



Cornerstone

February 2016

Newsletter of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church

107 State Street, Albany, New York

2015 Annual Reports

The Lessons appointed for this Sunday seem providential, as each reading encourages reflections that are timely for our common life at St. Peter's.

Jeremiah proclaims:

The word of the Lord came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you..."

It is but a few years since our Tricentennial. Three hundred and three years is a long time. As we reviewed our history for the Tricentennial, several things came into focus. The first was the courage and suffering from which we were born. It is perhaps ironic that Saint Peter's has been known for many decades as a "comfortable" parish. For the congregation that would become Saint Peter's began in a "dilapidated" Dutch Lutheran Church outside of Fort Fredrick. Even after we built our own church building in the center of State Street, it was no bigger than a one room school house. While the perception of our comfort has been exaggerated at times, it is certainly true in contrast to our humble beginnings. But our true and original spiritual DNA remains grit and perseverance. As we reflect on this past year and our going forward, it is helpful not to lapse into historical amnesia.

This parish was born of great hardship. The first rector died in the rectory penniless, due to interrupted funds from England, exhausted, and some say having deteriorated into debilitating depression and perhaps even a full mental breakdown. His wife and children were left pleading for assistance from abroad. Yet the story leading up to this sad point was one of great success and vital ministry. There had been much needed and effective religious instruction to the community, to both Anglicans and non-Anglicans alike, a very successful mission to the Indians, solid moral and religious care of the soldiers, and then the gaining of permission to build the first church. It took three years of pleading before the Governor to see it built. But the foundation of faith and sweat yielded great fruit.

Subsequent clergy built on this success. The parish grew. But then came the Revolutionary war. All that had been built up was brought to zero. The little church was shut. After the war, the rebuilding began. As we trace our history over three centuries, we see ebbs and flows, ups and downs, financial insecurity, then relative security, parish harmony, and then dissent. What one does not see is an uninterrupted progression to greater and greater stability, but rather a process of ups and downs moving generally in a positive direction.

We see how history and culture exact their toll and give their rewards. The world impacts the church, and the church the world. Leadership, both lay and clergy, varies and circumstances are favorable or unfavorable for growth. There is nothing new now, except for what it means to minister as the people of God in this time.

What does it mean for St. Peter's to minister in this time? That is the urgent question. I believe that it begins with our deep faith in Jeremiah's proclamation: *"The word of the Lord came to me saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you...'"*

We cannot doubt that these three hundred plus years reflect a definite plan and purpose of the Father. As God foreknew and reigned over the past three hundred and three years, so we believe God reigns over and knows us today. We can be confident that God's will is to unleash the Gospel in this very context and to make us a part of the blessed witness to His Son through the ages. This witness has gone through innumerable cultures and began long before this Nation was born. We can embrace the now with sure faith. In the words of the Lord to Jeremiah, *"Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you..."* St. Peter's has been given a word for this time, and this place, and in this city.

God's will usually appears clearest in the rear view mirror. It has always been so. Sometimes we feel God works with us on a "need-to-know" basis. It is a great mystery, but it is likely all that our creaturely minds can handle. It forces our dependence. It makes us pray for the next move. It compels us to stay the course when no clear message emerges. As your rector, the first thing that I believe last year reveals is that we need to unite in prayer for our parish in such a way as to live out the words of the Serenity Prayer: to accept the things we cannot change and to have the courage to change the things we can. There is a subtle discernment between the two, but an important one. We want to stop banging our heads against that which cannot and perhaps should not be recaptured and to focus on the courage to work in ways that bring true and present life in the Spirit.

We are a church proud of our history. Our core DNA is strength, perseverance, devotion and personal sacrifice. It is time to reveal this DNA in a particular way. After almost nine years of overall growth at Saint Peter's, modest growth to be sure, but growth, we have had two years of losing ground. Saint Peter's had a bad drop this past year. We are not alone. Many parishes in the Episcopal Church have experienced far worse. As the spiritual leader of Saint Peter's, I must and do take full responsibility. I know my weaknesses only too well. But there is so much going right at Saint Peter's, such growth in faith, worship, outreach, and mutual love, that there is more than enough here to tide our recent drifting. The key word now is commitment. Commitment in response to the working of the Holy Spirit in us, prayed for, sought and obeyed.

Saint Paul says to us today, *"When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love."*

“And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.” Saint Peter's greatest strength is the love that is here for this church and one another. There truly is family here. It is palpable this love among us. My father and mother were visiting last week from New Jersey. As you know, my father is a retired Episcopal priest who has pretty much seen it all. My father said that this parish is spiritually strong, stronger each time he comes, the liturgy so rich and powerful, the diversity of the parish growing and strengthening us. I could not agree more, and he is not alone in this observation. Our heart is sweet and our love genuine. There is such depth and richness of faith, hope, and love here among you. We welcome well, we reach out to the poor, we truly care for one another, we pray, sing and offer liturgy of substance, our educational offerings have depth, our children are cherished and spiritually fed. None of this goodness is touched by acknowledging that we are also assailed by a temptation.

I said earlier that the church impacts the culture and the culture impacts the church. Let us frankly consider our culture. Right now, there is blanket permission in our culture to marginalize religious commitment and to substitute other things. We each face countless temptations to do so. We need only look to our neighbors to find this cultural permission, or the coach, or the reluctant spouse, or the kids lured by activities to skip church. We are encouraged daily by our culture to think that building our children's resumes with activities is more important than establishing their Christian faith and securing the future life of the very church in which they will want to marry and have their children baptized. We don't do this on purpose. We kind of fall into it.

Likewise, we have long been tempted in The Episcopal Church to act as if graduation happens at confirmation. We are tempted to walk away from the work of community in the midst of our theological differences. We are tempted to continue old patterns of taking the whole summer off. But this will do us in. The simple truth is that as the culture gets softer on religion, we will need to get harder. We will need to be the Church impacting the culture, not the other way around. Standing up to our cultural temptations is central to St. Peter's spiritual maturity in this time. It is to be the adults of St. Paul's Epistle.

When I was growing up, there was considerable focus in The Episcopal Church on the Ten Commandments. We need to return with intent. The single most important thing at Saint Peter's right now is keeping the Sabbath. It is a Commandment because God knows what is good for us and the basic conditions for our thriving. When we ignore any one of the Ten Commandments, we ought not to be surprised that things do not go as well as we would like. Maturity means not passing the buck to others to maintain the discipline. Maturity is always a personal thing. “We go to church every Sunday. Period.”

From this holy duty comes the presence that gives life at worship and creates communities that make programs and small groups that meet deep spiritual needs. It is from robust attendance that guilds are filled and events put on. Your clergy are willing to squeeze everything possible into Sunday morning. We have even added an extra service at 4PM. But nothing strong can happen without consistent Sunday attendance. The culture wins by death from a thousand cuts. And right now one cut is hemorrhaging. It is church attendance. Do we need to accept this as what we cannot change or have the courage to change it? From any honest perspective, we know this is one thing that we can change. It is in our power. It is our choice, a matter of our will. It is a Commandment of God and a decision that impacts our brothers and sisters. We are on solid ground in calling one another to account.

A doctor once shared a story of a patient that would discuss anything but his smoking. He would cough and wheeze a little more each visit. But that subject was off the table. He died of lung cancer in his late fifties. Church attendance has become the third rail of the suburban family. It is the one thing to which we clergy are not to speak. But the most precious gift we can offer is our presence. We must choose God first. God's Commandments are a seamless whole. They are the foundation of our spiritual health.

It takes a lot of commitment to be present for the Annual Meeting. Please know that I know your faithfulness and give thanks for it. I realize that I am preaching to our very faithful and dedicated members now. But the Annual Meeting Report by the Rector is also an historical document. One that can be read later to see how we met the challenges of our time. It is also a part of our February Newsletter to those who are not able to be present but also care deeply for St. Peter's. It is a State of the Parish address. So allow me to be as concrete as possible.

This parish has an extraordinary membership of faithful and gifted souls. We are as spiritually healthy and equipped as we ever have been. We are really just doing battle with a culture that tempts us to be absent and some lingering comforts of our past that we need to put down now.

The State of the Parish is especially strong in traditional areas. I use the word “traditional” with deliberate intent. Our traditional events surrounding the Christmas and Easter seasons remain especially strong. Indeed, we had even greater attendance at Christmas than last year. The image of so many of our children coming down the aisle to assemble the crèche at the early Service will never leave me. I see that image as the truth about us. Saint Peter's is a place of joy and wonder for our youth and adults alike.

We are rightly proud of our Choir. It is a matter not simply of their technical competence, but of faith. The Choir not only sings with extraordinary ability, but has a spiritual center which infuses every note. Our Choir is present Sunday after Sunday, giving of their time to rehearse during the week and to travel abroad. I want especially to thank our children in the choir and Mr. Neil Keen whose personal manner and gifts delight and enrich us beyond words. Diana Martin, our Choir Mother, cares for our young choristers with wisdom and dedication born of her genuine love for them and this parish.

This month we lost our receptionist Meghan Cooney after two years. She has gone on to an exciting new position. It is a tribute to this parish that Meghan gave much more than required. Her heart was in her work because she truly respected and enjoyed us as a church. I mention Meghan because it is noteworthy this year that we have a new website which she created before her departure. We are beginning to enter the internet world with real sophistication. It is necessary in this age.

Janice Chenot has been an office volunteer for many years now. We could not function without her assistance. She brings a number of essential skills to the Parish Office which would require paid staff if it were not for her free offering of time and talent. Janice puts in many hours for us. We thank her for her substantial offering and commitment.

We have spoken much of our history. Our Archivist, Connie Powell, has done extraordinary work in organizing, cataloging, and preserving our historical records. Connie has also done exhibits for us that have informed and delighted us. This year Connie made a lovely and needed pamphlet on the plaques of the church. It is located with our historical guides in the back of the church. Connie is always on the lookout for ways to deepen our historical knowledge. We look forward to her work in the coming year.

As always, we all wish to thank Pat Shortall and Bobby Clancy for their work keeping this parish in good order and the spirit with which they do so. Both men are worthy of sainthood.

The Guilds are essential to our common life. Flower, Usher, and Altar Guilds each contribute to the face of Saint Peter's to visitors. I wish to thank Sally Jennings, Moses Kamya, and Cathy Schunk for heading those respective Guilds. We receive notes from visitors often about the beauty of the Sanctuary and welcome of the Ushers. Of all of the Guilds presently, the Altar Guild is most in need of new members. It is holy work to handle and prepare the Communion vessels. Please consider joining the Altar Guild at this time. We need you.

Our Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Acolytes, and Lectors are well trained and serve with grace and faithfulness. It is a pleasure for your clergy to serve with them at Sunday worship. It is our hope in the coming year to increase the number of Lectors, Acolytes, and LEMs in the parish. We are in particular need of Acolytes. This is understandable given the existing levels of participation of our youth in choir.

The Vestry of this church could not be more dedicated, prayerful, and competent. This is a complex parish, in worship, outreach, finance and physical plant. Your Vestry's only concern is the welfare of the church and her members. I want to thank our Sr. Warden Jim Chenot, our Jr. Warden Debbie Spath, our Treasurer George Scala, and Judy Burns our Clerk and outreach representative, especially. At this time of Vestry elections, I also wish to recognize the departure of Judy Burns, Pam Gerfin, and Jack Ratzel and commend them for their imparted wisdom and excellent service to the parish.

Jack Ratzel has now undertaken a rigorous outreach to the new residential development in our downtown area. We have 400 new units planned as well as commercial development. Jack is placing our parish welcome brochure in tenants' hands directly and through community welcome packets. This is evangelism in our time. Michelle Vennard and the Visitor's Bureau have been essential in this undertaking. We thank them all for bringing us more deeply into our developing neighborhood.

We are now in the seventh year of the Overflow Shelter. Our partnership with the City Mission has been transformative for us. We are bearing witness to the downtown community that we are open for God's work at every level of need. Indeed, outreach has become the mark of our parish in the community. The hearts of our parishioners are large. From the Christmas gifts to the Burmese refugees to the meals for the Lutheran overflow shelter, from our Angels In Training to the soup kitchen at Grace and Holy Innocents, we are active in sharing with our brothers and sisters as God commands.

At the meeting following, our Senior Warden will share with you about a generous bequest from Mr. William Daley of 1.6 million dollars. Mr. Daley was a man of deep faith, and while with us but a few years at St. Peter's, he cared deeply for our future. In so many ways, we are being supported and blessed in ways we can never quite expect. God is good to us in countless and surprising ways. We give thanks for Mr. Daley's generosity and faith.

The Daughters of the King continue their ministry of prayer for us. These holy women have taken on a rule of life which demands serious devotion. I give thanks for their ministry of prayer in our midst and commend the Daughters to the women of the parish. Please know that the clergy feel your prayer support.

Finally, it is difficult to say enough about the work of our Church School. The spiritual nurture of our children is our greatest responsibility. Laura Saffares not only assures our children know the Lord, but bears witness in her being to Jesus' very love of children. Sharon Vardabash, Kelly Welch serve with devotion and tender love in our nursery. We are blessed by their work. Vicky Pautler, Ashley Labib, and Kristen Cassuci provide with Laura Christian education and outreach opportunities. They could not do a better job, and our children love them. St. Peter's children collected over 50 backpacks for students in need and filled them with school supplies. Coats, gloves, and hats were collected for families at the Grace and Holy Innocent Soup Kitchen, where several of our young people have gone to serve. I want to thank our Sunday School staff for their dedication and faithful witness to the love of Christ. The newly begun Children's Chapel offers an instructed Eucharist each month. We also have introduced a ceremony of the "Blessing of the Backpacks" for our kids at the start of the school year.

This faithfulness is the truth about us. There is so much goodness here. We have more than we need to stem the tide of our times. Jesus quotes a proverb in today's Gospel, "Doctor cure yourself." Truly there is nothing at Saint Peter's which external to us threatens us. We can cure ourselves by simply keeping the Sabbath. And with so much goodness already here, such abundance, imagine!

In the Name of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Rev. Paul J. Hartt

ST. PETER'S CHURCH ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S REPORT

We gather to celebrate another year of joyful ministry at St. Peter's Church. The year 2015 started out with a long snowy winter. We were blessed to have Denise Moore, Deacon Intern, among us even while we awaited Fr. Hartt's return from sabbatical. Denise, and her ministry among us, continues to be celebrated and remembered fondly while she now serves as Deacon at Grace Church, Waterford. She is a blessing to the Church and we thank her for her service here among us and wish her well in her ministry.

Our children continue to be a great joy among us. Our church family saw additional births and baptisms that we celebrated together. I applaud Fr. Hartt's thoughts on expanding children's ministry here with new initiatives that began in the fall: primarily Youth Sunday and Children's Chapel. On Youth Sunday, which is typically the last Sunday of each month, we invite the teens to fill special roles during our 10:30 worship service while the younger children hold Children's Chapel; an instructed Eucharist for them and Sunday school teachers. Both of these ministries help our youth connect with our faith and also our liturgy and additionally helps them grow into their future roles among us. We thank God for our children, for the families here who commit to their faith formation and for all the Sunday school teachers who provide a loving and nurturing environment for their faith formation.

February 1st marked our Bishop Visitation by The Rt. Rev. William Love, Bishop of Albany. We were pleased to present five youth and three adults to Bishop Love during his visitation to our parish for Confirmation. This is always a great celebration for our church family. Youth ministry remains strong in our Diocese with youth at St. Peter's attending Beaver Cross summer camp, weekend retreats and regional Bible studies.

In March we held Girl Scout Sunday and invited members of our parish who are Scouts to attend church in uniform. A blessing was offered and the Girl Scout Pledge recited during the service and we were treated by their hosting our coffee hour for which we give thanks.

The Daughters of the King Julia chapter continues to support the parish strongly through their prayer ministry. Additionally, they sponsored a Lenten Quiet Day. This Quiet Day provides a time for prayer, reflection on guided readings and also fellowship during lunch provided by the Daughters. They also hosted a Neighborhood Prayer Walk during which we prayed over several sites and areas of our downtown neighborhood. Our thanks go to Julie Drao, our chapter president, as well as Susan Smith who maintains the Daughter's Prayer List. We welcome the women of the parish to learn more about our prayer ministry.

Adult Bible study continues to be a strong ministry among us. In early 2015, we enjoyed gathering to study Henry Nouwen's *The Return of the Prodigal Son*. Later in the fall of 2015, a group of ten gathered weekly for an in depth study of *Paul's Letter to the Galatians*. Our discussions were lively and were supplemented by a video teaching series by N. T. Wright. Additionally, the women of the church enjoyed reading and reflection on Beth Moore's *John, 90 Days with the Beloved Disciple*.

There were also many Outreach opportunities to celebrate this year and I draw your attention to the separate Outreach report for the full details. Our thanks to Judy Burns for her tireless efforts in Chairing our Outreach Committee and organizing its efforts as well as to all the volunteers and individuals donating to support the our many ministries.

The Overflow Homeless Shelter which opened for its seventh season on December 1st continues to be a great success and also draws volunteers and donations from our greater Diocese and ecumenical community. Knit hats and blankets traveled here from locals and also northern NY and gifts arrived for Christmas from the Siena College community. The Girl Scouts held a Christmas Party for the men, decorating their space for the festivities. Our thanks go to The Rev. Perry Jones and Dave Poach from the Capital City Rescue Mission for their tireless and loving work with the homeless men we serve.

In the Fall we welcomed The Rev. Carola von Wrangel, a representative from Food for the Poor and also a former priest of our Diocese to speak to us regarding the ministry they do. Once again, we are striving to raise \$3,200 to build one house for a family in the Caribbean or Latin America (as we first did in 2015). The response has been fantastic and we hope to meet our goal in early 2016.

Some healthy living initiatives were brought to St. Peter's during 2015. These include hosting a video conference for *The Daniel Plan*, a Christian-based whole foods eating and living program. Also, St. Peter's became a public pickup site for Field Goods, a fruit/vegetable subscription that brings locally grown organic goods to its subscribers. Many parishioners are enjoying these fresh farm products.

We held many social events as well. Shrove Tuesday was enjoyed by many with our traditional Pancake supper. We greatly enjoyed our annual Parish Picnic and welcomed back the Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner enjoying all of the traditional favorites with over 100 people in our fellowship hall. A new event, which is sure to repeat, was the St. Peter's Dance held in September. Thank you to the Troiano's for coordinating the musician and also the dance instructors. A great time was had by all. On the Feast of St. Francis, we held our annual Blessing of the Animals with a dozen in attendance. This has become a yearly event that many in our parish (both furry and human) look forward to.

Our ministry of street outreach and presence in the downtown community remains strong. There are many individuals who come through our doors seeking prayer, direction and various forms of assistance. It is an important witness to these visitors that our community cares for them as it reminds all how much God cares for them (and us).

Not all ministry occurs within the walls of St. Peter's. Remembering that our parish is part of the Albany Diocesan family, I have continued to serve the wider Diocese in the capacity of Great Chapter member at the Cathedral of All Saints, Provisional Deputy to General Convention, serving on the weekday rota at the Cathedral, and also as a Homiletics instructor in our Diocesan's Deacon School. Additionally, I serve as the Chair of the Commission on Ministry, the group that assists the Bishop with the Ordination process for the Episcopal Diocese of Albany. I consider all of these my "volunteer" work for the greater church.

In the summer I experienced some personal medical needs and as a result great transformation to my health and personhood. I thank you for your prayers, for your presence and for the time given me for recovery and healing. As a result, I am enjoying the best of health and I know this will only allow me to serve you and our Lord better in the years to come.

In ending, I must echo my previous years' sentiments in giving thanks for the great team that I serve with: Fr. Hartt, Neil Keen, Laura Saffares, Meghan Cooney, Janice Chenot, Denise Moore, Connie Powell, Pat Shortall and Bobby Clancy. You are each a gift and you all offer the very best of yourself every day among us. Although there is not room to mention each individual, my greatest appreciation is given as well to the countless volunteers that truly make ministry happen here. I give great thanks to God for bringing me to serve among you.

With Love and Blessings, Mother Sue+

ST. PETER'S CHURCH SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

As I complete my third two-year term as your Senior Warden, I would like to express my gratitude to the congregation, clergy and vestry for making the past six years such an honor and privilege serving you as well as St. Peter's Church. The past six years have gone by so quickly for me, I have seen loved ones pass on, children baptized, weddings celebrated and many other functions that have been held at the church that have brought us together as a loving and caring spiritual family..

I am also very fortunate that I am in the choir. From where I sit, I have the advantage of looking out towards the congregation and the ability to see those who attend services on a regular basis as well as newer individuals and families joining us to worship in our beautiful spiritual home. In addition, I get the opportunity to see the smiling children that come up for the children's homily each week. Our clergy last year implemented a well received, children's service performed during the 10:30 service on the last Sunday of each month in Pumpelly room. The feedback from the family members of the children attending and the clergy alike has been very positive and we will continue this practice with the possibility of adding additional services this year. By doing so, our younger members are able to worship together exposing them to the liturgy we are accustomed to each week, at the same time, scaling things down to a level to which they can relate.

As in the past, we continued to have all the traditional events we treasure as a parish throughout the year, such as our Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner, Evening Song held each Friday during lent, Maundy Thursday evening service, Good Friday Service with a musical performance by our choir, followed by Easter celebration. In the beginning of June at the 10:30 Sunday service we had our award ceremony for the Sunday school teachers and the choir followed by an ice cream social after the service. I would like to thank both Laura Saffares, head of the Sunday school and Neil Keen, our choir director for heading up this celebration. I want to take this opportunity to thank Laura and all the other volunteers that work with all our young children in Sunday school throughout the year, giving them a solid Christian education. In addition, I want to thank Neil and the entire choir for sharing their musical talents and for the countless hours committed to rehearsal and performing the exceptional music that enhances our Sunday services and special occasions throughout the year. Lastly, thank you Diana Martin our choir mom for keeping the choir looking their best each Sunday.

Our fall season started with the annual church picnic, Consecration Sunday luncheon and our pre- Thanksgiving dinner which led us to Advent season, the performance of the Messiah, Lessons and Carols, our Christmas Pageant, the Hanging of the greens and two wonderful Christmas Eve Services. None of these celebrations and services would have been possible if not for the incredible staff and volunteers from the congregation. Thanks to all on the altar guild, those on the flower guild, our ushers, and our incredible clergy. Our outreach committee deserves recognition for all the support they give to the local community as well as once again taking on the task of organizing and running the homeless overflow shelter for the less fortunate in our parish hall. I must also add that monetary gifts and supplies given to this worthy cause have been overwhelming and we are so grateful to all who have been able to support this important cause. In addition, a special thanks to Meghan and Janice who work tirelessly in the office taking care of all the printed information needed each week for the services as well as maintaining impeccable record keeping. As for Pat and Bobby, thank you so much for all your work maintaining the church and grounds and preparing the church for services each and every week.

In September, we started early, rolling out our new annual stewardship campaign, which was so successful the year before. This six-week program of stewardship leading us to Consecration Sunday as well as the luncheon at 90 State following its conclusion was overwhelmingly positive. We had over one hundred parishioners that came together after the service to celebrate the day in fellowship. The pledges made on that day and those that followed for weeks after are so important to the

church and vestry for planning a budget for the following year. When putting a budget together we rely on the pledged and loose offerings, as well as an expectation of a realistically positive return on our investments. We take into account returns on our investments from previous years and attempt to plan accordingly. Unfortunately, as anyone with investments in the financial market can attest to, the past year's stock market in which the church's endowment is invested was flat and closed at the end of the year slightly in negative territory. As such, the returns although positive, did not do as well as we expected. This fact coupled with a downward turn in our loose offerings did lead to a shortfall in the church's budget. Despite this, last year was the first in many where we were not forced to rely so heavily on the principle of the unrestricted endowment investments as we have in the past. So far this year, the financial markets continue to struggle and as such, the finance committee, taking into account advice from our investment broker, is projecting a very conservative return on our investments this year. These are the times that we realize how truly important the support of the congregation is to the financial health of St. Peter's. Our pledges, weekly gifts, remembering St. Peter's when planning for our estates, the time and services that we volunteer, all of these things are essential to the church's wellbeing. A downtown church as large as ours can't survive on pledges and loose offerings alone. St. Peter's endowment is crucial to its continued success. We draw on its returns to pay bills, finance upkeep on the property and finance day to day operations.

It's continued growth isn't just something we want to see, it is imperative if we want St. Peter's to be here for our children and theirs. This past year we were fortunate to receive a substantial and generous gift from a member of our congregation upon his passing. Bill Daley's generous bequest greatly helped build our endowment ensuring us a larger return on our investments to cover any short falls. I would hope that his foresight and the same generosity and love for our church shown by many others before him would be an example for all of us when planning for our times of passing. Our finance committee, headed by George Scala has put in tireless hours ensuring that our investments are properly allocated and I want to thank him for all his time and talent he has given to St. Peter's.

As a vestry, these numbers from the finance committee are very important to plan ahead, but there are other numbers that are as equally important to us as well as the clergy, the ASA or in other terms, average Sunday attendance. Our ASA has been slightly lower than previous years and this is a serious concern for the vestry and clergy. Interestingly, the pledged amounts do not seem to waiver but individuals attending Sunday services on a regular basis has. Although the church welcomes your support, it pales in comparison to the importance of attendance. We have a wonderful and dedicated clergy. Mother Sue and Father Hartt spend countless hours preparing services and sermons for us to learn from and allow us to grow in our spiritual journey with Christ as well as caring for our personal well-being. This past Christmas Eve we had more individuals attend than the previous year – over 400 in total, many parishioners we only see that evening or on Easter. I understand that times have changed and we all have busy schedules but we really need to keep in mind how important it is to worship more often. We have seen new individuals and families come and join us for a few Sundays. Some have decided to make St. Peter's their home, but not all. I find myself wondering if they have left after a few weeks due to the lack of a vibrant congregation and move on – if only they were there on Christmas Eve to see what a wonderful large loving and spiritual family we actually have.

Just a few weeks ago, I heard someone's thought on how we should view the way we look at our Christian life and journey each day which really resonated and took hold of me. As we grow through our Christian lives, each of us should imagine we are all slowly carving out our own personal cross we carry with us until our last day and use that cross to reflect how we lead our lives until the day we are called to be with our Lord. Those times when we are troubled, questioning our faith, not treating those we love as well as we should, that is where the rough edges are as carved in our cross. Other periods of time in our life when we have reconciled differences with others, prayed faithfully, helped others in need, tried our best to serve the Lord the best we can, including worshiping on Sundays – those are the times where we get the chance to smooth out those dents and splinters that were carved in our cross. On your last day, what will your cross look like?

I would like to once again thank our vestry for all their love and support. To Deb Spath our Junior Warden and George Scala, thank you for your encouragement and counsel when it is truly needed. Unfortunately, each year some members exhaust their terms on the vestry. Pam Gerfin and Judy Burns, both dedicated and wonderful women, have served faithfully on the vestry and will be truly missed by all – thank you both for your faithful service. Another member on the vestry who has stepped down short of one year before his term was to end is Jack Ratzel. Jack has decided to put all his time and energy into welcoming new members door to door that are moving into downtown Albany in the vicinity of St. Peters. Many former buildings that have been vacant have been converted into new condominiums and lofts; some still under construction and his new mission is to introduce possible new members to our church. I am honored and blessed to have had Pam, Judy and Jack serving with me on the vestry. Thank you so much for all your support. In closing, I want to thank everyone in this congregation from the bottom of my heart. You have all touched my life at St. Peter's in one way or another – we are all family and need to pass on this wonderful gift we have been given by God making St. Peter's spiritually strong for those small children and new families I see each week and for those who will follow them.

God Bless you and your family – see you in Church.
JimChenot

PAROCHIAL REPORT FIGURES	
Baptisms	6
Confirmation/Reception	10
Weddings	2
Funerals/Committals	5
ASA 2015	120.6

2015 VESTRY MEMBERS	
SR. WARDEN:	James Chenot
JR. WARDEN:	Deborah Spath
TREASURER:	George Scala
CLERK:	Judy Burns
VESTRY MEMBERS:	Pam Gerfin
	Maria Holden
	Moses Kamyra
	Mark Lundberg
	Timothy Murphy
	Jack Ratzel
	Earl Stafford
	Stephanie Lencewicz

ST. PETER'S 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

THE ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild is a group responsible for preparing the vessels, setting and clearing the altar, changing the frontals and ribbons, and washing, ironing and folding the linens. Members volunteer for altar service once or twice a month; those who do linens usually take one (or two!) months a year. Some of us volunteer to perform the "Stripping of the Altars" on Maundy Thursday. Others are involved in repairing the frontals and vestments, and polishing the silver.

As membership has diminished, we are in great need of new recruits. Please consider becoming involved in this ministry. Most of the work is not difficult, and, as many members have pointed out, it is a wonderfully spiritual experience. Some have told me how they feel a great peace as they perform their duties, and are sometimes moved to prayer. Linens duty is perhaps a bit more involved, but we have complete instructions and for both altar and linen duty, and members who would be happy to help you learn!

This year we have tried a new system for the Altar Guild. This "two-team" system seems to be working out very well. Each month a schedule is emailed out and members of the team assigned for that month sign up for a couple days that month they are willing to serve.

Grateful thanks to our sexton, Pat Shortall, who is always willing to fill in or help out.

Special thanks to our Administrative Assistant Meghan Cooney for coordinating the Altar Guild schedule each month and for consistently setting the altar in preparation of services.

A great thanks to all who volunteered in the past year:

Barbara Adams	Catherine Gabriels	Laura Saffares	Diana Martin	Donna Hershey
Lynne Jonquieres	Pamela Gerfin	Adele Everett	Vicky Pautler	John Davis
Lisa Benson	Ashley Labib	Catherine Schunk	Frank Spath	Terry Flannery
Michele Lundberg	Laura Grill	Dianne Ewashko	John Cerniglia	Sherry Bishko
Deb Spath	Barbara Kelly			

ST. PETER'S CHURCH ARCHIVES

Archives – Accomplishments 2015

My accomplishments of St. Peter's Archives for 2015 are as follows:

- I inventoried the Documents Collection. This is an ongoing project.
- I inventoried all the Plaques of the Church.
- I wrote new guide for parishioners about the Church Plaques.
- I arranged for the binding of two histories of the Church. Seven copies of Hooper's *History of St. Peter's Church*, which covers the early period to the 1900s; and five copies of Steven's *History of St. Peter's Church, a National Historic Landmark* which covers the period of 1901 to 1999, were bound.
- I framed or am continuing to work on the framing of new pictures including: children of Henry Barclay; the first Edifice of the Church. These pictures will be hung in the Church Archives.
- I wrote an article on a selected church topic for every issue of the Newsletter.

- I continued to sort through donated boxes of materials. This is an ongoing project.
- I continued to work on getting a usable printer for the Archives, i.e. there is now a printer but we do not yet have all the needed cartridges.
- I collected Service Leaflets, Newsletters, Annual Reports, newspaper clippings, and records of Marriages, Baptisms and Burials. I answered genealogy questions.
- I have begun planning Archives expansion.

Sincerely,

E. Constance Powell, Archivist

ST. PETER'S CHURCH USHERS GUILD

Ushers are the official faces of welcome and hospitality that people encounter at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. They welcome those attending services at our historic Church. Ushers 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 Hotmer Drao, 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, Jack Ratzel, 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 Lawrence Everett, 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 Thom Georgia and John Ewashko for their service over the years. We are looking for two new Ushers to assist with week 1 and week 3 services. The Usher Guild is a great way for parishioners to become active in the life of our church. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested please contact Moses Kamya at 518-869-6599 mmka-myra@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 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 Fr. 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 Labib, and Kristen Cassuci, all bringing exciting lessons to our children every week. Thank you also to Pat, Bobby, Janice Chenot and Meghan Cooney for all the behind the scenes support that allows me to do my best to reach our children.

(continued)

This year we collected "Back to School Backpacks" in which the children and the 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, we collected coats, gloves ,and hats for the children and elderly of Grace and Holy, and 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

ST. PETER'S CHURCH MUSIC PROGRAM

2015 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 2015:

March/April: Ash Wednesday service
Friday Lenten Evensongs (six services)

Good Friday: *The Brockes Passion*, by G. F. Handel, with orchestra

Easter Day: Two choral services, with trumpet and timpani

May: Evensong for Ascension Day

November: Thanksgiving Eve service
Thanksgiving pie sale

December: A well received performance of Handel's Messiah
Service of Lessons and Carols
Two choral services for Christmas Eve, with trumpet and timpani

The choral singing since September 2015 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. We particularly thank the Women of St. Peter's for help with vestments. 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Neil Keen, Organist and Choirmaster

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 2015 activities-

St. Peter's Overflow Shelter- This ministry in conjunction with the Capitol City Rescue Mission is in its 7th year..During the colder months, St. Peter's serves as an overflow shelter and host for 12- 15 homeless men from the mission. The support for this project has been truly amazing. We have received numerous monetary and food donations. On Dec. 18th, a girl scout troop hosted a holiday party for the men staying at the overflow shelter. Students from Siena provided Christmas gifts for the men.

Bowling for Beds- This event is sponsored by the Capital Area Council of Churches and raises money for its overflow shelter at the First Lutheran Church in Albany. A Team from St. Peter's enjoyed a day of bowling and helped raise money.

Grace and Holy Innocents Soup Kitchen- Laura Saffares 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.

For the fifth 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. 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. Parish families also donated cranberry sauce to be given to Equinox for their Thanksgiving Day dinners

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.

Mother Sue donated an EXCEL conference to the diocesan youth director to enable a youth of our diocese to attend the conference.

The outreach Committee made a \$150.00 donation to the Homeless Action Committee.

Thanks to Maria for organizing the CROP Walk. \$955.00 dollars was raised to fight hunger.

Through outreach, St. Peter's also provided three Beaver Cross Scholarships.

Church Office Staff Outreach- Pat, Bobby, Meghan 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 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.

Tea- In May, the Outreach Committee sponsored a "Tea" and raffle to benefit Doctors without Borders. Many thanks to all who helped provide the goodies and attended and supported this project.

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

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

UNICEF- The young people of the parish trick or treat during coffee hour to raise money for UNICEF.

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

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, Meghan Cooney, Janice Chenot, and Pat Shortall for all they do to assist with our Outreach programs, and to Laura Saffares for all she does to involve the children of the parish in outreach.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Burns

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


The Julia Chapter of the DOK has continued to offer spiritual programs throughout 2015 and prays for the needs of St. Peters parishioners and family members. Some highlighted events include a Lenten Quiet Day, the World Day of Prayer, in September where the DOK walks throughout the City of Albany praying at various locations of need, and DOK Discernment Classes are offered on a continual basis. The DOK Julia Chapter is actively seeking new members. Please check with the church office 434-3502 to obtain contact information on how to become a DOK member. A special thank you from the DOK goes out to Susan Smith for maintaining and updating the prayer list. Also, a thank you to Mother Sue for her constant spiritual guidance.

Thank you,

Julie Hotmer Drao

February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	1 5 pm - Treble Rehearsal	2 Presentation of Jesus in the Temple	3 8:45 am - Top 12:00 pm - Ho
7 Last Sunday after Epiphany 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion 4:00pm - Holy Communion	8 5pm - Treble Rehearsal 4:30pm - Outreach Meeting 5:15 pm - Vestry Meeting	9 5:00pm - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	10 Ash W 8:45 am - Top 7:30am - Holy C 12:05pm - Ash 5:15pm - Holy C
14 First Sunday in Lent 8:30am - Holy Communion 9:35am - DOK Meeting 10:30am - Morning Prayer 12:00pm - Lenten Program 12:00pm - DOK & Women's Luncheon at Wellington's 4:00pm - Holy Communion	15 President's Day No Treble Rehearsal Office Closed	16	17 8:45 am - Top 12:05 pm - Ho 1:00pm - Won
21 Second Sunday in Lent 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion 12:00pm - Lenten Program 4:00pm - Holy Communion	22 5 pm - Treble Rehearsal	23	24 St. Matth 8:45 am - Top 12:00 pm - Ho 1:00pm - Won
28 Third Sunday in Lent 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer w/ Children's Chapel 12:00pm - Lenten Program 12:30pm - Leonard Slade Poetry Reading 4:00pm - Holy Communion	29 5 pm - Treble Rehearsal		

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
of the Hill ly Communion	4 5 pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30 pm - Full Choir	5 12:30 pm - Organ Concert	6
Wednesday  of the Hill Communion w/Ashes Wednesday Service Communion w/Ashes	11 5 pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30 pm - Full Choir	12 12:30 pm - Organ Concert 5:45 pm - Evensong	13
of the Hill ly Communion men's Book Study	18 5 pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30 pm - Full Choir	19 12:30 pm - Organ Concert 5:45 pm - Evensong	20 11am - Angel's in Training
thias the Apostle of the Hill ly Communion men's Book Study	25 5 pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30 pm - Full Choir	26 12:30 pm - Organ Concert 5:45 pm - Evensong	27

The Season of Lent at St. Peter's Church



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Tuesday February 9th 5:00-6:30pm

Ash Wednesday services Wed. February 10th 7:30am Holy Communion w/Ashes
12:05pm Ash Wednesday Service
5:15pm Holy Communion w/Ashes

Friday Evensong services Fridays beg. February 12th 5:45pm Evensong

LENTEN EVENSONG:

Fridays beginning February 12th.

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



SHROVE TUESDAY:

Our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held on Tuesday, February 9th from 5PM to 6:30PM. Volunteers are needed to cook and should arrive by 4PM. The Sunday School children will be serving and should arrive no later than 4:45PM. Many other volunteers are needed for clean-up so that the Parish Hall can be ready by 8PM for the arrival of the men from the Overflow Shelter. If you have any questions or are volunteering to cook, please contact Janice Chenot at 786-1070.

Save the Date: Saturday, March 5, 2016

This year's Parish Leadership Conferences, entitled *Ministry in Our Community Today: Addiction - Parish Mission and Ministry* will focus on helping anyone in the diocese, clergy or laity, in ministering to those who struggle with addictions. Through times of teaching, sharing, and discussion, conference participants will learn about the scope of addictions, the impact of addictions on individuals and society as a whole, and the ministry experiences of parish clergy in dealing with addictions. They will also be given information about local resources for those who suffer from addiction to get help, and how to make a referral to one of these resources.

LENTEN PROGRAM

Godly Examples
Real Lives of Faith

The Episcopal Church has a book for observing the lives of both major Saints and lesser known faithful souls. This book is called *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*. Each entry holds a biography of the person observed and Scripture appropriate for celebrating his or her life. During the weeks of Lent, we are fortunate to have many moving and especially timely lives to consider. Following the 10:30AM Service on each Sunday of Lent, Fr. Hartt will lead a discussion on these people as they appear in the calendar. We will ask: What makes their lives holy and what are they imparting to us now about our own Christian walk? As we consider the lives of these men and women, we may be surprised by what makes a saint and just how they are speaking to us now. We will be discussing Absalom Jones and Martin Luther, Brigid and Perpetua and her Companions, St. Patrick and George Herbert, Frances Jane Van Alstyne and Fredrick Douglas, to name but a handful. As we seek to grow in personal holiness in this Lenten season, it is helpful to look at the lives of those who have done so in innumerable circumstances. Our class will run approximately an hour.

You may already have heard the news, but I wanted to write this little thank you note to let you all know that I am moving on to a new job. Saying goodbye is not easy to do especially to a parish like this! I'm looking forward to see you all again soon. Even though I will miss everyone that is a part of St. Peter's, I am looking forward to this new challenge and to starting a new phase of my career.

Thank you friends for your great company and making this such an enjoyable and rewarding place to work!

~ Meghan

The First Lutheran Church Shelter Dinners

begins Thursday, November 19th. 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 478-9389 for directions.



Winter Sip
Friday 5 February
6:00-8:00 pm

THE FRIENDS OF THE CHOIR invite you to taste fine wine while enjoying glorious music sung by the young Men and Boys of the Cathedral Choir. Light fare, beverage tastings, music and a Silent Auction are all included. This festive event benefits The Lloyd Cast Organ Fellowship and The Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys.

Come in from the cold...

The Cathedral of All Saints
62 South Swan Street
Albany, NY 12210

Tickets available at:
brownpapertickets.com
Event #2370964 or
call 1-800-838-3006

We are a 501c3 non-profit organization

St. Peter's Women's Luncheon

The Daughters of the King chapter warmly invite all women of the parish to join us for lunch at Wellington's [144 State St. Albany] on Sunday, February 14th immediately following the 10:30AM service. Please let us know you plan to attend, by contacting Julie Hotmer Drao at: hotmermurphy@gmail.com.

Overflow Homeless 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?

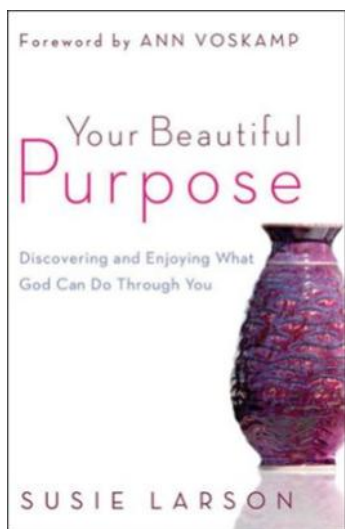
The St. Peter's overflow homeless shelter opened for its 7th season on December 1st to augment the ministry of the Capital City Rescue Mission to Albany's homeless by housing up to 20 men when their shelter has exceeded capacity.

We are currently receiving donations of food items and are also scheduling volunteers to offer hospitality during the evening hours; the hours for this are from 8pm until 11pm on the 2nd floor of the Guild House (next to the church).

To sign up to volunteer, please call Judy Burns at [441-7538](tel:441-7538) or email stpeterschurch.albany@gmail.com or contact Meghan Cooney in the church office at 434-3502.

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.

Adult Education



Join the women of our parish for this 6-week study discovering "Your Beautiful Purpose". Our group will meet each Wednesday afternoon during Lent (beginning 2/17/16). If you'd like to come early, join us for the Noon Holy Eucharist service and bring a packed lunch to enjoy before our study begins at 1:00pm in the Pumpelly Room.

The cost of the book is \$10 and they have arrived at church Please see Mother Sue or the church office to pick up your copy. Participants should read Section One "Embrace Your Purpose" prior to our first gathering on February 17, 2016. Each week, one section of the book will be read in advance of our gathering and discussed together as follows:

Section 1: 2/17/16

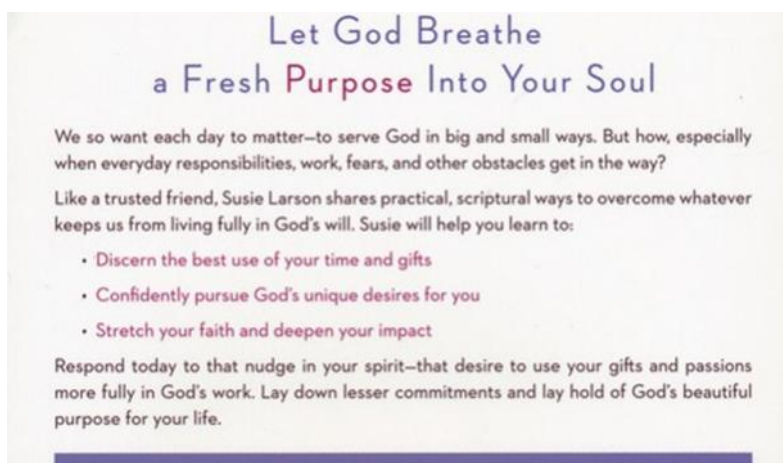
Section 2: 2/24/16


Section 3: 3/2/16

Section 4: 3/9/16

Section 5: 3/16/16

Section 6: 3/23/16 (Final gathering)




The Community of St. Mary

WAITING FOR THE DAY:
MEDITATING ON THE OLD TESTAMENT TEXTS FOR THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER
 A Traditional Silent Retreat at St. Mary's Convent

Led by The Rev. Dr. Leander Harding

President's Day Weekend: **February 12-14, 2015**

For further information or to register
 Contact Mother Miriam, at 518-692-3028 or MotherMiriam@stmaryseast.org

Women's Weekend

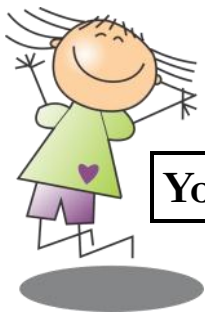
The Cursillo Women's Weekend is coming up March 31st through April 3rd. For all Cursillistas (those who have attended a Cursillo weekend), think and pray about who you would like to sponsor for this weekend! If you're interested in attending a Cursillo weekend but need more information, go to albanyepiscopalcursillo.org.

Oaks of Righteousness Creative Worship

Do you love art? Are you good at sports? Do you play music? Are you a Play-Do artist extraordinaire? How about cooking or wood-working? Come join Oaks of Righteousness' new Creative Worship rotation, "Joyful Noise," where you and the Oaks of Righteousness staff will teach worship and Christian Ed to kids through creativity. Bring your gifts, and you'll team together to use them to teach the Gospel! You can help once or you can help on a bi-monthly basis. For more information or to sign up, email Mtr. Hannah Mudge at Hannah.E.Mudge@gmail.com.

Beth Moore Loving Well Retreat

February is the month all about love. We all deal with people who are a joy to love and those who are difficult to love. Come join Karen Love and the Living Well Retreat Team on **Friday February 19th through Saturday, February 20th** at Christ the King Spiritual Life Center, 575 Burton Rd. Greenwich, NY 12834 to learn how to love well. Through video, participants will hear from best-selling author and teacher Beth Moore, enjoy fun fellowship with other women, laugh, shed a few tears, eat, stay up late, make new friends, and enjoy old friends. It's a weekend you don't want to miss! Cost for the overnight is \$115 for single occupancy, \$91 per person for double occupancy, and \$45 for commuters (meals and program only). There are a number of special offers available. See Mother Sue to register.



Youth Formation & Sunday School

Jr. Sonshine

WHEN: February 14-17, 2016

DROP-OFF: Sunday 7PM

PICK-UP: Wednesday 10AM

WHO: 6th - 8th graders

PRICE: \$115/camper

Sr. Sonshine

WHEN: February 17-20, 2016

DROP-OFF: Wednesday 10AM

PICK-UP: Saturday 10AM

WHO: 9th - 12th graders

PRICE: \$115/camper

BREAKOUT

When:

March 4-6, 2016

Who:

6-8TH GRADE

For more information on youth events, please visit:

beavercrossministries.com

St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen

The 3rd Saturday of each month (February 20, 2016) (Angels in Training), invites you to join Laura Saffares and others from St. Peter's to prepare and serve lunch at this Episcopal church on Clinton Avenue, Albany. Generally, over 100 adults and children come for lunch so many hands mean light work! Please call Laura for information or to let her know you are coming at 368-4284.

Church Chuckles!



**fresh foods from
small farms™**



Local produce delivered to

**St. Peter's Episcopal
Church on Thursdays**

How Does It Work?

Field Goods is a local produce subscription delivery service. Brilliant, right? Each week, you'll receive 5-8 different types of fruits and vegetables. Invaluable to a healthy lifestyle!

Field Goods chooses the items delivered and purchases them directly from over 60 different Hudson Valley farms. A subscription costs \$20, \$25, or \$30 a week depending on which bag you choose. All of the produce is non-GMO, much is organic, and all is grown by small farms.

In the Bag, our newsletter, gives you information about what you're eating and how to eat it: facts, recipes, and photos! We deliver 150+ varieties of fruits and vegetables, and more than a dozen types of local cheese and artisan bread, all grown by local small farms or local producers.

Field Goods offers great value and variety, convenient delivery, fresh and delicious produce, and supports local farmers.

What's not to love?

What our
customers
are saying

"I LOVE vegetable day."

"I am having so much fun experimenting with new foods and recipes."

"Excellent quality, value, variety."

"My kids like Baby Turnips and Kale...who knew?"

"Great newsletter. Makes me want to cook."

"THANK YOU for changing the way my family eats!"

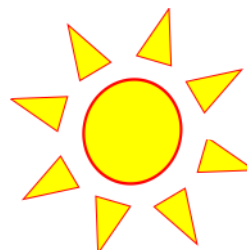


To sign up & learn more, go to

Field-goods.com

Email info@field-goods.com

Field Goods is located in Athens, NY



St. Peters Music

Composer Profile

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Jakob Ludwig Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy was a German composer, pianist, organist and conductor of the early Romantic period. Born to a Jewish family, he was later baptized in the Reformed Church. Mendelssohn wrote symphonies, concerti, oratorios, piano music and chamber music. He enjoyed early success in Germany, where he revived interest in the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, and was also well received in Britain as a composer, conductor and soloist.

After a long period of relative denigration due to changing musical tastes and anti-Semitism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, his creative originality has been recognized and re-evaluated. He is now among the most popular composers of the Romantic era. Here at St. Peter's Church Mendelssohn's choral and organ music is heard quite regularly. A number of his anthems are firmly established as standard repertoire for church choirs and organists around the world.

"People usually complain that music is so ambiguous, and what they are supposed to think when they hear it is so unclear, while words are understood by everyone. But for me it is exactly the opposite...what the music I love expresses to me are thoughts not to indefinite for words, but rather too definite." "These (words) seem to me so ambiguous, so vague, so easily misunderstood in comparison to genuine music, which fills the soul with a thousand things better than words." These two quotes by Mendelssohn are especially telling with respect to church music, where the relationship between text and music can be complicated.

CHOIR

Choir rehearsals will be on the following schedule:

Mondays: 5:00 - 6:15pm Trebles

Thursdays: 5:00 - 6:30pm Trebles

5:30 - 7:00pm Adult choristers

Sundays: 9:30 rehearse for the 10:30 service

There are several new treble choristers poised to join us, and we would love to welcome more.

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

FRIDAY NOONTIME ORGAN CONCERTS

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

**We are adding a new feature on the St. Peter's website -
regular postings of music selections from
our Sunday services.**

Watch for this in the coming weeks!

Saint of the Month

Absalom Jones was born into slavery in 1746 in Delaware. He taught himself to read from the New Testament, among other books. At sixteen, he was sold to a store owner in Philadelphia, where he attended a night school for African Americans, operated by the Quakers. At twenty, he married another slave and purchased her freedom with his earnings.

Jones bought his own freedom in 1784. He subsequently became involved with St George's Methodist Episcopal Church, where he served as a lay minister for its African American membership. The active evangelism of Jones and of his friend, Richard Allen, greatly increased that community's membership at St George's, where the vestry, alarmed at the greatly increased Black membership, decided to segregate them into an upstairs gallery without notifying them. During a Sunday service when the ushers attempted to remove them, the African Americans walked out *en masse*.

In 1787, African American Christians organized the Free African Society, the first organized African American society in the United States, and Absalom Jones and Richard Allen were elected overseers. Membership of the Society paid monthly dues for the benefit of those in need. The Society established communications with similar associations in other cities, and in 1792, the Society began construction of a church in Philadelphia, which was dedicated on July 17, 1794.

The African Church applied for membership in the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania on the following conditions: 1) that they be received as an organized body; 2) that they have control over their own parochial affairs; 3) that Absalom Jones be licensed as Lay Reader, and if qualified, be ordained as minister. In October 1794 the church was admitted as St Thomas African Episcopal Church. Bishop William White ordained Jones to the diaconate in 1795, and to the presbyterate in 1804.

Jones was an earnest preacher. He denounced slavery, and warned the oppressors to "clean their hands of slaves". To him, God was the Father who always acted on "behalf of the oppressed and distressed". But it was his pastoral care, his constant visitation and mild manner that made him beloved by his parish and by the community. St Thomas Church grew to over five hundred members during its first year. Known colloquially as "the Black Bishop of the Episcopal Church", Jones was a example of persistent faith in God and in the Church as God's instrument.

Jones died on February 13, 1818.

Jones friend, Richard Allen, who with Jones was one of the first African Americans to be licensed as preachers by the Methodist Episcopal Church, followed a parallel path. Allen and his congregation converted a blacksmith shop in Philadelphia into a church that was dedicated on July 29, 1794 as Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1799, Allen was ordained as the first African American elder in the Methodist Church by Bishop Francis Asbury. In 1816, Allen gathered four African American Methodist congregations in Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, and Maryland to establish the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the first autonomous black Church in Methodism. In 1816, Allen was elected the Church's first bishop. He died in 1831. prepared from *Lesser Feasts and Fasts* (1980) and other sources

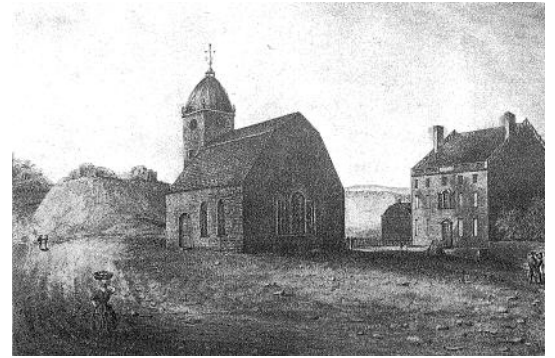
The Collect

Set us free, heavenly Father, from every bond of prejudice and fear; that, honoring the steadfast courage of your servant Absalom Jones, we may show forth in our lives the reconciling love and true freedom of the children of God, which you have given us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

From the Archives

History of St. Peter's Church

St. Peter's Church has been built three times. The First Edifice was built in 1715 and dedicated in 1716. The Second Edifice was built in 1802 and dedicated in 1803, and the Third Edifice was built in 1859 and dedicated in 1860. Before the building of the First Edifice, services were held in Fort Frederick, an imposing British fort looking down on the community of Albany. They were led by the Reverend Thomas Barclay, the first successful Anglican rector, who came to America in 1708 and formed his first congregation in 1709. In addition to ministering to soldiers and townspeople, Reverend Barclay ministered to the Dutch residents and to the Indians.



By 1712 the St. Peter's church community was granted a charter by Queen Anne of England. That same year she sent a set of silver communion plate to the Onondaga Indians which would later be presented to St. Peter's Church. In 1714 a land grant (land patent) was issued by the crown granting the site for the first St. Peter's Church. Earlier that same year Governor Robert Hunter had granted the right to collect money to build the First Edifice. This Edifice was built in the middle of Jonkers Street, now State Street, where it served the community until the early 1800s. Thus, it survived the French and Indian War and was the initial burial place of the British Viscount Lord Howe who was killed on the march to Ticonderoga, July 6, 1758. King George III incorporated the parish in 1769. In spite of the Revolutionary War (1775-1783), the Reverend George Munro continued to be an outspoken supporter of the Crown. Eventually he was declared a Tory and arrested. He escaped jail, fled the country, and the church was closed.

The Reverend Thomas Ellison became the new Rector in 1787 and breathed new life into the church. By 1796 the wardens and vestry decided that a larger church was needed. They purchased the lot on which the present church stands. Reverend Ellison did not live to see the completion of the Second Edifice of the Church. He died in April 26, 1802. The Hon. John Stevenson, the church warden, laid the corner stone of the Second Edifice on May 7, 1802. This church would last over fifty years.

In 1856 it was discovered that due to successive gradings of State Street, the church had developed wall cracks and settlements and had become unsafe. Reverend Thomas Pitkin selected Richard Upjohn, a well-known church architect, to prepare plans for a new church. The corner stone of the Third Edifice of St. Peter's Church was laid on St. Peter's day June 29th, 1859. The building was completed and consecrated by Bishop Horatio Potter on October 4, 1860. On March 1st 1867 the Reverend William Croswell Doane was installed as Rector of St. Peter's Church. He was installed again in the same church, this time as Bishop of the newly formed Diocese of Albany in February 2nd 1869. The rectorship of Reverend Walton W. Battershall from 1874 to 1911 saw great efforts at beautification of the Third Edifice of the church on the part of its parishioners, to become the lovely church we have today.

The Archives has framed copies depicting each of the three *Edifices of St. Peter's Church*. In addition there is a framed copy of the first Edifice located in the hallway of Guild Hall. The Archives also has a framed copy of the *Dedication of the Third Edifice of the Church* dated 1860, signed by Bishop Horatio Potter.

Framed copies of the *Land Patent of 1714* and the *Charter of Incorporation of 1759* are located both in the Vestry Room and in the Church Archives.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers:

Are you looking to increase your religious experience?

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

Daughters of the King

The DOK meeting this month will be Sunday
February 14, 2016 at 9:35am

Outreach

This month's Outreach meeting will be on Monday 2/8/16 at 4:30 pm. Please join us to learn about Outreach ministries and hospitality events beings planned!

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

December 8, 2015

1. Approval of Minutes of Vestry Meeting November 10, 2015

The November 10, 2015 minutes were approved on a motion made by P.Gerfin and seconded by M.Holden. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

2. Senior Warden Report – J. Chenot

Jim started his report wishing Father Hartt a happy birthday which he is celebrating today. As we prepared for the Advent season and activities, we had a great opportunity in November by getting the congregation together hosting the Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner on November 14th. The dinner was a great success with up to 100 parishioners and friends attending. I would like to thank everyone who was involved in preparing all the side dishes for the Thanksgiving feast as well as those who cooked all the turkeys beforehand at their homes. It was a great evening for all with great food for all.

Again St. Peter's stepped up and volunteered at the Equinox preparing Thanksgiving Dinners on Monday evening prior to Thanksgiving. We want to thank Laura Saffares in heading up this outreach as well as the Sunday School Children baking pumpkin breads for the congregation to enjoy during the Thanksgiving week. Also on Thanksgiving eve we had an evening service that was well attended that included the choir for the service. One additional note regarding baking, the choir's Thanksgiving Pie fundraiser was again success. Thank you to all who made these two events a baking success.

On December 1st, we opened our doors again to the homeless overflow shelter beginning our 7th year at St. Peter's. Many thanks to our outreach committee who has worked tirelessly preparing for this important community outreach dedicating much time and effort, making sure this program is a great success again this year as in the past.

This coming Sunday, December 13th at the 10:30 service, the Sunday school will be performing their annual Christmas Pageant. In the afternoon at 3:00, our Choir will be performing The Handel's Messiah. We are so blessed to have so much musical talent within our choir. We would like to thank Father and Jeffrey Hartt in advance for opening their doors at the rectory to host 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 year. We also want to thank the entire choir for their musical talents and attention to all the upcoming Christmas services that will be performed in the next few weeks.

Lessons and Carols will be performed the following Sunday, December 20th at the 10:30 service followed by The Hanging of the Greens at 12:00. We hope all will be able to attend these events which always bring the congregation together in fellowship. We always look forward to this Sunday 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 Usher's who volunteer so much of their time during this time of year, as well as all they do throughout the year. Special thanks to Pat and Bobby, for all their work keeping the Church and physical plant clean and tidy. To Meghan and Janice, enough cannot be said for the gratitude we have for both them for all their work that is done in the office at this time of year. We are truly deeply indebted to both of them, and we thank them both for all their efforts.

I would also like to thank Father Hartt and Mother Sue for all their tireless work preparing for the upcoming Advent Season. We all want to thank them for their love and commitment to St. Peter's Church as well as the community for outreach. St. Peter's is very blessed to have both of them.

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

J.Ratzel has requested to resign his last year of Vestry. He is dedicated to his commitment to the Downtown Ministry, and feels he needs to spend more time on that major project. The Vestry will be requesting a replacement to fill the last year of his term.

3. Finance – G. Scala

George reviewed the Treasurers report for the month of November 2015. Our Investments are doing well. Even though we are below in offerings it was still a good year. Expenses were under budget.

Motion to approve the budget was made by M.Lundberg seconded by P. Gerfin. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

5. Outreach – Mother Sue

In Judy's absence, Mother Sue gave the Outreach report.

Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner: was on Saturday Nov 14th and was attended by over 100 people. This is a treasured annual event and a great success. Many thanks to Judy and Christy Burns who helped coordinate the dinner along with Janice Chenot and many other helping hands!

Food for the Poor: The Rev. von Wrangel visited us from this organization on November 15th. To date, we have donated \$1,026.00. We hope to "build a house" again this year and will report back on our total again.

Equinox: Thanks to Laura Saffares and her helpers for working on the Equinox Thanksgiving Day preparation on Monday Nov 23rd. And also to all who donated the Cranberry sauce and the items for our Thanksgiving Altars (benefitting the local food pantry).

Overflow Homeless Shelter: We opened December 1st for our 7th season! Two training sessions have been held, with Dave Poach poised to offer more sporadically throughout the year. Donations of knit hats and blankets along with food and supplies have come in steadily. Siena College has, once again, offered to provide Christmas gifts for the men of our shelter. The Girl Scouts are throwing the men a Christmas Party on Friday December 18th. We welcome ideas of this kind which are a great blessing to these men.

Burmese Refugee Christmas Gifts: We have coordinated with St. Francis Mission (the former parish of St. David's) to provide Christmas gifts for (3) Burmese Refugee families this year. Many thanks to Meghan Cooney for coordinating this ministry with their Deacon, Sandy McGowan, and to the fine folks of St. Peter's for providing these blessings for Christmas.

6. Old Business

Jack Ratzel gave his report On Downtown Residents.

7. New Business

Annual Meeting coming up in Jan 2016. P. Gerfin and J. Burns will be finishing their Vestry Term. The Vestry will be looking for candidates.

8. Associate Rector's Report - Mother Sue

High School Scholarship for EXCEL: We are on our second month for a contest for teens to win a full registration to EXCEL, a conference for teens that is held annually in Saratoga Springs NY. To enter, they submit in writing "How I have seen God work in my life or the life of someone I love." I eagerly await hearing these faith stories!

Daughters of the King: The Daughters have developed a brochure to share information about our Prayer Order. Thank you Susan Smith for creating its content and also Jim Chenot for the printing! We continue to hold the prayers of our church in our daily intercessions and hope this brochure provides an introduction for more women of our church to join us.

Women's Bible study: This group is currently reading Beth Moore's John: 90 Days with the Beloved Disciple. Group meetings will resume after the first of the year.

Adult Bible study: We are working through Paul's Letter to the Galatians on Sunday afternoons after the 10:30 service using N.T. Wright's video commentary teaching series, which is supplemented by material I prepare and share with the group. We have had rousing conversations around the material and, thus, have extended the class meetings twice! We will be completing this study on December 13th.

9. Sunday Attendance

The average Sunday attendance is currently 117.2

Motion to approve the Chapter of American Heritage Girls was made by T. Murphy and seconded by M. Lundberg. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

10. Rector's Report – Fr. Hartt

Messiah & Messiah Party - Fr. Hartt spoke of looking forward to another spectacular performance of the Messiah December 13th. The Choir has been in especially fine form this year. Many of the Sunday anthems in 2015 have been complex and adventuresome, demanding much of the choir. It is a delight to see our young choristers committed at such depth. Our next trip to England is taking shape. The choir's Messiah Party will be held at the Rectory.

Service of Remembrance - Our annual Service of Remembrance took place on December 3rd. Fr. Hartt is grateful to Judy Burn for encouraging us to hold this service during the holidays. Christmas brings to our hearts loved ones who have gone before. The service has proved important for many in spiritual preparation for Christmas.

Children's Chapel - This offering for our younger members has shown itself a blessing for the children, teachers, and parents alike. As Children's Chapel grounds itself in our common life, we hope to expand its mission to include an occasional instructed Eucharist for our teens. The Christmas season has presented some scheduling issues. We may need to look at a moveable date for Children's Chapel each month.

Hanging of the Greens - will follow the 10:30AM Service, December 20th. Jack Ratzel is coordinating the traditional ham luncheon. We particularly remember the faithfulness of Harry D'Agostino at this time of year. Our prayers are with his dear friend and able assistant Bob Schupp.

Burmese Refugees - Father Hartt spoke of the success of the Christmas tree holding ornaments with the names of Burmese refugee children and adults for whom we will be buying presents. The ornaments, lovingly prepared by Meghan, were almost completely taken in one Sunday. The parish responds especially well to our outreach appeals at Christmas. The families receiving the gifts are most thankful. We meet not only a need, but bear witness to the bond of the Body of Christ.

Pre-Thanksgiving Thanksgiving - This time of fellowship was very well attended and the food delicious. Thanks to the many hands who prepared the feast. It is clear that the "Pre-Thanksgiving Thanksgiving Dinner" has anchored itself in our common life.

Food for the Poor - Over \$1,000 has been committed thus far. We hope to build another house in Haiti. We will need to reach \$3,200. Funds continue to come in and we are confident.

Grace and Holy Innocents - Fr. Hartt made inquiry of the Diocese concerning the plans to provide leadership for the Soup Kitchen. Meals to the Lutheran Overflow shelter also need support.

Overflow Shelter - Our own overflow shelter has begun strongly. Siena College has committed to purchase presents for the men for Christmas Eve. Many hats have also been knitted by a faithful parishioner for the men. Clearly pleased men can be seen wearing them on the street.

Jack Ratzel - Father Hartt thanked Jack Ratzel for his service to the Vestry. Jack has decided to step down from vestry to focus on initiatives for parish growth. Jack has done superb work in coordinating with the Albany County Convention and Visitor's Bureau to include a welcome brochure from the parish. Parishioner Michele Vennard has been an invaluable resource in this endeavor. Jack Ratzel and Father Hartt will be attending the Albany Hospitality Summit tomorrow at the Hampton Inn. Their goal is to make connections and to learn more about the residential development in our area. Jack has already composed a list of the new apartment buildings and will be visiting those now open to distribute our welcome pamphlet and personally welcome folks to St. Peter's.

Annual Meeting - Father Hartt spoke of the upcoming meeting and the new demands on leadership. Fr. Hartt spoke of the role of the Vestry as essential to growth in membership.

Advent & Christmas - Fr. Hartt wished all an holy Advent and joyful Christmas.

11. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Pam Gerfin and seconded Mark Lundberg. It was passed unanimously by the vestry.

12. Compline

Fr. Hartt led Compline.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Spath

Clergy & Staff

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

Vestry

James Chenot.....Senior Warden
Deborah Spath.....Junior Warden
Judy Burns.....Clerk
George Scala.....Treasurer
Pam Gerfin, Stephanie Lencewicz, Maria Holden, Moses Kamya,
Mark Lundberg, Earl Stafford, Tim Murphy

How to Contact Us

Office Hours:

Monday -Friday

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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.

Holy Communion 4:00pm

Wednesday

Holy Communion 12:05 p.m.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

