *Missionary among the Algonquin, 1690*

John Eliot, known as "The Apostle to the Indians," was born in 1604 at Widford in Hertfordshire, England. Educated at Cambridge, Eliot's nonconformist beliefs brought him into conflict with the tenets of the established church, and he departed for New England in 1631. Eliot arrived in Boston later that year and became the pastor of a church in Roxbury.

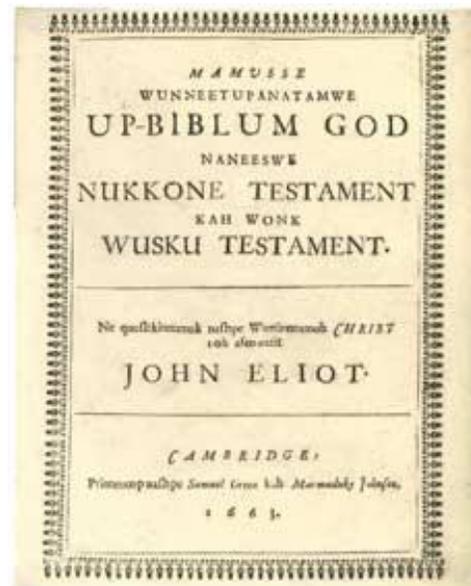
During his tenure as pastor in Roxbury he became concerned with the welfare of the native populations and he learned Algonquin language. After two years of study he began preaching to them in their own language. Like Roger Williams before him, Eliot had learned the native language and preached to the local tribes, but unlike Williams, Eliot devoted his entire life's work to preaching the Gospel to the native people.

In 1649, by act of Parliament, a Corporation for the Promoting and Propagating of the Gospel among the Indians of New England was set up, and with the financial backing of the English government, Eliot built a native settlement at Natick. The native people were provided with food, clothing, homes, and education, and in 1660 the first Indian church in New England was founded.

During this time, Eliot began his monumental translation of the English Bible into the Algonquin language. Starting with the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer, he was able to complete translations of the Book of Genesis and the Gospel of Matthew with the financial support of the Corporation for the Propagating of the Gospel. In 1661, his Algonquin New Testament was published, a copy of which was sent to King Charles II, and finally, in 1663, his complete translation of the Bible was published. Eliot would revise his translation several times after most copies had been destroyed in the Indian Wars of 1670, along with many of the Indian settlements he established.

Eliot wrote a number of other books before his death, including a grammar of the Algonquin language. His work was vital to the studies of many linguists after him who were interested in Native American languages.

**Prayer:** *O Lord, Great Creator, source of mercy, we offer thanks for the imagination and conviction of thine evangelist, John Eliot, who brought both literacy and the Bible to the Algonquin people, and reshaped their communities into fellowships of Christ to serve thee and give thee praise; and we pray that we may so desire to share thy Good News with others that we labor for mutual understanding and trust; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*



**MINUTES FOR THE VESTRY MEETING  
ST. PETER'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
March 13, 2018**

**Present:** Fr. Hartt, Mtr. Sue Waldron, D. Spath, J. Chenot, A. Spath, T. Murphy, C. Gordon, N. Creagan, F. Hershey

**Absent:** K. Cehowski, S. Lencewicz, G. Scala, M. Holden

Opening Prayer Led by Father Paul Hartt

**Approval of the Minutes of Vestry Meeting, February 12, 2018.**

The February 12, 2018, minutes were approved on a motion by T. Murphy and seconded by C. Gordon. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

**Senior Warden Report** –D. Spath & J. Chenot

We would like to thank everyone who had a hand in making our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner a successful, well attended dinner event and a great way to start off our Lenten season moving forward. Thanks to Jeff Russom, Janice Chenot, Laura Rulison and Pam Gerfin, as well as so many others who volunteered cooking and cleaning before and after the dinner. Again, there was a great turnout for this event and we were able to set the parish hall for the women's shelter with extra food from the dinner for them to enjoy. It was a great evening for everyone coming together preparing for Lent.

The Ash Wednesday services were well-attended and we want to remind everyone that Evensong services will be held each Friday evening at 5:45 during lent. We also want to thank the choir and Neil Keen for their participation at all these Friday services.

We need to thank everyone involved with the homeless overflow shelter which will end March 28th for the winter season. This year again was a humbling and successful year hosting women in need at our shelter in the parish hall who truly were in need for shelter this cold and snowy season. This now completes our 9th year working with the Albany City Mission helping with these women in need and we want to thank the congregation for their support with food and monetary donations for this important ministry.

In advance we would like to thank our clergy Father Hartt and Mother Sue for their prayerful preparation and pastoral care during this Lenten season leading us to Palm Sunday, Holy week and Easter Sunday Service. In advance we would like to thank the altar guild flower, ushers, Ian and Pat for all the work and preparations performed each week to ensure that each Sunday as well as the extra work for these services run smoothly. In addition, the church office takes on an incredible amount of extra work load compiling information for the Easter memorials as well as all the extra printing of leaflets and programs. Janice and Angie have been working tirelessly in the office and we would like to thank you both for the dedication and support you bring to St. Peter's.

Neil Keen and the choir have been working for many weeks now preparing for Good Friday service. This year the choir will be performing Haydn's "Seven Words of Christ on the Cross" on Good Friday at 1:00 with orchestra. Thank you to the choir for their time and dedication at rehearsals preparing them for the all music that will be sung at this musical event as well as the music at the two Easter Sunday services. Finally, we look forward to the Easter egg hunt on Saturday March 31<sup>st</sup>, the day before Easter at the rectory. The vestry and clergy are looking forward to this year's Holy Week and Easter Sunday services and looking forward to a great turn out as we had during the Christmas time season.

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

In George S.'s absence, his submitted report was reviewed for the February report. Offerings for February were \$17,371. Year-to-date offerings are \$32,954. This compares to a budgeted number of \$46,217. YTD Offerings through the same period in 2017 were \$37,503.

The investment/endowment accounts both showed fairly significant losses for February consistent with market performance. Merrill Lynch showed a negative return of -3.03%. YTD return of Merrill Lynch is +.71%. The Key accounts showed a negative return of -2.82% for the month and is at +.89% YTD. This leaves us with a positive budget variance in this area YTD of \$1,338. Both accounts performed favorably versus market indexes. It should be noted that the market seems very volatile so we need to be prepared for losses/negative returns. Expenses YTD through February were \$461 over budget.

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

**Property** –

The chandelier in the Tower Room has separated and it is currently being fixed in a manner that we are hoping will preserve it without altering its appearance.

**Outreach** – Mother Sue

Unfortunately, the Soup Sampler had to be cancelled. Outreach is currently planning the Spring Tea – please stay tuned for more information.

On Good Friday, offerings are invited from across The Episcopal Church to support the four diocese in the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Funds are used to promote peace and mutual understanding through pastoral care, health care, and educational programs throughout the region. More information can be found at [www.episcopalchurch.org/goodfridayoffering](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/goodfridayoffering)

**Old Business**

Church Restoration – The company that will be restoring the interior of the church is Eagan Church Restorations. They sent us an updated quote with a new timeline of only 6-8 weeks instead of the previously reported 4-6 months. The vestry discussed the need for fundraising ideas to start being planned in order to begin this project.

**New Business** - None

**Associate Rector's Report** – Mother Sue

We had a great Shrove Tuesday dinner as well as a wonderful start to Lent. Ash Wednesday services were well-attended and our Lenten programs are off to a great start:

A Lenten Study began Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> 2018: *Lent with Evelyn Underhill* with bi-weekly gatherings on Tuesday evenings at church. We have 10 people reading the book and I have received excellent feedback on the readings. Our two gatherings, thus far, have been extraordinary conversations and indicate much spiritual growth. We would love more people to join our biweekly gatherings – all are welcome.

Fr. Hartt and I co-led a Lenten Quiet Day on March 11, 2018 from noon – 4:00pm. Lunch was provided by members of the DOK – thank you Daughters! We had 11 in attendance and received very positive feedback from the day. Many felt it was not only a great day of rest and reflection but helped redefine their Lenten experience.

Healing Prayer, offered on the first Sunday of the month during Holy Communion, continues to be an exciting offering here at St. Peter's. Over the last few months, there has been an increase in the number of people seeking prayer with anointing. We can be thankful that people are seeking this comfort and help while praising God for his healing presence in our lives. If you'd like to learn more about Healing Prayers with Anointing, please avail yourself or speak to one of the clergy.

**Average Sunday Attendance** – 106.5

**Rectors Report** - Father Hartt

Father Hartt reported on the Lenten Quiet Day. There were 9 attendees. The meditations were on prayer, forgiveness, and not judging others. We concluded with Stations of the Cross. Father Hartt thanked the Daughters of the King for providing a light lunch for the day.

The Diocese holds a Chrism Mass on March 26th. The service is a time when oil for healing and Chrism for anointing at Baptism are blessed by the Bishop. The clergy also renew their ordination vows.

Father Hartt reminded us of the schedule for Holy Week:

- March 25th, Palm Sunday -- 8:30. 10:30AM
- March 26th, Holy Communion 12:05PM
- March 27th, Holy Communion 12:05PM
- March 28th, Holy Communion 12:05PM
- March 29th, Maundy Thursday 7:30PM
- March 30th, Good Friday Liturgy, Noon
- 1:00PM -- *The Seven Last Words of Christ* by Franz Joseph Haydn
- March 31st, Holy Saturday, 8:00AM
- April 1st, Easter Sunday, 8:30AM - 10:30AM -- Choral Holy Communion

The traditional Easter egg hunt will take place at the rectory on March 31st, 11:00AM. Fr. Hartt know the children will not be fettered, but hopes the snow will have melted by then.

Father Hartt reported on the Christian History course. The course is to wrap up shortly, having covered 13 chapters. The snow has forced the cancellation of a few classes which are now being made up.

Father Hartt spoke of being encouraged by the the contribution of Ashley Spath and Christie Gordon at the the last vestry meeting. Both seems to have excellent thoughts on attendance, especially among their age group. Attendance continues to be a concern and new initiatives were discussed, including social media. Fr. Hartt said that in part we are seeing new attendance patterns that are widespread. We do continue to have younger members actively engaged which is quite positive. Frequency of attendance among a larger membership remains our core issue.

The Baptism of Nathan Gordon is scheduled for April 8th.

Father Hartt thanked the Vestry for their service to the parish and wished us a blessed Holy Week and Easter.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by J. Chenot and seconded by N. Creagan, then was passed unanimously by the vestry.

**Compline**

Father Hartt led Compline.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christie J. Gordon

The Pre-Convention Information Meeting dates have been set. If you have any questions, please contact the EDOA office at 518-692-3350.

- April 30: Christ Church, Cooperstown, 7pm
- May 1: St. Mark's, Malone, 7pm
- May 7: Church of the Messiah, Glens Falls, 7pm
- May 8: Cathedral of All Saints, Albany, 7pm



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

## *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

## *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](mailto:Receptionist@stpeterschurchalbany.org)

Website:

[www.stpeterschurchalbany.org](http://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**

