



THE Cornerstone

January 2019

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

New Year's Dreaming

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way." (Matthew 2: 10-12.)



Epiphany is always popular with Episcopalians. There are many reasons. It is quite a visual celebration. The image of three mysterious Wise Men is powerful. Then there are the gifts in the treasure chests. We sense intuitively that each gift has a hidden theological meaning. Indeed, each does. "We Three Kings of Orient Are" potently discloses their meaning over three verses. The hymn "Earth Has Many a Noble City" does so more succinctly: "Sacred gifts of mystic meaning; incense doth their God disclose, gold the King of kings proclaimeth, myrrh his sepulcher fore-shows." (Hymn 127, Verse 4.)

Of course, there is the Star. The Star leads the Wise Men on. It captivates our imagination as well. I recall as a youngster thinking a lot about that Star. The idea of traveling by a compass star and the precision of its location over the stable intrigued me. It would not be until much later that I would know the Star did not lead to the stable, but rather to the holy family's house in Bethlehem. Still, the wonder holds. At St. Peter's, we usually observe Epiphany with Evensong. The dark of the church that night and the scent of the still hanging evergreens infuse more memories. The sensory lushness of Epiphany is such a great gift.

I pray that you are catching your breath after the Christmas rush. Christmas runs on a lot of adrenaline. Most of us have hosted parties and cooked many meals. We have worked through the intricacies of our family dynamics. The accompanying shopping frenzy has depleted our spirits and not just our bank accounts. It's a lot. A crash is inevitable. How wonderful to land in the Star-lit, still landscape of Epiphany. Epiphany says, "Come into the still night to see the true Light." Epiphany focuses the mind. It focuses the soul.

We do it every year, all this Christmas running about. But adrenaline only goes so far. Epiphany comes to the rescue. It turns off the lights and hangs a Star.

Blessed Epiphany,

Fr. Hartt+

Annual Meeting: January 27th is St. Peter's Annual meeting,
with two worship services at 8:30am and 10:30am, and the meeting following the 10:30 service.

Annual Meeting

Dear Parishioners,

After much prayer and reflection, the Vestry has nominated the following parish members to serve on Vestry:

- ♦ Jim Chenot will be running for his 1st two-year term as Jr. Warden.
- ♦ Nancy Creagan will be running for her 2nd three-year term on the vestry. She is running to fill her present seat.
- ♦ Mark Lundberg will be running for his 1st three-year term to fill the seat formerly held by Maria Holden.
- ♦ Jeff Russom will be running for his 1st three-year term to fill the seat formerly held by Kevin Cehowski.

Other nominations must be submitted to the office in writing by Wednesday, January 23rd, 2019, in order to appear on the ballot.

From time to time, we are asked about how one qualifies as a parish member and thus able to vote. The qualification of voters is by Canon and law determined by the rector, if there be one. The relevant language is as follows: *"Persons of full age belonging to the parish, who have been baptized and are regular attendants at its worship and contributors to its support for at least twelve months prior to such election or special meeting or since the establishment of such parish, shall be qualified voters at any such election or special meeting. ..."* RCL Section 43, 6. Thank you for your faithfulness to St. Peter's and may God Bless you in 2019.

God Bless,
Father Hartt
Deborah Spath

O God, from whom all good proceeds: Grant that by your inspiration we may think those things that are right, and by your merciful guiding may do them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (BCP, 229.)



Daughters of the King - Julia Chapter

The next DOK meeting will be held on Sunday, January 13th,
at 11:45am in the vestry room.



BLESSING DONATION BAGS



Daughters of the King Discernment

For members of the DOK, discernment is the starting point for joining an international organization of women who are committed to prayer, service and evangelism. If you have an interest in joining the Saint Peter's Chapter of the DOK, Discernment Classes will begin after the new year! They are an opportunity to reflect on your faith, to learn about the DOK and its mission, and to decide if the DOK is right for you.

Discernment: 1. the ability to judge well. 2. (in Christian contexts) perception in the absence of judgment with a view to obtaining spiritual direction and understanding.

Other Happenings

2019 Annual Parish Leadership Conference

This year's Parish Leadership Conference will be held on Saturday, January 26th, 2019 at Christ the King Spiritual Life Center, Greenwich, NY.

St. Peter's Overflow Women's Shelter



Could you consider giving up one evening this winter to offer the gift of hospitality and show another the love and mercy of God?

The St. Peter's Overflow Homeless Shelter 107 State Street Albany, NY, opened for its 10th season on December 3rd to augment the ministry of the Capital City Rescue Mission to Albany's homeless. This year, women are housed each evening. St. Peter's is currently receiving donations of food items and financial support and are also scheduling volunteers (women volunteers only) to offer hospitality during the evening hours of 7:00pm until 11:00pm. Volunteer training will be provided. To sign up to volunteer please contact Mary Malone, the Director of the Women's Emergency Winter Shelter at (518)527-5025 or email her at mmmalone2017@gmail.com. You may also visit the Capital City Rescue Mission website at:

<https://www.capitalcityrescuemission.org/>

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.

Outreach Meeting

The next Outreach meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 8th at 4:30pm.



*Join Dr. Brian Fast for a discussion on
Independence & Addiction*

vs

Intimacy & Worship

Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019 | 9:00 a.m. - Noon

To register please visit

https://s3.amazonaws.com/mychurchwebsite/c3738/sf_02-19_registration_form.pdf

Vestry Meeting

The next Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 8th at 5:15pm.

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 518 434-3502.



4th Annual CtK Women's Retreat

Friday and Saturday, February 22nd & 23rd, 2019

This retreat tends to sell out. We recommend you register early. That will also enable you to take advantage of the...

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL (Until 1-31-19)

To register, go to

https://s3.amazonaws.com/mychurchwebsite/c3738/arise_registration_form.pdf

Youth Formation & Sunday School

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

Saturday, January 19th ~ 11AM to 1PM

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



Sunday School Pageant



SonShine

When: Feb 15-18, 2019

Drop-Off: Friday 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Pick-Up: Monday 2:30 p.m.

(drop off and pick up both from St. Mary's Lodge)

Who: Jr. SonShine: 3rd - 7th Grade

Sr. SonShine: 8th - 12th Grade

Price: \$190/ camper

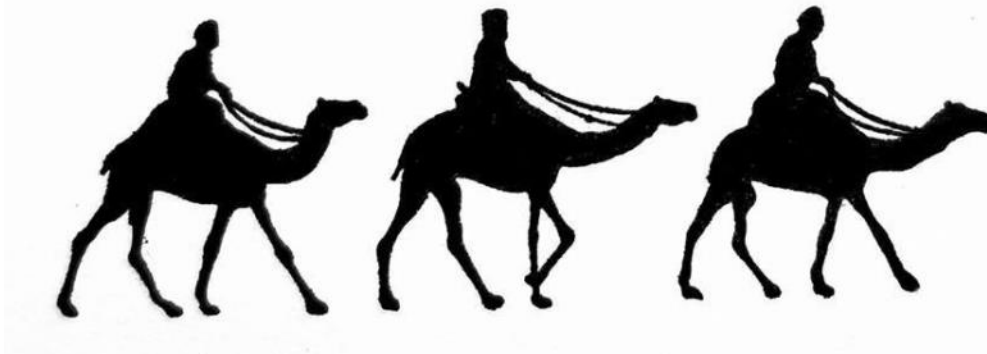
For more information or to register,
call 518-692-9550, ext.114 or visit
<https://www.Beavercrossministries.org/retreat-registration.html>



**Includes field trip to
Willard Mountain for Tubing!**

The Epiphany of Our Lord

JANUARY 6th: THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST




The name “Epiphany” is derived from a Greek word meaning “manifestation” or “appearing.” Anglican Prayer Books interpret the word with an alternative title, “The Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles.” The last phrase, of course, is a reference to the story of the Magi from the East. A Christian observance on January 6 is found as early as the end of the second century in Egypt. The feast combined commemorations of three events that were considered manifestations of the Incarnate Lord: the visit of the Magi, led by the star of Bethlehem; the Baptism of Jesus in the waters of the Jordan River; and Jesus’ first recorded miracle, the changing of water into wine at the wedding of Cana. Epiphany is still the primary Feast of the Incarnation in Eastern churches, and the three-fold emphasis is still prominent. In the West, however, including Anglican churches, the story of the Magi has tended to overshadow the other two events. Modern lectionary reform, reflected in the 1979 Prayer Book, has recovered the primitive trilogy by setting the event of the Baptism as the theme of the First Sunday after the Epiphany in all three years, and by providing the story of the Miracle at Cana as the Gospel for the Second Sunday after the Epiphany in Year C.

It is a practice in some communities to bless chalk on Epiphany so that people may use it to bless their homes. Traditionally, the chalking is done above the lintel and takes this form: 20+C+M+B+18 - The letters are the abbreviation for the Latin phrase “Christus mansionem benedicat” - “Christ bless this house” (A second meaning and mnemonic device is “Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar”, the traditional names for the Magi). The + signs represent the cross, and 20-18 is the year. The following prayer is traditionally used for the blessing of chalk: Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant through the invocation of your 56 most Holy Name that we who use it in faith to write upon the door of our home the names of your holy ones Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit our home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

JANUARY 6: THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST O God, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only begotten Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know thee now by faith, to thy presence, where we may behold thy glory face to face; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. Amen

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		1 The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ Office Closed	2 No Top of the 12:05pm - Holy
6 The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ Healing Prayers 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion	7 5:00pm - Treble Make-up Rehearsal	8 4:30pm - Outreach Meeting 5:15pm - Vestry Meeting	9 8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Holy
13 First Sunday after the Epiphany The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer	14 5:00pm - Treble Make-up Rehearsal	15	16 8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Holy
20 Second Sunday after the Epiphany Confession of St. Peter the Apostle (Observed) 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion	21 Martin Luther King Day Office Closed No Treble Make-up Rehearsal	22	23 8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Holy
27 Third Sunday after the Epiphany Youth Sunday 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer 12:00pm - Annual Meeting	28 5:00pm - Treble Make-up Rehearsal	29	30 8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Holy

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>of the Hill ly Communion</p>	<p>3</p> <p>No Choir Rehearsals</p>	<p>4</p> <p>12:30pm - Organ Concert</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>p of the Hill ly Communion</p>	<p>10</p> <p>5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir</p>	<p>11</p> <p>12:30pm - Organ Concert</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>p of the Hill ly Communion</p>	<p>17</p> <p>5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir</p>	<p>18</p> <p>12:30pm - No Organ Concert</p>	<p>19</p> <p>11:00am - Angels in Training</p>
<p>p of the Hill ly Communion</p>	<p>24</p> <p>5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle</p> <p>12:30pm - Organ Concert</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8:30am - 4:30pm - Parish Leadership Conference (at Christ the King Spiritual Life Center)</p>
<p>p of the Hill ly Communion</p>	<p>31</p> <p>5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir</p>		 <p>Wish you and your family a joyful, bright, healthy, prosperous and happiest new year ahead. !!</p> <p><i>Happy New Year!</i></p>

St. Peters Music

FRIDAY NOONTIME ORGAN CONCERTS

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

We want to thank Neil Keen and our marvelous St. Peter's Choir for bringing such joy through music during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Their dedication to their art and to the people of St. Peter's is something we shouldn't take for granted. Blessings on each of you!

CHOIR

Choir rehearsals are on the following schedule:

Mondays: 5:00pm - 6:15pm Treble Make-up Rehearsal

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

5:30pm - 7:00pm Adult choristers

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

Please contact Neil Keen for more information at (518)339-0137 or stpmus@gmail.com.



Composer of the Month



Harold Edwin Darke (1888 – 1976) was an English composer and organist. He had a long association with the church of St Michael, Cornhill, in the City of London.

He became organist at St Michael Cornhill in 1916, and stayed there until 1966, leaving only briefly in 1941 to deputise for Boris Ord as Director of Music at King's College, Cambridge during World War II.

His famous setting of Christina Rossetti's *In the Bleak Midwinter* is often sung at the service of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge, and at similar services around the world. *In the Bleak Midwinter* was voted the greatest Christmas carol of all time in a poll of choral experts and choirmasters that was published on 7 December 2008. We sing it most Christmases here at St. Peter's.

Most of his other compositions that are still performed are settings of the Anglican liturgy, especially his three Communion Services in E minor, F, and A minor, all in our choral library; and his Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in F.

Darke's work as Conductor of St Michael's Singers was crowned in 1956 on the occasion of the Choir's 40th Anniversary with the first performance of a number of now well-established works composed especially for the occasion - notably "Hierusalem" by George Dyson and "A Vision of Aeroplanes" by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

From the Archives

Celebrating Advent and Christmas



Advent represents the beginning of the new church year. It starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. It is a time of penitence and penance and anticipation leading up to the birth of Jesus. One of the ways the church celebrates Advent is with the Advent Wreath. In this wreath are five candles. The colors of the Advent Candles have specific meanings as shown below:

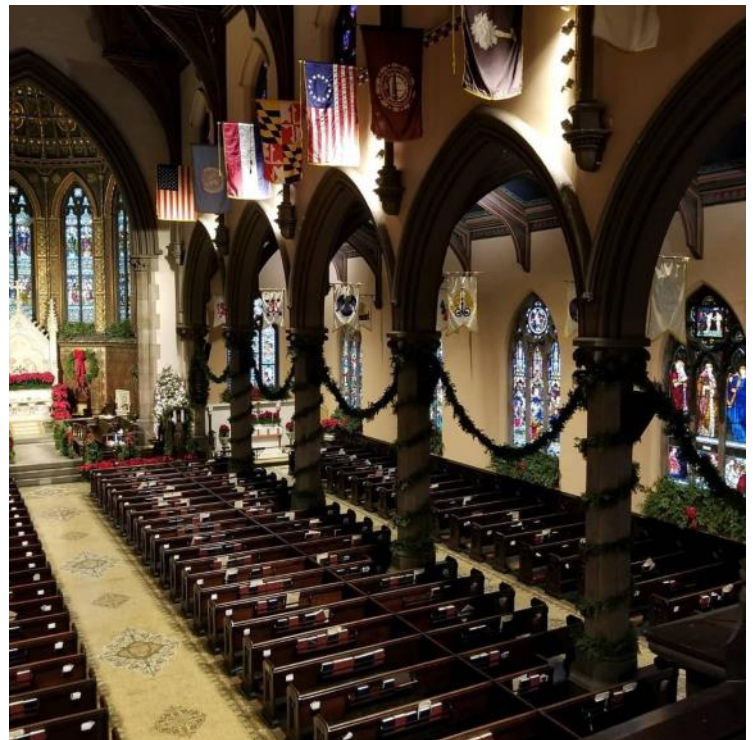
Purple: These candles symbolize penitence and penance for sin. As the color of royalty, purple also symbolizes the birth the new King and serves a reminder of his suffering.

Pink: The pink candle is most often lit on the third or fourth week of Advent. It represents rejoicing, as people end their penitence and prepare to celebrate.

White: The white candle represents Christ, and the peace he brings.

Throughout Advent the altar is decorated in greenery. There are no flowers. At Christmas this greenery is replaced with bright red poinsettias which are placed on and around the altar. They are also put on St. Mark's Altar. On the War Chapel altar in the Narthex, a Christmas Creche is displayed. Another Christmas Creche is placed on a table in the front of the church to be utilized in the children's Christmas Eve service.

In the Nave balsam is used to decorate the base of the windows and a balsam rope is wound around each of the pillars. Christmas trees with white lights are placed in both the Tibbits Pulpit and the MacDonald Lectern. The Sanctuary walls are decorated with wreathes with red bows. To add to the festivity the Queen Ann silver is brought out and placed on the altar for the Christmas Eve service.



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

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

Absent: S. Lencewicz

Opening Prayer Led by Father Paul Hartt

Approval of the Minutes of Vestry Meeting, October 10th, 2018.

The October 10th, 2018 minutes were approved on a motion by T. Murphy and seconded by J. Chenot. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

Warden Report –D. Spath

October was somewhat a tranquil month in regards to parish activities outside of our regular Sunday worship services. All the energy was built up to this month, November beginning with hosting our annual Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner this past Saturday, November 10th. The dinner has become an annual tradition for some years now and again we had a tremendous turnout with many parishioners and guests attending.

Many thanks to everyone who was involved in preparing all the side dishes for the Thanksgiving feast as well as those who cooked all the turkeys beforehand at their homes. It was a great evening for all with great food and hospitality for all to enjoy.

In October, Father Hartt and Jim Chenot met with Perry Jones and David Poach from the Albany City Rescue Mission in regards to this year's overflow shelter which we host each year starting December 1st. This year will be our 10th year hosting women less fortunate that will be taking shelter at St. Peter's and we should all be so proud, yet humbled to be able to minister this important outreach mission to the community at large. Tomorrow evening we will have our first orientation at 6:00 and an additional one this coming Saturday at 10:00 for those interested in volunteering some time, welcoming the women each night as well as preparing light snacks for them as they come in each evening.

A stewardship letter will be sent out this week to the congregation from our treasurer George Scala. This again is a tremendous letter thoughtfully composed by George explaining the importance of stewardship as well as digging deeper explaining how our budget is so heavily reliant on the investment from our endowment. Pledge cards will also be sent out with the letter. We pray that everyone takes a moment to read the letter and look into their hearts when they pledge keeping in mind how much St. Peter's means to them and their family.

Again this year we will be helping at Equinox on Thanksgiving Day morning at 9:00 AM preparing Thanksgiving Dinners. We want to thank all the volunteers, and also Laura Rulison for heading up this outreach we do each year. Also, we would like to thank the Sunday School Children who baked pumpkin breads this past Sunday for the congregation which will be blessed and given out this Sunday for Thanksgiving.

Looking ahead as mentioned December 1st we will be opening our doors again to the homeless overflow shelter for its 10th year giving shelter to women who are in dire need of shelter during the cold winter nights. Many thanks to our outreach committee who have been working the city mission ensuring this program will succeed as it has in past years. We would like to thank those who have donated food as well as financial donations in the past and hope that many will continue to support this very important outreach mission.

Christmas Season is near and our choir will start the season off performing the Handel's Messiah on Sunday December 2nd at 3:00. Many thanks to our choir director, Neil Keen for all the musical talent he brings to all of us as well as the entire choir for their commitment and talents they bring to all the upcoming musical events that will be performed in the next few weeks. On Sunday, December 9th, the Sunday school will be performing their annual Christmas Pageant. Again, I would like to thank Laura Rulison and the entire Sunday school staff for their commitment to our younger upcoming generation as well as those who help in the nursery.

Lessons and Carols will be performed by our choir the following Sunday, December 16th at the 10:30 service followed by our annual Hanging of the Greens at 12:00, including the luncheon served during the event. We hope that everyone will be able to attend this traditional event which brings the congregation together in fellowship and beatifying the church for Christmas Eve.

Please keep the clergy and office personnel in your thoughts and prayers as we move into this busy season as everything moves into high gear. I am looking forward to all the upcoming events as well as the Christmas Eve services and Christmas Day.

Have a safe and thankful Thanksgiving. ~ Jim

Sunday Attendance – The Average Sunday Attendance is 111.8

Rector's Report - Father Hartt

Father Hartt said that he would speak to Bishop Love's "Pastoral Letter and Directive" under New Business. The clergy were directed to read the letter this past Sunday. It was eight pages in length and took about 30 minutes. Given the significance of the letter and rapidly evolving reaction from the broader Church, Fr. Hartt wished to discuss the letter separately under executive session. Father Hartt has made himself available to those who were grieved and hurt by the Letter as well as those who consider the Letter generally reflective of their views. It is a very difficult time for the parish. Our first calling is to minister to one another in love and understanding.

Father Hartt was delighted by the turnout for the Pre-Thanksgiving Thanksgiving Dinner. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and the food was excellent. Fr. Hartt thanked all those who made a turkey or brought a side dish. We are grateful to the cleanup team. We thank Janice Chenot, Fred Hersey, and Christie Gordon for the lovely decorations. It was good to have this time together before a tough Sunday.

Fred Hersey offered an encouraging update on the restoration project at the Pre-Thanksgiving Thanksgiving Dinner. We have reached and exceeded the funds needed for phase one of the interior restoration. The painting is being done as we speak. There is also a donation for the second phase of the stonework. This donation will be used to clean the pulpit stone. We can already see how the paint is bringing out colors in the church. As the stonework is done, we will see the wisdom of the original paint color even more.

Pat Shortall attended the dinner. It was a great encouragement to the parish to see him doing so well after his heart surgery. Fr. Hartt spoke to the great support the parish has shown to Pat in this time of convalescence. Mtr. Sue has organized meals to be brought to Pat by church members.

The list of those participating is substantial. St. Peter's loves Pat dearly. Fr. Hartt is proud of the church's response and care.

Fr. Hartt commended George Scala for his fine stewardship letter. We will have it out to the parish shortly.

On All Saints' Sunday, Silas Madison and Michael Barnes had their First Holy Communion. The parish rejoiced with the families in this important step by little Michael and Silas. We all felt profoundly the gift of our Lord's Body and Blood and how we are bound to Him and one another in the Sacrament of the Altar.

Our Shelter starts up on December 1st. We will again be sheltering women. The Daughters of the King are putting together "blessing Bags" for the women. Christmas gifts will also be given by Siena College students. Our other Christmas outreach will be gifts to the Burmese refugee families.

Coordination with the St. Francis Center has begun for this important ministry.

The choir's performance of the Messiah will be on December 2nd. Plans are underway for the Messiah party at the Rectory. The party is a "thank you" to the Choir for their hard work. Advent is upon us! We will continue our tradition of lighting the Advent Wreath in church and encouraging home devotions as well.

Thanksgiving Eve Service will be November 21st. Mother Waldron will be taking the service. Fr. Hartt will be heading off with Jeffrey to see his family.

Alpha is going well. It is clear that we have found a fine program for evangelism in the Alpha presentations.

Fr. Hartt wished us a joyful Thanksgiving and safe travel.

Finance – G. Scala - Treasurer's Report

George reviewed the Treasurer's Report for October. Offerings for October were \$16,390. YTD offerings through October were \$163,911. This compares to a budgeted number of \$231,083. YTD Offerings through the same period in 2017 were \$184,793.

The investment/endowment accounts both showed significant losses during October. Merrill Lynch had a return of -6.29% for the month and is at a -0.44% return YTD. The Key accounts showed a monthly return of -5.86% and is at -2.01% YTD. This leaves us with a negative variance in this area YTD of (\$192,469). Both accounts performed favorably versus market indexes. Expenses YTD through October were \$8,820 under budget.

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

Givings and pledges for the restoration project are very positive and continue to come in. There was additional discussion concerning the budget which was approved at this meeting. Also, discussion concerning stewardship occurred including other methods of contributing by parishioners such as the Venmo app.

Property –

A leak in the roof was discovered in the back of the church by the side door. J. Chenot has someone coming to assess both this leak and the one in the archives tomorrow. J. Chenot also reported that he is working on gaining us Sunday access to another parking lot on the other side of State Street. This will hopefully help ease the tough parking situation we find ourselves in on Sunday mornings.

Outreach – Mother Sue

The pre-Thanksgiving Thanksgiving Dinner was a phenomenal success thanks to the efforts of Janice Chenot and others who decorated, cooked and cleaned up. This has become an important time for our parish family to gather together in Thanks for our blessings as well as cement old friendships while welcoming new individuals among us.

Food pantry items are currently being collected to grace our Altars for Thanksgiving services. All donated items will be donated to St. Mary's food pantry afterwards. The parish is also invited to donate applesauce to support the Equinox Thanksgiving dinners; which we will be working Thanksgiving morning from 7am-9am – please join us!

December 1st our Overflow Homeless Shelter opens for its 10th year, this year housing up to ten women nightly through March. Training session have been scheduled for 11/14/18 at 7:00pm and 11/17/18 at 10:00am. We have announced all of this on the Diocesan Update as well. We thank the Franciscan Center of Siena College for providing Christmas gifts for the women of the Overflow Shelter.

St. Peter's Church is assembling Blessing Bags for the women of the shelter (organized by the Daughters of the King). We welcome donations of personal care items through December 9, 2018 when the Bags will be assembled.

Once again, St. Peter's will be providing Christmas gifts for Burmese Refugee families that attend St. Francis Mission (part of our Albany Diocese). The list of gift items requested will be made available shortly to the parish, with the request that the wrapped item be returned by Sunday 12/16/18.

Old Business - None

New Business

The budget for 2019 was reviewed by the vestry and it was passed on a motion by J. Chenot and seconded by M. Holden. The budget was unanimously approved by the vestry.

The Parish Choice Elections for 2019 were discussed. This deals with how much of our operating revenue is allocated back to the Episcopal Church. A decision on these allocations will be made at the next vestry meeting.

Bishop Love's Pastoral Letter was discussed as well as letters in response to the Pastoral Letter from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and the President of the House of Deputies Rev. Gay Clark Jennings.

Associate Rector's Report – Mother Sue

I attended the Diocese of Down and Dromore (Northern Ireland) Clergy Conference in October, thus missing last month's Vestry meeting. I was most appreciative of this opportunity. At the conference, we heard both encouragement and challenge from (8) different speakers: Canon Dr. Christina Baxter (Chair of the House of Laity Church of England); Fr. Mark Ephrem, Prior of the Benedictine Monastery of the Holy Cross in Rostrevor Ireland; The Rt. Rev. Ken Good, Bishop of Derry, Ireland; The Rt. Rev. William Love Bishop of Albany; Mr. Peter Lynas, team lead at Evangelical Alliance NI; The Rev. Dr. Charles McMullen, current Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland; The Rev. Dr. Heather Morris, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland and Dr. Jasper Rutherford, European Director of Christ in Youth. Each of these individuals brought a unique message relative not only to the churches in Northern Ireland, but applicable to us as well. There were also wonderful worship opportunities, including Sunday services at Dromore Cathedral where I preached. There, I was hosted by the Dean and his wife, Geoff and Naomi Wilson and had many opportunities to take tea with the Irish! I thank Bishops Miller (Down and Dromore) and Love (Albany) along with Rev. Geoff and Naomi for providing me this opportunity and for their hospitality and care.

I also attended the EDOA priest's retreat (with Bishop Love and fellow priests) at the Spiritual Life Center Nov 7-10; a great time of renewal, refreshment and engagement with fellow clergy. Thank you for time away from parish duties for these retreats.

The Book and Bible Study on The Lord's Prayer is going very strong with 6 participants in class and a few others reading independently at home. We are studying Matthew 6:9-13, including word study from the Greek text of the Bible, and reading through *Abba* by Evelyn Underhill. Our final class will be November 27, 2018.

Daughters of the King continue to gather monthly on the 2nd Sunday of each month. We have been working through the DOK Spiritual Formation Bible study together, recently finishing chapter 5. As mentioned in the Outreach Report, the DOK will assemble the Blessing Bags for the women of our Overflow Homeless Shelter at our December 9th meeting (in lieu of our normal meeting). We invite others to come help us as you are able!

Confirmation Classes started on 11/11 with two youth present (and Donna Ohlman also in support of her grandsons).

I served Jury Duty in Schenectady County on 10/22-23 and have fulfilled that civic requirement.

Adjournment

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

Compline

Father Hartt led Compline.

Respectfully Submitted, Christie J. Gordon

Clergy & Staff

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

Vestry

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

How to Contact Us

Office Hours:

Monday -Friday

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

Telephone: 518-434-3502

Fax: 518-462-4419

E-Mail:

Receptionist@stpeterschurhalbany.org

Website:

www.stpeterschurhalbany.org

Services

Sunday

Holy Communion 8:30 a.m.

Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

(1st & 3rd Sundays)

Morning Prayer 10:30 a.m.

(2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Holy Communion 12:05 p.m.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

