



THE Cornerstone

March 2016

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

From the Rector

Lent Continued

Someone recently asked me a tough question, "Which teaching of Christ do you think Christians have the most difficulty following?" I am not sure that question can be answered in any definitive way. We all have our points of struggle and our points of greater obedience. But if there were one area that I would point to as most routinely a place of struggle for us, it would be forgiveness.

A friend in seminary was keen to say, "Forgiveness is the gift everyone seems to want and nobody wants to give." It is a bit of a supply-side problem. God does perfect work upon us, but we "trickle down" meagerly. There is no point denying the truth of our condition. Indeed, of all things, it appears to be the one condition about us that most grieved Jesus' heart.

I came across a list of seven "essential" Scriptures for reflecting on Jesus' teaching on forgiveness. I added two more verses. For the eighth, I chose Matthew 7: 3, because it emphasizes that what we give in terms of forgiveness (the measure we use) will be the same measure by which we will be judged by the Father. I find Matthew 7:3 powerful in connecting forgiveness to the mercy of our final judgment. For the ninth, I selected Matthew 7: 5, because it speaks directly to our blindness to judge others.

The Nine passages:

1. Matthew 5:23-24 NIV

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."

2. Matthew 6:14-15 NIV

For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

3. Matthew 7: 2 NIV

"For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

4. Matthew 18: 21-22 NIV

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times? "Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

5. Luke 6:37 NIV

Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

6. Luke 17:3-4 NIV

So watch yourselves. "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him."

7. Luke 23:33-34 NIV

When they came to a place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals – one on his right, the other on his left, Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

8. John 8:7 NIV

When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her."

9. Matthew 7: 5 ESV

"You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye."

We can easily observe three frequent impediments that accompany our unforgiveness. Depending on our personality, we will tend toward one of the three more strongly. They are : **a. Justice** **b. Fear** **c. Exception**

There are those of us who become indignant at the injustice of this or that. We want punishment and exposure of the wrongdoing and wrongdoer. The problem here is that we are all “unjust” at times and God is the only just Judge. When we stand in accusation of another, demanding “justice,” we are on the slippery slope of playing God and forgetting our own status as “unjust” sinners. Here we especially risk receiving back from God “the measure we give.” Quests for justice are fine in the prophetic sense of social good. But when justice seeking is personal, about a wrong or grievance concerning ourselves, we are called not only to forgive but to mistrust our blinding self-interest in the matter.

Fear tends to be operative in unforgiveness when we fear being hurt again. This leads to the “I’ll forgive, but I won’t forget” trap. As a bishop once noted, thinking such as that places others only on probation. Any real forgiveness is off the table. There are reasonable cases of self-protection, but self-protection is not the same as unforgiveness. Simply because there may be a time in which we need to protect ourselves is not permission to fail to engage in the hard inner work of forgiveness. We are always to be open to repentance of another. In which case, we receive it humbly as a fellow sinner. Moreover, we don’t wait for repentance before forgiving. Forgiveness is to be upfront.

Exception is about how we come to think that there is something “unique” in our situation which does not require forgiveness. We build up mental structures that keep our need to forgive off the table. Such behavior is frequently operative in family disputes and marriages. As God’s fundamental calling to us is to be one family, our individual families are truly the test ground of forgiveness. Multi-generational family breakdowns around unforgiveness are particularly tragic. This is the toxic gift that keeps on giving. Our children learn these destructive ways to be family and the misery goes on and on.

Jesus taught us the Lord’s Prayer as the “essentials” of the Kingdom. At the heart is, “Forgive us our trespasses and we forgive those who trespass against us.” God is both a mercy giver and a mercy seeker. One of my favorite verses of Scripture is when Jesus tells the Pharisees, *“Go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: ‘I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.’ For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.”* (Matthew 9:13.)

Lent is time to count ourselves first as those in need of forgiveness and then to rush to extend it. For reconciliation to God and one another is the very heart of our Faith, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Jesus upon the cross reveals its depth, power, cost, and urgency.

Fr. Hartt+

From the Associate Rector

Staying Firmly Anchored Through Change

Life is constant change. There are seasons of dullness and even boredom, yes. But change is ultimately inevitable. Our bodies change – they grow older – they display new “complaints”. Our minds change – growing perhaps sharper or duller depending on one’s age! Our spirits change – they soar at times and can also feel defeated at other times. Life is constant change.

How does one stay sane and stable through all of this? We stay anchored on God – the Great I Am – the Beginning, the Last and the One who is everything in between; because God does not change. God “Is”.

That is our focus indeed when reflecting on God..God “Is”. That is because it is who God says He is. When asked by Moses to lead the Israelite slaves out of captivity in Egypt, Moses asked, Who shall I tell sent me? God’s Reply: I AM.

This Hebrew word of God’s reply is not a noun, or even a proper noun as we might equate from our English word “God”. No – the Hebrew word of God’s reply is a verb – I Am – the first person singular of the verb “to be”. God says “I Am” because he simply “Is”. God “Is”. And that is the only unchangeable constant in our world.

Now that the grammar lesson is over, what does it mean for us – this “I Am” - this God “Is”? What it means to us is that God is to be our anchor through all of life’s changes. Like a storm-tossed ship, when we experience change or difficulties or any challenge in our lives, we tether ourselves, we anchor ourselves to the one constant thing in our world – our Almighty God.

God’s nature never changes. God’s presence never changes. God’s promise never changes.

God’s nature as “I Am” - God “Is” - the first, the last and all in between never changes. God is there before the creation of the world and God is there through its complete salvation. And so His presence never changes. The presence of God can always be counted on, even expected. God can never be absent if, He “Is”! Only we can distance ourselves from God; He never is absent from us. And, God’s promise never changes. God’s promise to save and redeem all that He has created is the final say to all change and chance that we and our world experiences. In other words, God has the final say. God’s redemption of all of creation is eternal and final. God wins in the end!

When you are stressed, remind yourself God “Is”. When you are sick, remind yourself God “Is”. When you are broken, remind yourself God “Is”. When you are afraid, remind yourself God “Is”. Anchoring yourself and your thoughts in these truths will tether yourself to calm and strength amidst life’s storms and changes that may come to you. God as your anchor will steady you and pull you through them to calmer waters...

This month of March we will move through Lent and Holy Week to our glorious Easter celebrations. There’s no greater dimension of change for us to spiritually move through than we will experience this coming month. Go with the flow of it, knowing you are safely anchored and will arrive to our destination with blessing. The Great “I Am” Is, and He has you!

With Love and Blessings, Mtr. Sue+

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 20th: **Palm Sunday**

~ 8:30AM Holy Communion Service

~ 10:30AM Choral Holy Communion Service

March 21st: **Monday in Holy Week**

~ 12:05PM Noon Holy Communion

March 22nd: **Tuesday in Holy Week**

~ 12:05PM Noon Holy Communion

March 23rd: **Wednesday in Holy Week**

~ 12:05PM Noon Holy Communion

March 24th: **Maundy Thursday**

~ 7:30PM Holy Communion,
Stripping of the Altar

March 25th: **Good Friday**

~ 12:00PM & 5:30PM Liturgy;

1:00PM ~ *The St. Matthew Passion* by

J. S. Bach performed by The St. Peter's Choir
with Chamber Orchestra

March 26th: **Holy Saturday**

~ 8:00AM Service;

11:00AM Egg Hunt at the Rectory

March 27th: **Easter Sunday**

~ 8:30AM & 10:30AM ~

Choral Holy Communion Services

Daughters of the King

The March DOK meeting (of March 13) will be replaced with the Lenten Quiet Day on that same afternoon. The Daughters are providing lunch items for the day, such as soup, salad, bread, drinks, etc. If you are able to help bring one of these, please let Julie Hotmer Drao know at: hotmermurphy@gmail.com.

Lenten Quiet Day

Sunday, March 13th we invite all members to take part in our Lenten Quiet Day. Lunch will be served in the 2nd floor Parish Hall at noon, followed by afternoon meditations and ending with the 4:00pm Holy Communion Service. We thank the Daughters for providing lunch for us. If you'd like more information, please speak to Mother Sue or one of the Daughters of the King.

Good Friday: Following the noon service, the choir will sing the *St. Matthew Passion* by J. S. Bach accompanied by a chamber orchestra.

The Passion in Bach's time

The oratorio Passion, in which a Biblical Passion narrative is embellished with freely composed verse and hymns, was familiar in north German cities since the mid 17th century. In Leipzig, where Bach worked, the use of this type of music for Good Friday services was adopted in 1721, two years before Bach's arrival.

Bach's St. Matthew Passion was first performed at the Good Friday Vespers service in 1727. This service took the following form, varying little from year to year:

Hymn: "When Jesus hung upon the cross"

Part I of the Passion

Hymn: "Lord Jesus Christ, be present now"

Sermon, lasting one hour or longer

Part II of the Passion

Motet: A setting of Isaiah 57:1-12 by Jacob Handl

Prayer

Biblical verse (Isaiah 53:5)

Hymn: "Now thank we all our God"

The preacher traditionally combined commentary on the Passion with a meditation on each event, often in vivid and pictorial poetry in the first person - the same sort of verse that was set to music in Bach's Passion arias.

The impact was heightened by the fact that no music using voices and instruments had been heard in the Leipzig churches since before Ash Wednesday.

Lenten Evensong

Fridays: March 4th, 11th and 18th. Please join us for our Lenten Evensong services which are held every Friday evening during Lent beginning at 5:45PM.

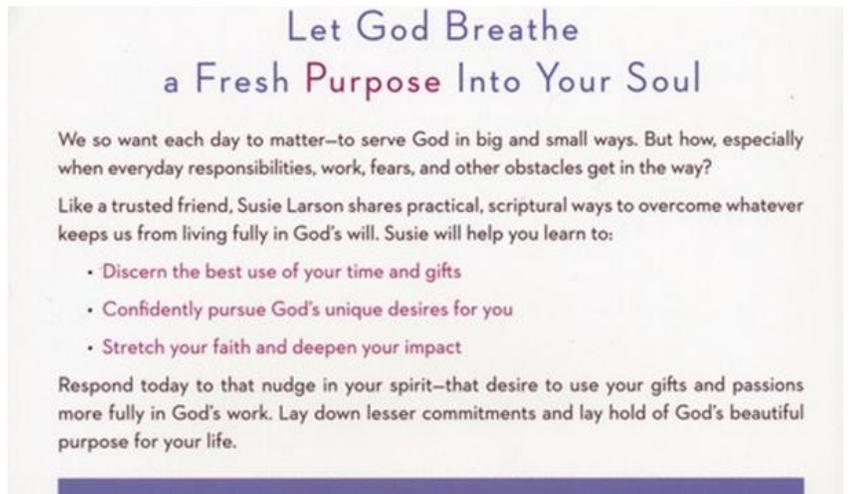
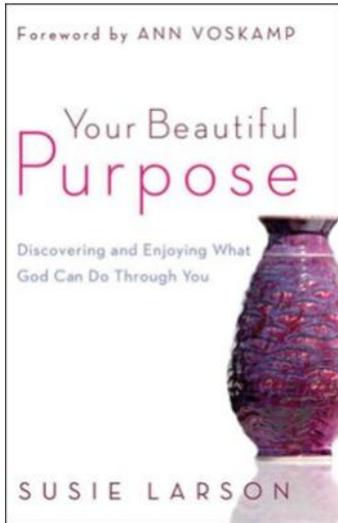
The 5:45pm Evensong service on March 4th will feature music of Herbert Sumsion and Charles Villiers Stanford. We invite you to conclude your work week with this opportunity for worship and reflection. Please join us.

Easter Lily Requests

Parishioners and friends wishing to place lilies on the altars at Easter to honor, show thanks, or remember

loved ones are asked to complete the enclosed form and return it to the church office with your donation no later than Palm Sunday, March 20th. The suggested donation is \$25.





Join the women of our parish for this 6-week study discovering "Your Beautiful Purpose". Our group meets each Wednesday afternoon during Lent (2/17-3/23). 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 the Section listed below prior to each Wednesday gathering.

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)

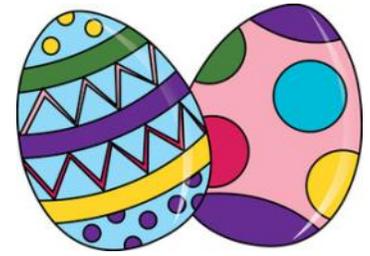
LENTEN PROGRAM

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 in Lent, Fr. Hartt leads a discussion on these people as they appear in the calendar. We 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 meets in the vestry room and runs approximately an hour.

Youth Formation & Sunday School



Hello to all and Happy Spring ~

We have lots planned in the St Peter's Sunday School....so please mark your calendars

Sunday March 13th: We will have a reenactment of the Last Supper, this will include the story of Jesus and his disciples, washing of our feet and taking part in the Most Holy Bread and Wine (juice). Please come and take part in this wonderful activity.

Sunday March 20th: The children of the Sunday School will be coloring over 700 hard boiled eggs, so please make sure the children are dressed in old clothes.

Saturday March 26th: The Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Rectory, 8 Loudon Heights South, Loudonville, NY 12211 at 11:00 am sharp ~ rain, shine or snow ! Refreshments will be served.

April 24th: Volunteers are needed for the Regional Food Bank located off Route 7, on Albany Shaker Road. We need about 10 volunteers to help on that Sunday from 1PM to 3PM. Please ask a friend and join us in helping the community.

I want to thank everyone that has volunteered or donated clothes to the Soup Kitchen. Each month more and more chairs are being filled. There is a growing need for families to come by for that one meal on the weekend! If you or someone you know wants to volunteer , please give them my name and number. For the parents of High school aged children who need hours for community service, this is an eye opening experience and I will sign the paperwork.

Hope to see you all soon ~

Blessings,
Laura Saffares
368-4284



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
February 9th



Daylight Savings

We “spring ahead” on Sunday, March 13th! Don't forget to set your clocks ahead the night before so that you are prompt for church services that morning.



Outreach Meeting

This month's Outreach meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8th at 4:30pm. Please join us to learn about Outreach ministries and hospitality events beings planned!

Vestry Meeting

This month's Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8th at 5:15pm.

Soup Sampler

Sunday, March 6th following the 10:30am service is our Annual Soup Sampler! Come sample delicious soups while raising funds for a worthy cause. Soup may also be purchased “to go”. This year's proceeds will benefit the Food Pantries of the Capital District. This outreach event is being organized by Judy Burns and Janice Chenot. If you'd like to cook soup for the event, there is a sign-up sheet in the Pumpelly Room or you can let Judy know.

An Evening of Reflection

There will be an evening of Lenten reflection entitled *Mercy...the Thread of Christ's Life.. the Challenge for Us!* at Trinity Church, 1336 1st Ave, Watervliet, NY 12189 from **7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2nd**. This time of reflection will be led by Marge Milanese, a gifted retreat leader and qualified Spiritual Director. There is no charge to attend this time of reflection. All are welcome. For more information call (518) 852-8484.

School for Healing Prayer©, Level 1

The next School for Healing Prayer© Level 1 class is coming up soon! This class is set for two consecutive weekends, **Saturday & Sunday, March 5-6 and March 12-13**. You won't have to take time off from work to attend this class and the price is lower! You can commute each day or stay at the Spiritual Life Center. For more information, contact the Healing Center at (518) 692-9550 x201, or visit the website by clicking <http://www.ctkcenter.org/message.php?messageID=46683>

Parish Leadership Conference

Addiction - Parish Mission and Ministry

Don't miss the last opportunity to attend this year's Parish Leadership Conference - *Ministry in Our Community Today: Addiction - Parish Mission and Ministry*. You can learn how to help those who struggle with addictions through times of teaching, sharing, and discussion. Hear the stories of those who struggle with addiction and gather information about local resources to help those who suffer from addiction and how to make a referral to one of these resources. Addictions of all kinds are on the rise, so this Parish Leadership Conference is particularly timely. There is no cost to attend and lunch will be provided. The Conference will begin at 8:30 a.m. with registration, coffee, and goodies. The program will start at 9:00 a.m. and conclude by 4:00 p.m. This final conference will be on **Saturday, March 5th at St. George's in Clifton Park**.

Chrism Mass at The Cathedral of All Saints is Monday, March 21st. At this service, Bishop Love blesses the oil used by our church and the clergy of the Diocese renew their ordination vows. All members of St. Peter's and the Diocese of Albany are invited to attend the service beginning at 6:00pm.



**Women's Luncheon with
Daughters of the King
at Wellington's
February 14th**

St. Peters Music

Composer of the Month

Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

Englishman Samuel Sebastian Wesley was the grandson of the Methodist leader and hymn writer Charles Wesley, and the son of Composer Samuel Wesley. He was one of England's leading organist-choirmasters and held positions at Hereford, Exeter, Winchester, and Gloucester Cathedrals. He worked successfully to raise the standard of singing in cathedral choirs.

S.S. Wesley composed almost exclusively for the Church of England, and several of his anthems have found a lasting place in the repertoire of choirs everywhere. We regularly sing some half-dozen of his anthems at St. Peter's, including *Lead me, Lord; Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace*, and *Blessed be the God and Father*.



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

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!

Overflow Homeless Shelter draws to the close of its seventh season this month. There are still some openings on the March calendar if you'd like to volunteer. We consider this year a great success and know that the homeless men we housed are blessed beyond measure. The Capital City Rescue Mission greatly appreciates our space, donations and volunteers and how we strengthen their ministry to the homeless in Albany. We give hearty thanks to the support provided by so many of you here at St. Peter's (and beyond) this year.

Estimate of Giving Cards

Estimate of Giving Cards for 2016 have been mailed out to all parishioners that did not attend the morning worship service on Consecration Sunday, October 18th. If you did not receive a card please call the church office. It would be greatly appreciated if you could please take a minute to complete your card and return it to the church office or place it in the offering plate during the service. You may also call the church office and we would be more than happy to complete a card for you. Thank you to those that have promptly completed and returned their card.

St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen (a.k.a. Angels in Training)

On the 3rd Saturday of each month (March 19th) we invite 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 therefore many hands mean light work! Please call Laura for information or to let her know you are coming at 368-4284.

Flower Memorials

During the year, our Flower Guild arranges flowers to bring beauty to our sanctuary and joy to our congregation. Those wishing to make a donation for flowers for a memorial, thanksgiving or celebration should call the Church Office to confirm available dates. During Advent, we use only greens; during Lent, the altars are bare. Other Sundays, we welcome contributions. Cost of flowers: Main Altar is \$50, St. Mark's Altar is \$35, and the Tower Altar is also \$35. All requests are payable in advance.

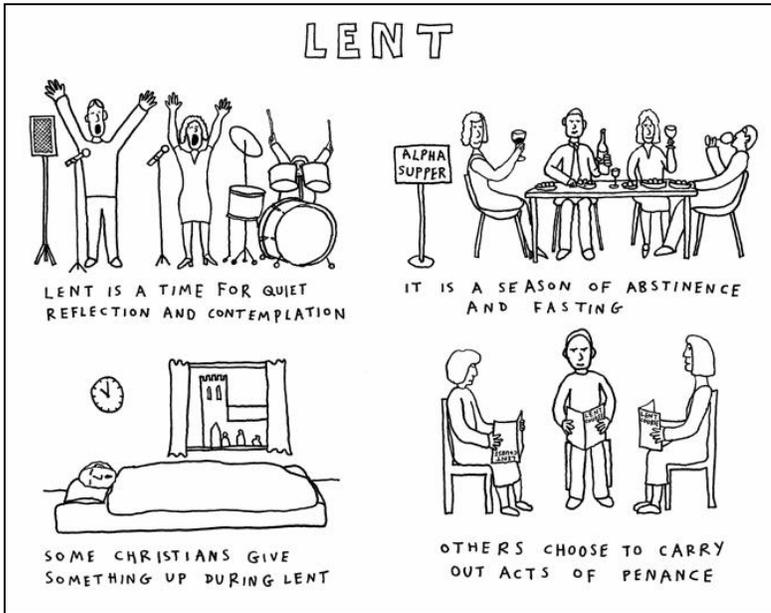
Lay Eucharistic Ministers

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.

March 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		1	2 8:45 am - Top of 12:05 pm - Holy 1 pm - Women's
6 Fourth Sunday in Lent 8:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Holy Communion 12 pm - Lenten Study Soup Sampler Sunday following 10:30 am service 4:00 pm - Holy Communion	7 5 pm - Treble Rehearsal	8 4:30 pm - Outreach Meeting 5:15 pm - Vestry Meeting	9 8:45 am - Top of 12:05 pm - Holy 1 pm - Women's
13 Fifth Sunday in Lent Spring ahead 1 hour! ⌚ 8:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Morning Prayer 12 pm - Lenten Study 12 pm - Lenten Quiet Day 4:00 pm - Holy Communion	14 5 pm - Treble Rehearsal	15	16 8:45 am - Top of 12:05 pm - Holy 1 pm - Women's
20 Palm Sunday 8:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Holy Communion 12 pm - Lenten 4:00 pm - Holy Communion	21 Monday in Holy Week 12:05 pm - Holy Communion 6 pm - Chrism Mass 6:30 pm - Full Choir Rehearsal w/Orchestra	22 Tuesday in Holy Week 12:05 pm - Holy Communion	23 Wednesday 8:45 am - Top of 12:05 pm - Holy 1 pm - Women's
27 ✝ Easter Sunday 8:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Holy Communion 4:00 pm - Holy Communion	28 Office Closed No Choir Rehearsals	29	30 8:45 am - Top of 12:05 pm - Holy

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.

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!"



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

What's not to love?

To sign up & learn more, go to

Field-goods.com

Email info@field-goods.com

Field Goods is located in Athens, NY



The First Lutheran Church Shelter Dinners

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

Congratulations to B95.5's Kid of the Week! Mckenzie Murphy

Mckenzie Murphy was recently nominated and won B95.5's Kid of the Week.

Here is the write-up that was submitted and announced on B95.5



I would like to nominate my daughter, 11 year-old Mckenzie Murphy of Guilderland as the Kid of the Week. Mckenzie is a student at Westmere Elementary School in Guilderland. Recently, Mckenzie celebrated her birthday and decided that it would be nice instead of getting gifts that her friends bring a donation that could be given to the Menands Animal Shelter. She is looking forward to bringing the box of items over to the Animal Shelter. Mckenzie loves animals and assisted in training her dog, Lucy, by going to obedience classes to help pass her Canine Good Citizen Test. Mckenzie is a student athlete who plays football, lacrosse and basketball plus she sings in her church choir. Mckenzie is not only the best daughter and student but she is a great example for all children to follow.

Submitted by her Mother- Julia Hotmer Drao

Beaver Cross Overnight Camp and Day Camp

Registration is open soon for Beaver Cross Summer Camp. Located in Greenwich, NY, less than 20 miles from Saratoga Springs, for youth in grades K-12. Beaver Cross provides opportunities to explore and deepen their faith. Through dynamic Biblical teaching, fellowship in a Christian community, and awesome camp activities, new friendships are created and old ones rekindled as BC Campers laugh and learn together in an environment devoted to faith, friendship and fun! Please visit the Diocesan Youth Ministry Beaver Cross website for more information at <http://www.beavercrossministries.org/camp-registration.html>

J. S. Bach's 331st Birthday Concert

Come celebrate Bach's birthday on Sunday, March 13th at 3pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church located at 21 Hackett Blvd. Albany. Organ music will be played by Trevor Kahlbaugh, Nixon McMillan, Edward Heffron, and Steven Rosenberry. Choral Music, Cantata 106 and *God's own Time is Best* will be performed by St. Paul's Choir with Chamber Orchestra. General Admission \$15, Seniors \$12, Students are free.

2015-2016 Youth Bible Studies **(Subject to Change)**

Amsterdam

St. Ann's Church
37 Division Street
2nd & 4th Monday, 6-8 PM

Ballston Spa

Christ Church
15 West High Street
1st & 3rd Tuesday, 6-8 PM

Delmar

St. Stephen's Church
16 Elsmere Avenue
Last Tuesday, 6-8 PM

Glens Falls

Church of the Messiah
296 Glen Street
2nd & 4th Tuesday, 6-8 PM

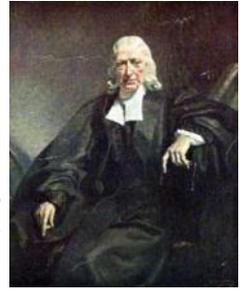
Mechanicville

JS Moore Apartments
1st & 3rd Sunday, 5-7 PM

Oneonta

St. James Episcopal
305 Main Street
4th Thursday, 6-8 PM

**JOHN AND CHARLES WESLEY
RENEWERS OF THE CHURCH (3 MAR 1791)**



Charles Wesley died 29 March 1788. John Wesley died 2 March 1791. Because Chad is remembered on 2 March, the Wesleys are remembered on 3 March.)

The Wesley brothers, John born in 1703 and Charles in 1707, were leaders of the evangelical revival in the Church of England in the eighteenth century. They both attended Oxford University, and there they gathered a few friends with whom they undertook a strict adherence to the worship and discipline of the Book of Common Prayer, from which strict observance they received the nickname, "Methodists." Having been ordained, they went to the American colony of Georgia in 1735, John as a missionary and Charles as secretary to Governor Oglethorpe. They found the experience disheartening, and returned home in a few years. There, three days apart, they underwent a conversion experience. John, present with a group of Moravians who were reading Martin Luther's *Preface to the Epistle to the Romans*, received a strong emotional awareness of the love of Christ displayed in freely forgiving his sins and granting him eternal life.

Following this experience, John and Charles, with others, set about to stir up in others a like awareness of and response to the saving love of God. Of the two, John was the more powerful preacher, and averaged 8000 miles of travel a year, mostly on horseback. At the time of his death he was probably the best known and best loved man in England.

(Albert C. Outler, *John Wesley's Sermons: An Introduction*, p 79f) Wesley's biblical world was, however, no enclave. Sola Scriptura was never a displacement of, or substitute for, classical learning: and this was natural enough in view of the fact that he had mastered the baseline curriculum of his Oxford education and had come to cherish the classical tradition as the font of Western civilization. In the sermons (and elsewhere, too) Wesley's favourite classical source was Horace; there are twenty-seven quotations from him in the sermons alone, some repeated in different contexts. One senses that he read Virgil with more personal pleasure, but he quotes from him only twenty-one times. Ovid follows with ten, Cicero with nine, Juvenal with seven. Thirteen others are quoted at least once: Aristophanes, Hadrian, Homer, Lucan, Lucretius, Persius, Pindar, Sophocles, Suetonius, Symmachus, Terence, Velleius Paterculus.

This display was more than mere ornamentation; (My comment: this would have violated Wesley's doctrine of 'plain preaching'.) within these borrowings we find the germs of some of Wesley's most distinctive general ideas (e.g. his participation theme, his mind-body dualism, and his ideas about psycho-physical parallelism). These are major sources for his ideas about human nature, human volition, and the human passions. Out of this heritage had come his predilection for form over raw feelings, his concept of conscience as a universal moral sense. Plato had bolstered his convictions about the ontological primacy of good over evil. The whole of the Greco-Roman tradition had stressed coherence as a criterion of rationality. Besides, these ancient authors were shrewd critics of human folly; thus Wesley found in them discerning witnesses to the flaws in contemporary proposals about 'natural' theology and ethics. It was in this sense that his long dialogue with the ancients was a genuine *preparatio evangelica*; one might even suppose that he might still commend it as such.

But, although Wesley found it natural to approach the Gospel with habits of thought formed by a classical education, he was quick to recognize the value of other approaches. The early Methodist meetings were often led by lay preachers with very limited education. On one occasion, such a preacher took as his text Luke 19:21, "Lord, I feared thee, because thou art an austere man." Not knowing the word "austere," he thought that the text spoke of "an oyster man." He spoke about the work of those who retrieve oysters from the sea-bed. The diver plunges down from the surface, cut off from his natural environment, into bone-chilling water. He gropes in the dark, cutting his hands on the sharp edges of the shells. Now he has the oyster, and kicks back up to the surface, up to the warmth and light and air, clutching in his torn and bleeding hands the object of his search. So Christ descended from the glory of heaven into the squalor of earth, into sinful human society, in order to retrieve humans and bring them back up with Him to the glory of heaven, His torn and bleeding hands a sign of the value He has placed on the object of His quest. Twelve men were converted that evening. Afterwards, someone complained to Wesley about the inappropriateness of allowing preachers who were too ignorant to know the meaning of the texts they were preaching on. Wesley, simply said, "Never mind, the Lord got a dozen oysters tonight." Charles was the better hymn-writer of the two. He wrote over 6000 hymns, including about 600 for the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Some of the better known are the following:

Christ, whose glory fills the skies	Come, thou long expected Jesus	Hail the day that sees Him rise
Hark, the herald angels sing	Jesus, Lover of my soul	Love Divine, all loves excelling

It was the intention of the Wesleys and their colleagues that their "Methodist Societies" should be a group within the existing structure of the Anglican Church, but after their deaths the Societies in America, and to a lesser extent in England, developed a separate status.

by James Kiefer

More information, and many links concerning the Wesleys may be found on the [United Methodist Church website](#).

The Stained Glass Windows

One way to find out about some of our church's stained glass windows is to learn about their designers. Some artists designed several of our windows. An example is Henry Holiday, a British artist that lived between the years of 1839 and 1927. He designed the Wells Window, depicting the three Marys (dated 1884); the Owens Window, depicting the sacrament of Christian baptism (dated 1885); the Kidd window depicting the infancy and boyhood of Christ (dated 1884); the Lansing Window depicting scenes from the night of the Nativity (1901); and my favorite - the Dexter Window depicting faith, hope and charity (1884).

Henry Holiday was from the pre-Raphaelite school of design which emphasizes beautiful women. Certainly the Wells Window with one of the women supporting her long hair on her arm shows a very beautiful woman.

The British Workshop of Clayton and Bell (1855 to 1993) also designed several windows for our church. The Workshop consisted of two partners: John Richard Clayton (1827 to 1913) and Alfred Bell (1832 to 1895). They designed the Pruyn Window a highly ecclesiastical depiction of the Crucifixion of Christ, (1869); the Sherman Window depicting Christ's Resurrection (1869); and the Cooper Window depicting the healing ministry of Christ (1879). Clayton and Bell designed all of the Chancel Windows.

Our Rose Window or Catherine Wheel was designed by Tiffany Company of New York symbolizing the martyrdom of St. Catherine (1890). The accompanying lancets are dated 1892. The color scheme of the window is suggested by the Chartres Cathedral which in France.

There is one window that stands out from all the rest for its striking colors and design. It is the Weaver Window fabricated by Edward Burne-Jones (1833-1898) after the designs of William Morris. It depicts Christology of the Old and New Testaments (1880).

The original windows of the Chancel and one window of the Nave were designed and installed by Owen Doremus. The Archives has photographs of these windows. These windows were removed to make way for the windows of the Chancel and Nave that we have today. The Doremus windows have now all disappeared.

The Archives has information on our current stained glass windows and two copies of the booklet entitled *St. Peter's Stained Glass Windows Come to Life*, written for the 300 Anniversary of the Founding of the Church (2012).



For only \$3,200* we can provide a destitute family with a safe and secure new home with sanitation. The gift of a house is a lasting and loving gift that will change lives forever!



If you would like to donate, please contact the Church Office for more information.

**Minutes of the Vestry
St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church
January 12, 2016**

1. Approval of Minutes of the Vestry Meeting for December 8, 2015

The minutes were approved as written on a motion by M. Holden and seconded by T. Murphy

2. Sr. Warden's Report- J. Chenot

Jim began his report by wishing everyone a Happy New Year. He reported the turnout for both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services were very well attended. We started December off again by opening our doors in the parish hall beginning our seventh year hosting the overflow shelter which has been a blessing for many homeless gentlemen from the Capital City Mission in Albany. We are always looking for individuals willing to volunteer a few hours during the evening helping the Capital City Mission staff make the homeless feel a bit at home. I would like to thank those who have been donating food as well as monetary gift designated to this worthy cause. Thank you all for your support.

We started On December 14th at the 10:30 service with the Sunday school performing their annual Christmas pageant with Laura Saffares directing. Many thanks to Laura Saffares, head of Christian education and all the Sunday school teachers involved in the work they put into performing the pageant.

That afternoon the Choir performed their annual Messiah concert, many turning out to appreciate one of the greater performances the choir has ever performed. I want to take this opportunity to thank our choir director, Neil Keen and the choir for all their hard work and dedication with all the preparation of music performance as well as all the music during the Advent season.

The following Sunday we had the Lessons and Carols at the 10:30 service, followed with the Hanging of the Greens. We had a great turnout for the Hanging of the Greens with many seasoned and new helpers. It is so encouraging to see everyone help beautify the Church which has been a large part of St. Peter's tradition. We would like to thank Jack Ratzel who headed up the luncheon as well as many others who helped prepare a wonderful lunch for all of us to enjoy. I want to thank everyone who participated in any way helping out that day with any or all of these events, it was truly a great day had by all.

Again, many thanks to all on the altar guild, flower guild, the ushers, acolytes, and clergy, for making this past Advent season a meaningful and joyful time for all of us. A special thanks to Meghan, Janice, Pat and Bobby for all the preparation before all the services. Also, a special thanks to Father Hartt and Mtr. Sue for all their work during the Advent season.

Our annual meeting will be on the last Sunday of this month, January 31th with a combined service at 9:30. Committee reports need to be submitted to the church office by Wednesday, January 27st. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Pam Gerfin and Judy Burns for all their service on the vestry as they both step down after serving two three year terms. Jack Ratzel with one remaining year to serve on the vestry has decided to step down so he can concentrate on his new calling or mission. Jack will be spending his valuable time welcoming new members door to door that are moving into the downtown Albany as the city has begun a revitalization in former buildings that have been vacant converting them into new condos and lofts in the vicinity of St. Peter's. I want to thank him for all his service on the vestry as well as his new mission and vision introducing new members possibly to our church. Thank you again for all you have done for St. Peters and the future success in your new mission. George Scala, head of the Finance committee has been appointed to fill Jack's last one year seat on vestry. I want to thank George for all his dedication and his hard work on the finance committee. The work he does for the church is immeasurable. Thank you so much for your support.

Lastly, I want to thank both Father Hartt and Mother Sue for their preparation and spiritual dedication they offered leading up to and during the Advent season. Thank you both for your love and commitment to all of us at St. Peter's; we are so blessed to have such wonderful clergy.

Lent begins the early part of February this year, starting with our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner on February 9th.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

3. Treasurer's Report – G. Scala

George S. reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the month of December. Total offerings for the month were \$37,287 which while up from previous months is down from previous December's. YTD through December offerings were \$252,823 versus budgeted offerings of \$359,724. George reported that the total offerings for 2015 were the lowest we have seen in several years. There was great success with the Consecration Sunday stewardship program but due to shortfalls in parishioners fulfilling their 2015 commitments and a decline in non-pledged income we ended the year much less than budget projections. There was much discussion on the impact declining attendance is having on offering income and strategies to improve.

The investment/endowment accounts showed losses for the month. Merrill Lynch was down -1.92% for the month and Key was down -1.18% for the month. YTD Merrill Lynch shows a -2.16% return and Key shows a +0.06% return. This caused a significant budget variance for the year of (\$358,219). We continue to hope the market will rebound and stabilize in the future. Expenses year to date are \$3,054 under budget.

George also reported on the updated stewardship numbers. To date 2016 pledges are 63 units at \$159,302. The average pledge amount is up from 2015 but the total number of pledging units and pledge dollars is down. While pledges are still coming in, we were at 94 pledging units for \$197,342 for 2015. Much discussion also occurred about offerings, attendance and other strategies to improve in these areas.

George also reviewed again some points from the final budget and talked briefly about the annual meeting.

4. Property-T. Murphy

Some repairs are needed to ceilings at the rectory.

5. Outreach- J. Burns

Over \$1900 has been raised so far for Food For The Poor. We are trying to raise enough money to build a house. The Soup Sampler will be held in March. On February, 28th, Leonard Slade will offer a poetry reading at church at 12:30 pm.

6. Old Business –

There was no old business.

7. New Business-

A. On January, 31, 2016, there will be one combined service at 9:30 with the annual meeting following the service.

B. A motion to appoint G. Scala to fill the last year of J. Ratzel seat on the vestry was made by M. Kmaya and seconded by T. Murphy. It was passed unanimously by the vestry.

8. Assoc Rector Report- Mtr. Sue

Many thanks for an amazing Christmas and Epiphany at St. Peter's, especially to the guilds, choir and staff who do much extra work for these many services and events!

Youth: I would be remiss if I didn't state my concern regarding planning youth activities at St. Peter's Church. It appears difficult to get a quorum of youth to gather together. I welcome ideas of the parents and vestry for future planned youth events. Thank you! Additionally, for two months, I ran a contest for teens to win a fully paid registration to EXCEL, Christian Youth conference held annually each January in Saratoga Springs NY. Because I received no entries at St. Peter's, I forwarded the registration to John Iseman, our Diocesan Youth Director to use for a youth within our Diocese to attend this teen conference.

Daughters of the King: The Daughters are hosting a women's luncheon on February 14th (in lieu of our regular meeting) at Wellington's, immediately following the 10:30am service. We invite women of the parish to join us to learn more about the Daughters. We continue to hold the prayers of our church in our daily intercessions and hope our new brochure provides an introduction for more women of our church to learn about us.

Women's Retreat: I am planning to attend, with several women of the parish, the retreat *Loving Well, with teaching by Beth Moore, at the Spiritual Life Center in Greenwich NY on February 19-20. We encourage additional women of the church to consider joining us.*

Overflow Homeless Shelter: The men were very blessed by the Christmas Party from the Girl Scouts and the Christmas gifts provided by the Siena College Franciscan Center for Advocacy – thank you! We have had a few volunteers since its opening December 1st but continue to encourage more involvement.

9. The average Sunday Attendance was 133.5

10. Rector's Report- Fr. Hartt

Christmas & Epiphany - The parish had two glorious Christmas Eve Services. The Choir even surpassed its usual high mark. At the earlier Service, the abundant procession of the children to assemble the creche was especially moving. The early service increased in attendance from 190 in 2014 to 215 in 2015. Attendance was down, however, from 2014 at the 10:00pm Service. It appears to be a general trend in the area that the earlier “family” services are gaining in attendance. Lessons and Carols was strongly attended, as was the Christmas pageant. The Messiah had nearly 200 in attendance. The hanging of the greens and traditional meal for the workers remain treasured traditions. Jack Ratzel was again our able chef. An Epiphany Evensong was observed this year. Evensong appears to be a preferred way of observing this Holy Day.

Annual Meeting - Father Hartt gave thanks for the Vestry service of Pamela Gerfin and Judy Burns. They both have served faithfully for the full three terms. Pam and Judy have an “historic knowledge” of the parish which has been invaluable in our seeing the big picture. Jack Ratzel has left the vestry after three years to pursue outreach and evangelism to the new residential development in Downtown Albany. We thank him for his faithful service on the vestry and for his important new work for the parish. Jack has put in many hours of research on the development going on downtown and has placed St. Peter's welcome material in tenants hands and in community welcome packets. Michelle Vennard of the Albany Visitor's Bureau has been of great help in reaching our new residents. Father Hartt shared Parochial figures for 2015: Baptisms 5, Confirmations 10, Marriages 2, Burials 5, ASA; 120.6.

Archives - Fr. Hartt commended Connie Powell's research on the plaques of the church. Connie covered the history of each of our plaques and created a publication for the rack at the back of the church. This new pamphlet is a needed and significant contribution to our existing publications. Meghan Cooney formatted the booklet in a most attractive way.

Staffing - Fr. Hartt shared that Meghan Cooney has accepted a new job with St. Peter's Health Partners. Meghan's resignation will be effective January 22nd. Meghan has been a blessing to our parish. Her heart was fully in her work and her skills great. We were fortunate to keep her for as long as we were able. The responsibilities in the front office are many. There is really no job like it. Over the course of her employment, Meghan developed our new website, handled clergy schedules, was editor of the Newsletter, and helped the clergy with often difficult and complex cases of need with our walk-ins. The position also entails support of the Lector and Altar Guild rota, and assisting our parish members in countless ways. Like Olivia Noonan before her, she will be a challenge to follow. Please offer prayers for our next candidate.

Overflow Shelter - The Shelter is going smoothly again this year. Siena College provided presents for the men on Christmas Eve. The need remains strong for temporary housing for the homeless.

Finances - Father Hartt thanked Jim Chenot and George Scala for their hard work on the budget. Clearly, this has been a difficult year for our investments. Fr. Hartt spoke of the need to form a committee within the Vestry and by invitation to consider our strategy going forward. This is especially important in light of recent attendance and completed pledges. The parish will need to become much less dependent on the Endowment for long-term health.

Baptism - Sheriley Hart's great grandson, Aeden Weston Ericson, was baptized last Sunday.

Poetry Reading - Professor and poet, Dr. Leonard A. Slade, Jr., will be offering a poetry reading on Sunday, February 28.

Lenten Program - Father Hartt will be offering a Sunday Lenten study based upon the calendar for saints in Lent. The lives of those saints observed during the weekdays of Lent in Lesser Feasts and Fasts and Holy Men & Holy Women will be examined. The study will consider how their lives speak to our own as we pray to grow in grace and amendment of life.

Lent begins February 10th. Ash Wednesday Services will be at 7:30AM, Noon, and 5:30PM.

11. Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by M. Holden and seconded by M. Kanya

12. Compline- Fr. Hartt led Compline.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy Burns

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
Janice Chenot.....Office Volunteer
E. Constance Powell.....Historian & Archivist

Vestry

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

How to Contact Us

Office Hours:

Monday -Friday

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Telephone: 518-434-3502

Fax: 518-462-4419

E-Mail:

Receptionist@stpeterschurchalbany.org

Website:

www.stpeterschurchalbany.org

Services

Sunday

Holy Communion 8:30 a.m.

Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

(1st & 3rd Sundays)

Morning Prayer 10:30 a.m.

(2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

