



THE Cornerstone

Summer 2017

Newsletter of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church

107 State Street, Albany, New York

From the Rector

The Church

And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16: 17-18.)

In this month's article, I would like to reflect on the Church in three dimensions: 1.) The Church as a gift from God. 2.) The Church in history. 3.) The Church at the parish level.

On Pentecost, we are reminded that the Church is a gift of God. She is born of those tongues of fire that descended upon the Apostles. Jesus called the gift both the Holy Spirit and "power from on high." Without the power, without the coming down from above, there would be no Church. The Apostles depended on the Holy Spirit to know what to say, how to say it, and to guide them as they moved throughout the known world. It is important to note here that knowledge as such was not sufficient. They already knew Jesus' history, His teaching, and His resurrection. But it wasn't about mere information. They needed more, more to become the Church. They needed power from on high. And to this day, so do we.

This brings us to reflect on the Church in history. To the extent that the Church has offered credible witness to her Lord, it has been because her members and clergy have submitted to the Holy Spirit. It hardly needs to be said that institutions founder and become less than authentic witnesses to what they purport to be about, especially over time. This truth needs our charitable reception. We are all sinners and broken in countless ways. Institutions also inherit the sins of their past and perpetuate them often without intending or seeing. What we need here is a generous view of the Church in light of our own failings. Even as we need forgiveness, so does the Church again and again. Yet we also know that the sum is greater than the parts. As Jesus says, "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

So what about the parish level? We certainly see there the blessings and challenges that exist in the Church in history. Each parish likewise has its own history, perfections, and failings. Every parish has its traditions and practices which delight or frustrate us. I love a verse from the beloved hymn "For All the Saints" which holds "...We feebly struggle, they in glory shine." Truer words were never sung! But we can choose to delight in our own feebleness or at least have a sense of humor about it. The Power is only from Above. We muddle along, but God acts again and again. The Holy Spirit dwells with us and Jesus is glorified in his little saints below. Indeed, it is in our feebleness that the Lord is glorified most. For it is there, as St. Paul says, that grace enters and gives glory to the Lord. (2 Corinthians 12: 9.)

As we live the wonders of God's grace, let us remember to give thanks for the Church. With all her frustrations and bumbling, yet she is glorious. She is glorious from above, she is glorious in history, and she is glorious in her saints below. May God be ever praised above and below for the great mercy and love revealed in the Church.

Summer blessings,

Fr. Hartt+

I decided to venture into new territory this year and give a try at vegetable gardening! Many of you are long experts, I am certain, so please bear with this newcomer. First, I took many books out of the library to read all I could about this new “hobby”. I then set out and procured organic seeds and starter pods. I planned to plant outdoors around Memorial Day (safely beyond our last frost), and so 6 weeks earlier I planted those little seeds. And then I watered, watched, and waited...

Much happened that was unexpected, of course. Some pods were initially too wet, and then some too dry. I soon discovered that different plant seeds germinate at different speeds. This might seem obvious to some, but I was convinced that some of the seeds were “bad” when no plants sprouted in the cucumber pods only to discover that cucumber seeds need to germinate at or above 70 degrees (and my house wasn’t heated to that level). As they grew, I thinned the plants (which seemed tragic at the time) and visited them daily to check for growth and progress.

Over the course of weeks, I moved my trays of pods from table to table so the newly growing plants could get plenty of sun. And I even had to hide them behind closed doors when my cats discovered the leafy “treats” left out for them while I was working! To make this long story short, the seeds eventually grew into plants which have ultimately been planted outdoors. Now I continue to water, watch and wait for the actual fruit of my efforts to come....or vegetables to be more precise!

Reflecting on this effort to grow my own organic vegetables has caused me to connect much with faith formation in people's lives. It causes me to remember that different people develop their faith at different paces. Some bud quickly while others take longer, and even some appear dormant for a long, long time. Faith formation takes place in one's environment so that, too, has great affect. Tragedy comes along unexpectedly sometimes and may impede growth for a time. Faith formation needs regular attention and healthy input of just the right 'ingredients'. Great care must be given over a very long time while one waits to see the actual fruit produce within the life of the believer.

In ministry I am often comforted to hear how faith is helping people move through events in their life. Recently, someone shared with me how comforting it was that her long-said church prayers rolled off her tongue easily one night as she tossed and turned in pain unable to sleep. She was so grateful for her many years of church attendance where she learned those prayers that brought her great comfort when she most needed it.

Perhaps you question how faith is forming within yourself or someone you love? I hope these gardening analogies give you some comfort. In the end, I can only encourage you to trust God. He has planted us in a rich garden here at St. Peter's and will provide everything needed for us to flourish beautifully. Continue to seek those good things that will bring growth, have patience, and trust that God is forming the faith in just the right way. The good fruit is coming, He promises...

A Blessed Summer to All,

Mother Sue+



Vestry

There will be no Vestry meetings for the months of July and August. Meetings will resume in September.

Outreach

There will be no outreach meetings for the months of July or August. Please join us at our next meeting in September to learn about Outreach ministries and hospitality events being planned!

- Choir Awards -

Choir Awards Sunday was held last Sunday, May 7th.

We thank all the members of the choir and congratulate the recipients of named awards:

Women of St. Peter's Metal (to a girl treble for meritorious service): Mckenzie Murphy

The Clarence Newman Medal (for outstanding treble/soloist): Molly Russom

The Rector's Medal (to an adult chorister for distinguished service): Timothy Murphy

Nancy McKenna received recognition for 30 years of service

Sally Jennings received recognition for 30 years of service

Ted Jennings received recognition for 35 years of service

and Diana Martin received recognition for her continued service as Choir Mother

Diocesan Mission Conference

The 2017 Diocesan Mission Conference is scheduled for **Saturday, September 23rd** at St. John's Church, 10 Church St, Essex, NY 12936. The theme for the Conference is Be the light. Let it shine. The day will include Missions reports and informative workshops that will discuss working within Mission teams, choosing a mission that is right for you, dealing with hidden prejudices, finding funding for missions, and building and maintaining a successful mission. The Missions Committee invites all parishes in the Diocese to consider giving a report on the mission work that is being done by their churches. If you live far from Essex, you can still participate! Accommodations can be arranged with St. John's parishioners for Friday and/or Saturday nights. If you are, or your church is interested in participating, please email Jan Bedoukian, Conference Co-Chair, by **June 30th**, by going to :<http://www.albanyepiscopaldiocese.org>

A representative from Food for the Poor, The Rev. Carola von Wrangel, will visit St. Peter's Church on Sunday July 2nd to preach at both services and be available for your questions. We thank you for prayerfully consider donating to Food from the Poor. Additional information may be found at: foodforthepoor.org

Friends of St. Peter's

The Friends of St. Peter's meets on Tuesdays at 1pm in the Pumpelly Room for "chit-chat" while we visit each other and enjoy light refreshments. Feel free to come and spend some "chit-chat" time with us. We will re-convene on Tuesday, July 11th at 1:00pm and meet weekly over the summer months. For more information, please call Carly Crewell, at (518) 956-4166.

Daughters of the King

The Summer DOK meetings will be held on Sunday, July 9th and August 13th. They will meet after the 10:30am service in the Vestry room. Upcoming projects include:

- ◆ Donate "Blessing Bags" for the Women's Overflow Shelter
- ◆ Collect food pantry items
- ◆ Assist Laura in collecting fall/winter clothing for St. Francis Mission
- ◆ Host coffee hour on the third Sunday of each month
- ◆ Lead the Neighborhood Prayer Walk in the Fall

Summer Choir

During the summer months, we welcome parish members to sing with regular choir members for the 10:30 service. Beginning on June 25th, the summer choir will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:45 to prepare music for the 10:30 service. There is no audition, although the ability to follow musical notation is helpful. Come and join the music making!



Recovery Ministries

Recovery Ministries network serves as a voice of conscience to Episcopalians throughout the world, building awareness of pastoral and spiritual ministry to those addicted. Help the addicted and those who love them connect with spiritual resources and find lasting recovery. For more information please visit: http://www.episcopalrecovery.org/resource_links





The photos above are from the 149th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany which was held June 9th through June 11th at Camp of the Woods in Greenwich NY.

Women's Retreat

Do you ever need encouragement? Are you constantly critiquing yourself for your mistakes? Do you look like you've got it all together, while inside you're a wreck? Then come to the Healing a Woman's Soul (HAWS)women's retreat entitled *I'm OK and I'm on the way September 8th - 9th*, where you will get help to heal from emotional abuse. The retreat is overnight Friday through Saturday after supper. The retreat will explore God's vision for healing the broken-hearted. The retreat will be held at the Dominican Retreat Center, Light refreshments will be offered Friday night. Cost is \$120 per person, and limited scholarships are available. Please call (518) 439-8574 or contact the HAWS office at 68 S. Swan St., Albany, NY 12210.

Fundraiser

An evening to benefit Healing a Woman's Soul (HAWS), entitled Anything Chocolate... will be hosted by St. Paul's Church, 21 Hackett Blvd, Albany, NY 12208 **October 21st from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** There will be a dessert buffet, silent auction, the second annual Paula award for a volunteer helping victims of domestic violence, and an "Anything Chocolate..." Contest. "Anything Chocolate..." contest entries are due no later than October 21st at 5:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Please bring entries the size of a small pie or 8 cookies or muffins, in other words 6 servings. Please use disposable plates as no plates will be returned. The cost for the event is \$20. For tickets or more information, call (518) 439-8574 or contact the HAWS office at 68 S. Swan St., Albany, NY 12210

Youth Formation & Sunday School

Youth Bible Study

WHAT IS TUESDAY NIGHT LIVE? TNL is our first ever live stream Bible Study. TNL airs every Tuesday night from 7PM-7:30PM. Our theme for the spring is That You May Have Life: Jesus Purposeful Plan of Redemption. Through this series we will be focusing on the intentional, sovereign, saving work of Christ in our lives and the world! This live stream will allow youth groups from across the region, and even around the world, to tune in and study the word of God together in an interactive online experience! More information can be found at: <http://www.beavercrossministries.org/tuesday-night-live.html>.



Photos were taken by Laura Rulison at the St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen

St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen

The 3rd Saturday of each month (July 15th and August 19th) (Angels in Training), invites you to join Laura Rulison 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 (518)368-4284.

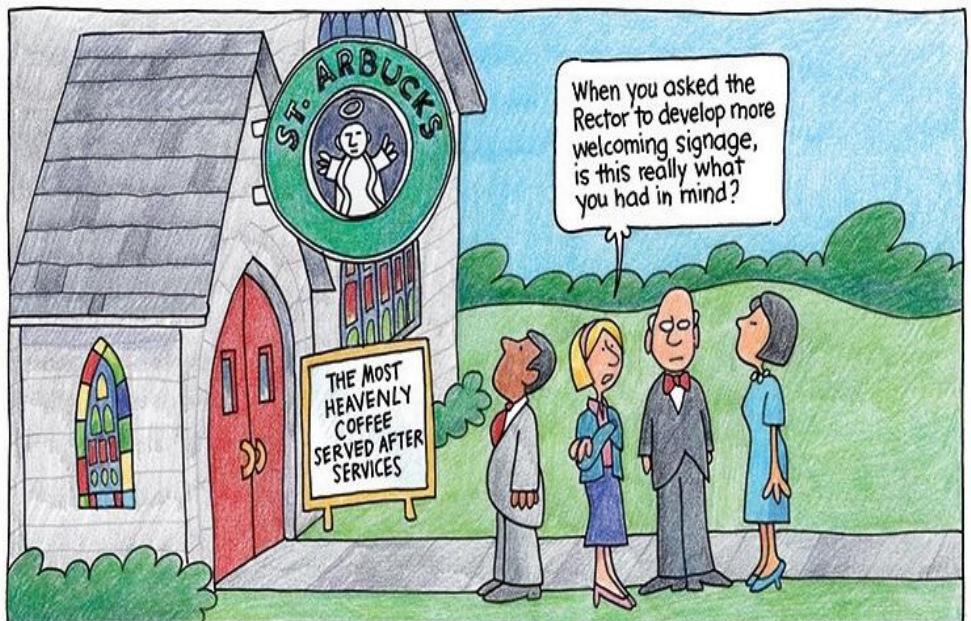


Church Chuckles!



We are the land of the free, we are the home of the brave. Let's pay tribute to our brave American Heroes

Happy Independence Day!





Photos were taken by Laura Rulison at the Ice Cream Sundae Social on June 18th.



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.

Those who have entered into REST:

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God:

Lawrence L. Everett

June 7, 2017

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.

2017 ST. PETER'S ANGELS SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

April 23rd	Sunday	4:30PM@	Mullen's	Won	20-0
April 30th	Sunday	1:30PM@	Mullen's	Lost	12-7
May 21st	Sunday	12:00PM@	Mullen's	Won	14-13
June 4th	Sunday	4:30PM@	Fireman's	Won	21-1
June 11th	Sunday	3:00PM@	Fireman's	Lost	15-10
June 11th	Sunday	4:30PM@	Fireman's	Won	14-4
July 9th	Sunday	12:00PM@	Mullen's	(Balls Out)	
July 9th	Sunday	1:30PM@	Mullen's	(Misfits)	
July 16th	Sunday	1:30PM@	Mullen's	(Tops in Bottoms)	
July 23rd	Sunday	6:00PM@	Mullen's	(518 Ballers)	

Games will be played at either Mullen's Park located at 35 North First Street, Albany, NY 12204, Ridgefield Park located at 316 Partridge Street, Albany, NY 12208 or at Fireman's Field located at 20 Moore Street, Albany, NY 12202. Directions are available on the website. Please type in your browser <http://www.softball-24-7.com/ESS-SundaySoftball/>. On the website, we are listed as St. Peter's Angels. To check on rainouts call 269-1293.



**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

Free \$5.00 Gift Certificates are available at the church office for new customers only.

If you have been thinking of trying this service please call Kristin for a complimentary gift certificate towards your first order.



Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
John 14:13 ESV

Join us for a series of five ecumenical healing services

Saturdays at 4:30 p.m.

The Chapel of St. Michael and All Angels

May 20: Guest Speaker: Pastor David Martin
Hope United Methodist Church, Troy, NY

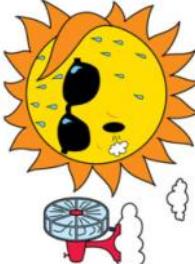
June 17 | July 15 | August 12 | September 9

Christ the King
Spiritual Life Center

575 Burton Road | Greenwich, NY 12834
518-692-9550 | healing@ctkcenter.org

www.ctkcenter.org

July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion	3 4 Independence Day Office Closed	5 8:45am - Top of the Hill 12:05pm - Holy Communion	6	7	8	
9 The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer 11:45am - DOK meeting	10 11 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's	12 8:45am - Top of the Hill 12:05pm - Holy Communion	13	14	15 11:00am Angels in Training	
16 The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion	17 18 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's	19 8:45am - Top of the Hill 12:05pm - Holy Communion	20 Choir leaves for England	21	22 St. Mary Magdalene	
23 The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer	24 25 St. James, Apostle 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's	26 8:45am - Top of the Hill 12:05pm - Holy Communion	27	28	29	
30 The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer	31 Choir returns from England					

August 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's	2	3	4	5
6 The Transfiguration of our Lord 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion	7	8 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's	9 8:45am - Top of the Hill 12:05pm - Holy Communion	10	11	12
13 The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer 11:45am - DOK Meeting	14	15 Saint Mary after Pentecost 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's	16 8:45am - Top of the Hill 12:05pm - Holy Communion	17	18	19 11:00am Angels in Training
20 The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion	21	22 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's	23 8:45am - Top of the Hill 12:05pm - Holy Communion	24 St. Bartholomew	25	26
27 The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer	28	29 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's	30 8:45am - Top of the Hill 12:05pm - Holy Communion	31		

WELCOME HOME INITIATIVE®

a program for combat veterans

Equipping and Training WHI Prayer Ministers

JULY 7-8, 2017

\$90 Commuter | \$150 Double Occupancy per person
\$170 Single Occupancy



The Welcome Home Initiative® is a healing program for military combat veterans and spouses. These veterans may be suffering in varying degrees from Post-Traumatic Stress or Moral Injury and are in need of Soul Repair.

This program equips prayer ministers so they can reach out to help those who suffer in silence, due to combat trauma. Prayer Ministers, Therapists, Military Chaplains and Clergy are encouraged to attend.

To learn more, apply to attend, or to support this initiative contact
Christ the King Spiritual Life Center

www.ctkcenter.org | healing@ctkcenter.org | 518-692-9550 ext. 201

Welcome Home Initiative® Copyright: By His Wounds, Inc., 2013 All Rights Reserved



Volunteer Schedules

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

	<u>July 2, 2017</u>	<u>July 9, 2017</u>	<u>July 16, 2017</u>	<u>July 23, 2017</u>	<u>July 30, 2017</u>
<u>8:30am Lectors</u>	John Sterrett Connie Powell	Gordon Lattey Ray Roohan	Gordon Lattey John Davis	Gordon Lattey John Sterrett	Gordon Lattey Jay Jakovic
<u>10:30am Lectors</u>	Kim Healy Sally Jennings	Edith Allen Ted Jennings	Cathy Connors Tim Murphy	Terry Flannery	Pamela Landi Fred Hershey
<u>Flower Guild</u>	Sally Jennings	Ann Collins	Catherine Gabriels	Laura Grill	Edith Allen
<u>Altar Guild</u>			Diana Martin	Barbara Kelly	
<u>8:30am Ushers</u>	Clark Daggett Fred Lincoln	Bernie Burnell John Davis	Clark Daggett or Fred Lincoln John Sterrett	Robert Hull Teddy Hull	Clark Daggett Fred Lincoln
<u>10:30am Ushers</u>	Sharon DeBonis Julie Hotmer Drao George Saide Catherine Schunk	William Collins Kevin Creagan Jack Ratzel Jeff Russom	Sherry Bishko Moses Kamya Frank Spath	Chris Grill Mark Lundberg Michele Lundberg	William Collins Kevin Creagan Jeff Russom Frank Spath



We congratulate our receptionist Kristin who married Ernest Brodowski on Saturday June 24, 2017. Please join us in celebrating their union !

O gracious and everliving God, you have created us male and female in your image: Look mercifully upon this man and this woman who come to you seeking your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep the promises and vows they make; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Brodowski

June 24, 2017



Choir Tour to England

On July 20th a bus will depart from St. Peter's Church, taking 35 members of our choir, along with some family members, to begin the trip to England. After a weekend in the London area, we will head to Chichester for a week's residency at the cathedral there. We will be taking on the duties of the cathedral choir, singing daily evensong services and three services on Sunday, July 30th. Although the music schedule is intense, we will have the opportunity to visit sites in London, Windsor, Portsmouth, Brighton and the Isle of Wight. We return on the evening of Monday July 31st. The Choir is excited about our trip and are very grateful for the support of the parish which makes such an experience possible. We are especially grateful to be able to offer this experience to the young people in our choir. We will do our best to represent St. Peter's Church well.

Saint of the Month Club

Saint Mary Magdalene

Prayer:

Almighty God, whose blessed Son restored Mary Magdalene to health of body and mind, and called her to be a witness of his resurrection: Mercifully grant that by thy grace we may be healed of all our infirmities and know thee in the power of his endless life; who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

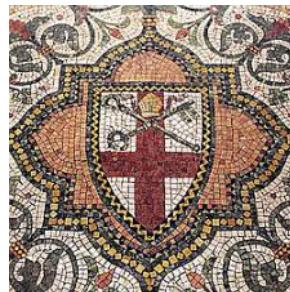


Mary of Magdala near Capernaum was one of several women who followed Jesus and ministered to him in Galilee. The Gospel according to Luke records that Jesus “went on through cities and villages, preaching and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out ... ” (Luke 8:1–2). The Gospels tell us that Mary was healed by Jesus, followed him, and was one of those who stood near his cross at Calvary.

It is clear that Mary Magdalene’s life was radically changed by Jesus’ healing. Her ministry of service and steadfast companionship, even as a witness to the crucifixion, has, through the centuries, been an example of the faithful ministry of women to Christ. All four Gospels name Mary as one of the women who went to the tomb to mourn and to care for Jesus’ body. Her weeping for the loss of her Lord strikes a common chord with the grief of all others over the death of loved ones. Jesus’ tender response to her grief—meeting her in the garden, revealing himself to her by calling her name -- makes her the first witness to the risen Lord. She is given the command, “Go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God” (John 20:17). As the first messenger of the resurrection, she tells the disciples, “I have seen the Lord” (John 20:18).

In the tradition of the Eastern Church, Mary is regarded as the equal of an apostle; and she is held in veneration as the patron saint of the great cluster of monasteries on Mount Athos.

Mosaic Floors of St. Peter's Church



The mosaic floors now located in our church Nave were built in the summer of 1901 and dedicated to the memory of Senior Warden Joseph Tillinghast and his son Wilbur Tillinghast. They were designed and built by Mr. J. A. Holzer of New York City in the spirit of Italian mosaic of the 14th Century. These floors greatly enhance the beauty of the church.

In the front of the Nave the motif of the design represents the words of Christ "I am the vine, ye are the branches." The central quatrefoil is made up of the first and last letters of the Greek Alphabet: A, O. These letters allude to the text of the first chapter of the Apocalypse" I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is and was and which is to come, the Almighty."

From this quatrefoil are arranged four large medallions. The two on either side of the central symbol going from left to right facing the altar are the Pelican (the symbol of redemption) and the Phoenix (the symbol of the resurrection). On the extreme left are Fishes (standing for baptism) and on the right is a Ship (a symbol of the church).

Between these are smaller symbols of each of the twelve apostles. There are also symbols of Moses (Tables of the Law) and David (The Harp) as well as St. Stephen (Palms) and St. Paul (Sword and Book).

On the center aisle floor are four large symbols. The first, going from the front to back of the Church is the Corporate Arms of St. Peter's Church – see illustration above. This is followed by a Crown which stands for good works, then an Anchor depicting hope, a Lamp representing good works, and last is the elaborate Memorial to Joseph Tillinghast and his son Wilbur.

The side aisles contain animals around a Tree of Life. These animals include: Doves, which represent purity, Lions, representing strength and fortitude, a Peacock which represents immortality, Stags representing faithful Christians, and finally Lambs representing Christians.

During Reverend Bruner's era, Paris Northrup, Dr. Bruner's Secretary conceived the idea of making the mosaic symbols into banners. When this project was complete there were banners depicting various mosaic floor symbols including: rampant Lions, an Anchor, a Ship, a Pelican, a Phoenix, a pair of Doves, a Peacock, a circle of Fish, and a pair of Stags. There were also two banners at the back depicting the American Eagle. All these banners were hung above the east aisle of the church.

The installation of the mosaic floor of the Chancel took place earlier than that of the Nave, occurring at the time of the remodeling of the Chancel of the third edifice of the Church (1885). This floor consists of wavy lines depicting the laver of baptism, after the designs of Robert Gibson. It was a gift of Robert C. Pruyn and is dated April 12, 1886.

Going above the Chancel to the Sanctuary floor are symbols for the four gospels of the New Testament: the gospel of Matthew, symbolized by a Human or Angel, the gospel of Mark, symbolized by a Lion, the gospel of Luke, symbolized by an Ox, and the gospel of John, symbolized by an Eagle. Between the second and third symbols is a depiction of the Greek letters I H S which stands for Jesus Saviour of Men.

The Sanctuary floor contains a plaque with the following inscription:

"The pavement of this Sanctuary was given in loving and sacred memory of Orlando Meads. Twenty seven years Vestryman and eight years Warden of this Parish. Died February 11 A.D. 1884."

The same animal symbolism of the Sanctuary was later depicted in the set of stained glass windows of the Old Choir Room. They were designed by the Chapman Stained Glass Studio of Albany, NY.

**MINUTES FOR THE VESTRY MEETING
ST. PETER'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
May 9, 2017**

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

Absent: M. Lundberg

1. Approval of the Minutes of Vestry Meeting, April 11, 2017

The April 11, 2017 minutes were approved on a motion by M. Holden and seconded by E. Stafford. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

2. Senior Warden Report - J. Chenot

Jim started off with his report by thanking the clergy, choir and parishioner's collectively as we all celebrated two wonderful well attended Easter services last month. He also wanted to mention that we must all be reminded the Easter season does not end on Easter Sunday but continues as the church calendars appoints each year up to Ascension Thursday. He mentioned this as to the importance of attendance which seems to begin to fall off after Easter Sunday. It is heartwarming to see so many who celebrate Easter Sunday and would like to encourage those that we only see a few times a year to make an effort invite them to come more often to worship with us and get acquainted with some of the newer members at St. Peter's.

This past Sunday, May 7th we had our Choir awards and Sunday school recognition day celebration. Normally we would hold this celebration in June, but Father Hartt will be taking some time off during June and wanted to be sure he was present to celebrate with all of us the accomplishments and milestones that have been made during the year with both the choir and Sunday school. Many thanks to Neil Keen and the choir for all the incredible music they have performed during this past year. We also wish them well as they rehearse regularly preparing to perform abroad this summer in England. As a funding event for the choir trip, Maria Holden has organized an Art and Vintage sale on Friday and Saturday, May 19-20th and we would like to thank her for all her time putting this great event together. The choir will also perform a choral evening song on Ascension Day, Thursday May 25th at 7:30 PM.

This coming Sunday, Mother's Day the Sunday school children with Laura Saffares and Sunday school teachers will be arranging small potted flowers to hand out after the 10:30 service. Again, many thanks to all who work in the Sunday school as well as those in the nursery during the church calendar year.

Looking ahead, the Albany Diocese Convention is coming up in the beginning of June. We would like to thank Carly Crewell, Alice Sanigular and Kevin Cehowski for representing St. Peter's as our delegates this year.

3. Finance - G. Scala

George S. reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the month of April. Total offerings for April were \$35,798. This compares to a budgeted number of \$22,804. YTD offerings are at \$89,352. YTD through the same period in 2016 were \$74,846.

The investment/endowment accounts both showed gains for the month. For April Merrill Lynch was up +1.04% and Key was up +1.21%. YTD the Merrill Lynch shows a positive return of 5.57% and the Key accounts show a 6.46% return. This leaves us with a positive budget variance in this area YTD of \$207.877. Both accounts performed favorably versus market indexes. Expenses YTD through April are \$22,568 over budget. YTD we show a gain of \$121,861, primarily as a result of performance of the investment accounts.

Pledges are currently at 53 pledging units for a total amount of \$142,746.

**4. Property - Bell Tower Complete, The contractors are great and have a passion for working on churches
- Work In Progress at Rectory**

5. Outreach - Mother Sue

We have Price Chopper gift certificates to help those stopping by the church looking for assistance.

Friends of St. Peter's, our new fellowship group, meets from 1:00-3:00 Tuesday afternoons in the Pumpelly Room. They will meet through June and then break for the summer.

The Hats Off to England Tea on April 23, 2017 was a huge success, raising \$387 for the Choir trip to Chichester England this summer. Thank you Judy Burns, Christy Fish (and team) for coordinating the tea.

Albany CROP Walk was Sunday May 7, 2017. Thank you Tim Murphy for coordinating our participation and all the walkers and those who donated! We will report total donations next month.

I attended the Hearts of Hope program with the Capital City Rescue Mission, also providing the Invocation, and celebrating the 15 years of women's ministry, of which our Overflow Homeless Shelter supported this past winter. They are very grateful to St. Peter's provision of space and hospitality for the winter women's shelter and they continue to do amazing ministry helping transform women and children's lives.

Outreach voted to donate (3) scholarships for Beaver Cross summer camp this year, totaling \$1,470.00.

Food for the Poor will visit St. Peter's Church on Sunday July 2nd and will preach and present on their ministry.

Mission Trip opportunities were also discussed as many local churches plan them and perhaps one or two of us could join one in the future.

6. Old Business -None

7. New Business -None

8. Associate Rector's Report - Mother Sue

We have an excellent Lenten Program on Sunday April 2, 2017 after service, co-led by Fr. Hartt and I, with a dozen participating. Thank you, Daughters of the King, for providing our luncheon items.

Holy Week and Easter were moving and meaningful services at St. Peter's and I want to thank all those who came to the liturgy and also those who served in various capacities. We had a full church on Easter Sunday which is always wonderful. Perhaps we saw a person there who hasn't been back? If so, we could reach out to tell them how nice it was to worship with them, and encourage them to come back again soon.

Completed Bible Studies: Read the Bible in 90 Days was my first online Bible Study offered and had 12 participants who read the entire Holy Bible from January 1st through March 31st. It was a ambitious yet fruitful exercise. I welcome thoughts on future online Bible studies from Vestry and members of our church. During Lent, the women's Bible study read and reflected on Hearts of Fire, stories of 8 women who were persecuted for their Christian faith. It was difficult material to grapple with and yet relevant to the crises occurring throughout the world as Christians continue to suffer under persecution.

In May and June, the Women's Bible study focused on 1st and 2nd Thessalonians and is complimented by a video series by Beth Moore. We have 4 women participating thus far.

On Wednesdays during May, a group is studying the Acts of the Apostles, co-led by Fr. Hartt and myself. The participants greatly enjoyed our first session last week which gave an overview of the Book of Acts. We are reading one chapter daily and reflecting on them once weekly. Please join us!

Christian Education Survey: The survey was included in two week's leaflets and also the April newsletter. Unfortunately, we only received (3) surveys back so we did not get ample feedback from them to help guide our Christian Education offerings. Suggestions are welcomed!

DOK: We have (3) new Daughters who will be installed as Members on Sunday May 21st during the 10:30am service. We are excited to see our Chapter grow and add additional intercessory prayers in our midst.

Healing Prayers: We have been offering Healing Prayers on the 1st Sunday of the month during Holy Communion. Each time, we have had multiple people come for prayers and we are blessed by the movement of the Holy Spirit among us!

Diocesan Convention: I will be offering a workshop/teaching on "The Call to Forgive" during Convention weekend. Additionally, I am running for election as Provisional Deputy to General Convention. I bid your payers for both. Tonight is the pre-convention meeting at 7:00pm at The Cathedral of All Saints.

9. Sunday Attendance

The average Sunday attendance is currently 143.7

10. Rectors Report - Father Hartt

Father Hartt spoke of the upcoming Confirmations at the Cathedral of All Saints. The parish has 5 teens and two adults to be Confirmed this Saturday. Our Confirmands are: Mae Healy, Matthew Clark, McKenzie Murphy, Hannah Grill, Caitlin Connors, Matthew Clark, Holli Frazier, and George Saide. Confirmation instruction was separate for the teens and adults. Both worked hard on their instruction, including memorizing the 10 Commandments, Apostles' Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. The Confirmands also each wrote letters to Bishop Love about their recent growth in Christ.

Our beloved Pat Shortall has announced his retirement as of July 1, 2017. Words fail to describe the blessing Pat Shortall has been to this parish over 35 years. Pat is a man of great faith, calm strength, and genuine love for us. The good news is that Pat will remain on the property for certain tasks and work a light schedule, including most Sunday mornings. We wish Pat the joyful retirement that he richly deserves and give thanks to God for him.

Our Easter Services were well attended. The Choir's performance of the St. Matthew's Passion on Good Friday was powerful and well attended. Easter Season thus far has had good attendance and a reverent joy. Choir and Sunday School Awards went well this past Sunday.

Bishop Ball's funeral was held on May 13th. The Diocese came out in huge numbers to give thanks for his faithful ministry and to commend Bishop Ball to the Lord. Bishop Ball served the Diocese in a critical time for our Nation and the life of The Episcopal Church. Bishop Ball's ministry yielded much fruit then and also in "retirement" to the glory of God. Deacon Justine Guernsey preached a moving sermon and the liturgy was glorious. Our prayers are with the Bishop's family.

Plans for the Choir trip are well underway. Father Hartt thanked Maria Holden for her many labors in putting the trip together and for the upcoming Art and Vintage Sale fundraiser. Many items have been donated already. Father Hartt also thanked Judy Burns and Christy Fish for the work on the Spring Tea, which require much baking and setting up. The Tea was also a Choir fundraiser. Earlier, Judy and Janet Chenot had worked on the Soup Sampler which raised funds for the Homeless Action Committee.

Father Hartt and Father Bradley had a joint baptism of Chelsea Ann Pautler on Saturday. The parish then recognized the baptism at Sunday worship through the liturgy of "Thanksgiving for the Birth of A Child."

The Daughters of the King have had a significant year of growth. We look forward to the initiation of Michelle Lundberg, Kate Marley, and Karen Chatman to the Julia Chapter on May 21.

The Clergy have begun a seven week Bible Study on Acts. The first class was an overview of Acts and the participants will be reading 7 chapters each week in preparation. Our survey of the parish with respect to Christian education yielded few responses. The overall movement seems to be toward the addition of a Sunday Bible Study. This study would replace the Wednesday Bible Study. However, the study on Acts will continue on Wednesday until its completion.

Our Assistant Sexton Shawn VanNess has given notice. Shawn has found new work that better meets the needs of his family. We thank Shawn for his time with us.

Tonight is also the Pre-Convention Meeting at the Cathedral. Mtr. Sue and the Delegates will be attending at 7PM.

John Iseman, the Diocesan Youth Director, was scheduled to attend St. Peter's on April 30th to give a presentation on youth ministry in the Diocese. In particular, he was to do a presentation on SURGE for teens. John needed to cancel and the event will be rescheduled for the fall. Beaver Cross Camp materials are available in the rear of the church.

Father Hartt will be on vacation in June. Food for the Poor will be speaking at the Parish on his return. Father Hartt's father will be taking services over Convention weekend in order to allow Mtr. Sue and the Delegates to complete the weekend.

11. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by C. Gordon and seconded by E. Stafford, then was passed unanimously by the vestry.

12. Compline

Father Hartt led Compline.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kevin M. Cehowski

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Paul J. Hartt.....Rector
The Rev. Susan Waldron.....Associate Rector
Neil K. Keen, F.A.G.O.....Organist & Choirmaster
Laura Rulison.....Director of Christian Education
James P. Shortall.....Sexton
Ian Mike.....Assistant Sexton
Kristin Brodowski.....Administrative Assistant
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, Christie Gordon, Maria Holden,
Stephanie Lencewicz, Mark Lundberg, Tim Murphy, Earl Stafford

How to Contact Us

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Services

Sunday

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

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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Albany, New York 12207

