



# THE Cornerstone

## February 2019

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

### 2018 Annual Reports

#### ST. PETER'S CHURCH RECTOR'S REPORT

*Then Nehemiah said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."*

As I reflect on this past year at St. Peter's, the words of Nehemiah today seem especially poignant. There is a core strength in which we are held and it is the joy of the Lord. Saint Peter's has always had an orientation towards joyfulness as a church. We like one another. We greatly enjoy fellowship with one another. We truly pray for one another. Most of all, as St. Paul teaches, we bear one another's burdens and rejoice together when any person among us is especially blessed. This joyfulness in the Lord speaks to the depth of connections, born of time and genuine spiritual investment. The joy itself is the gift of the Lord through the Holy Spirit; a gift from above to the Church. The reception of that gift is our life's blood.

I have found many causes for joy this past year. The weddings planned, a Choir that never ceases to amaze by its brilliance, seeing your acts of mutual care and sacrificial giving, my faithful colleague in Mtr. Waldron, our committed and prayerful vestry, two Wardens, Debbie Spath and Jim Chenot, who give heart and soul, a first-rate new office manager in Ruth Manss, Neil Keen's great talent and gentle wisdom, Pat Shortall's successful heart operation and the love that you showed him, the gift of Wayne Hill and Ian Mike's faithful watch, your frequent acts of charity, our many volunteers, especially Janice Chenot in the office, our devoted Altar Guild, LEMs, Ushers, and Archivist Connie Powell, all our Sunday School teachers and beloved children under Laura Rulison, and yet another glorious Christmas. The list of joys could continue *ad infinitum*.

One joy that has especially moved my heart this year is Alpha. Alpha is a series of DVD talks on the Christian faith. It comes from the Church of England and has a particularly gifted speaker in the Rev. Nicky Gumbel. Alpha could be described as what CS Lewis means by "Mere Christianity." Alpha is the "Mere Christianity" of our time. I have been particularly moved by the impact of Alpha on several of your fellow parishioners. They represent a diversity of ages and spiritual perspectives. They each believe Alpha will prove highly effective in both bringing new Christians to faith and deepening the faith of those who are already regular churchgoers. These fellow parishioners are each strongly committed to anchoring Alpha in our common life at St. Peter's. It is a powerful program that we can run afresh each year. If there is one programmatic initiative in which the parish might place hope of new growth, it is Alpha.

I hope that you can tell that I am excited about it. I invite you to sample an Alpha talk at our Annual Meeting today. Ashley Spath will also be giving a testimonial. Indeed, all the participants would gladly give such a witness. And this brings me to a point that I see as essential at this time in our life as a parish. We need to focus on bringing people to Christ in new ways. It goes without saying that doing so is the mission of the Church. But the fact is that many things can get in the way. We love our traditions here and there is no need to change them. But they do have a tendency to drain clergy and support staff time in a way that is all-consuming. We are in a time now in which Christian education and evangelism programs can not be seen as an add-on for the interested. They must become the very core of our mission. This emphasis is not about changing the things we do in fellowship or worship. Rather, it is about coming to terms honestly with the cultural context in which we live as Christians.

Once upon a time, we were a culturally Christian nation. We can argue whether that was a good or bad thing and at what depth it ever went, but what matters is that we see clearly that it is no longer so. What that means for our church and church growth is that we can no longer sideline basic Christian formation. In the ancient Church, it would have been called catechesis. We need tools for today to form, convert and deepen souls. No tool is perfect. Alpha isn't perfect. Your clergy aren't perfect. But we can take our poverty and ask God to bless it forward for His Kingdom. Jesus has promised that He will do so.

Wherever two or three are gathered in His Name, He is there and the Holy Spirit comes to those who ask the blessing.

So yes, I am bringing up the “e” word Episcopalians tremble before – evangelism. It is our calling and present urgency. The days of cultural Episcopalianism are over. There is hardly anything more obvious than that truth. Moreover, we are experiencing an increased influx of brand new Christians and those coming from other denominations who do not yet know our ways. Of course, we are also attending to our own deepening of conversion. Church should be ordered to the first order of business – the conversion of souls. Do not be surprised in the coming year if the “e” word comes up more than usual, as we will need all hands on deck. I'm reminded of something an African Bishop once shared. He said that their understanding of what it means to be ready for Confirmation is that the Confirmation candidate could lead another person to Christ. I know we can do evangelism in a way that is both Episcopalian and faithful. In many cases, this will involve inviting people to church and leading them to Alpha.

Saint Paul says to us today: *"Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ... Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."* (1 Cor. 12: 2, 27.) As I pondered the Epistle for today, it occurred to me that the emphasis on spiritual gifts for the common good often tends to place the accent on the individual. What I mean is that when Paul says, *"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good"* (1 Cor. 12: 4), there can be a tendency to focus not on the body but on the individual Christian. One of the strengths of St. Peter's is that it has a whole Body orientation. We love and serve one another as individuals, but there is an even greater love for the Body as a whole. We understand how we are in this together. We really do seek the common good.

This year that gift was put to the test. Yet we proved ourselves true to the Body by God's grace. The actions of General Convention and Bishop Love concerning same-sex marriage forced us to love across difference as a parish. We saw clearly that we needed to respect the consciences of one another as never before. As I write this Annual Report, Bishop Love has a ministry restriction from the Presiding Bishop and faces Title IV disciplinary possibilities. The restriction extends only to the area of oversight of matters concerning same-sex marriage in the diocese. None of us know what is next for Bishop Love or the Episcopal Church in this matter. But what we do know is that we responded well as the Body of Christ in this place. We decided to love one another even when we could not agree. Indeed, Christian love is more about mutual respect than mutual agreement. I am proud of how St. Peter's rose to the challenge.

One matter of interest for us this year is our Cathedral. Dean Harding has approached me about the Cathedral worshipping at St. Peter's over the summer. The Cathedral is having asbestos tiles removed from the sanctuary and must vacate. The details of their joining us are still in need of being worked out, but I know that our traditional hospitality will be generous and warm. It will also be fun to have a few more Episcopalians in our midst over the summer months. We will experience being one Body in a yet greater way.

Even as the Cathedral is about to commence their interior renovations, we are concluding phase one of our interior restorations. As we behold the beauty of the repairs and fresh paint, we give thanks that by the generosity of this parish, the work of this phase has been fully funded. Donations have been generous and widespread. I am especially proud of your willingness to undertake the responsibility of this important work while continuing to be mindful of St. Peter's routine stewardship needs. A special thanks goes to Fred Hersey for fundraising, Jim Chenot for supervision, George Scala and Janice Chenot for monitoring finances, and to Maria Holden for her diligent work to discover the original paint color and to supply us with an expert historical analysis. This work is done to the glory of God. We feel in our souls the blessing of renewal. Thank you each for your labors and gifts.

I want to end with another note of encouragement. Many years back, the Vestry became mindful that a new generation of leadership needed to be raised up for St. Peter's. The presence of Ashley Spath and Christie Gordon on Vestry has revealed the wisdom of a new generation. I am confident about St. Peter's future. Yes, it is true that these are challenging times. But this new generation has its own wisdom. We rejoice and can see how the Father's plan is always one of provision for the future.

I think of our Gospel for today. It is a young Jesus just beginning His ministry about which Luke writes:

“Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

*'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.'*

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." (Luke 4: 14-21.)

It is Jesus' Church and these young adults love their Lord. They share a special heart for the things of which Jesus speaks – Gospel imperatives each. We will be blessed to watch The Episcopal Church and Saint Peter's under the care of new leadership. It reminds me that one of the greatest strengths of Saint Peter's is the mutual affection across generations. We are in good hands going forward.

As the Gospel today reveals, grace, mercy, and love are the eternal heart of Christ. Our job is simply to make Him known now, to be bold in our faith, and to trust fully the God who loves us so. If we do so, 2019 could be the best year yet.

*“And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’”* (Rev. 21:5.)

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

## ST. PETER'S CHURCH ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S REPORT

2018 marked the tenth anniversary of my Ordination and also my tenth year serving the fine people at St. Peter's Church and the City of Albany. It has been quite a decade! Although we treasure our many annual traditions, I am also blessed by the unplanned and miraculous that God does among the many members and visitors he brings through our doors.

The most amazing part of ministry at St. Peter's are all the people I serve with. As you all know, Fr. Hartt is an amazing priest and has been a gracious mentor and colleague to me. I wouldn't be the priest I am today without his support and guidance. We are all blessed with the strongest administrative support possible through the efforts of Janice for many, many years along with Ruth who joined our staff this year, as well as Ian and Pat who keep all our practical needs met at the highest level. Laura and her team of teachers are amazing with our youngest members, and the lay leadership offering their talents in our choir, guilds, ushers, lectors, LEM's and Vestry are what makes our church so unique and special. I'd like to especially thank our wardens Deb Spath and Jim Chenot for their dedication to us all and the countless hours they give to care for our church's needs and all of us.

As you may know, teaching is always one of my favorite ministries here at St. Peter's. In 2018, I was able to offer a variety of courses. We studied two books by Evelyn Underhill. The first began the year with *Lent with Evelyn Underhill* followed in the Fall with *Abba: Meditations on the Lord's Prayer*. I also was blessed to join Fr. Hartt as he introduced the Alpha program to the parish. Watch in 2019 for more announcements about this exciting opportunity. We also were blessed to teach Confirmation classes to the teens which continues into the New Year. Supplementing these were retreats with the Diocese, including two clergy retreats and one women's retreat. These, along with Youth Sundays and children's sermons give me great encouragement as I witness the spiritual growth of both the young and old in our congregation.

I continue as Chaplain to our Julia Chapter of the Daughters of the King. This group of women are a mighty prayer presence among us. They are faithful as intercessors of our daily prayer needs, along with support to the parish through Outreach ministries and retreats. This year we are studying *Continuing the Journey: The Spiritual Formation Guide*. Other activities from the year included monthly gatherings, discernment classes, forming 81 Blessing bags (personal care items for homeless women) a Neighborhood Prayer Walk in the Fall and hosting the Lenten and Advent Quiet Days for the parish. Many thanks to our President, Julie Hotmer Drao for her faithful leadership. The Daughters welcome your prayer requests and also inquiries from women of the parish that may wish to join us in this ministry of prayer, evangelism and service.

Pastoral care continues at St. Peter's at the highest level. The clergy visit many in the hospitals, nursing homes or individual homes while convalescing. There also remains a large traffic flow from the street into our offices during the week from individuals seeking assistance as well as many daily visitors to our church. These local outreach opportunities allow us to bring Christ into the midst of many members and non-members alike. With our sanctuary open daily, we have become a haven of prayer, rest and reflection for many downtown workers and visitors. We are truly a beacon of light shining on State Street hill. I refer you to the Outreach Report submitted by Judy Burns for review of our other many Outreach activities.

We were also blessed this year by sharing many life events through baptisms, confirmations, weddings and yes, even funerals. There are so many faithful members who draw strength from one another within our church from the beginning of life to its very end and I am blessed to be invited into these many celebrations. I am always honored to be part of your joy and your hope and claim with you the promise of the Gospel of Jesus Christ at life's end.

In the wider Diocese, I continue representing St. Peter's Church at the Parish Leadership Conference, Regional Bible Symposiums, Deanery events, Diocesan Convention and other clergy gatherings. In June we celebrated our Diocese's 150<sup>th</sup> Convention with special guest Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. His enthusiasm and encouragement in the Lord are contagious! A highlight from the Fall was attending *Transformed: An Inner Healing Conference* with Judith McNutt. There I learned much about addiction, recovery and inner healing that will all be invaluable to my ministry. Additionally, I continue

to act as Chair of the Commission on Ministry helping Bishop Love guide our Diocese's Ordination process.

St. Peter's remains a wonderful place to serve, an extraordinary place to worship, and a loving place to grow within the body of Christ. As the place I have served and worshipped every year since my Ordination, I look forward to my eleventh year serving among you. I'd like to end with special thanks for the love, prayer, visits, notes and support given me during my hospitalization and recovery at home in December. I was at the receiving end of your prayers and pastoral care and this helped me realize just how special our church family is. Christmas Eve service was the best "welcome home" celebration I have experienced in church life. Thank you for making my Christmas so special.

*"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."* (Philippians 1:3-6)

## **ST. PETER'S CHURCH SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT**

I would like to start by saying thank you to our St. Peter's parishioners for your support this year. As much of the information shared in this meeting is already covered by the committee leads and printed for you in the annual report, I will keep this short. Having sat in the same pews as you are sitting in for many years listening to the information, I'm fully aware that I am one of the obstacles between you and lunch. So, with that in mind, I will begin so that I may end.

I'm grateful for the time you have taken to contact me on various issues of concern. Our discussions have helped me have a better understanding of the mission and your vision for our church. Much of what happens, many of the activities that we as a congregation undertake is the result of our committed and loving clergy, the Vestry, the staff, and many hard-working volunteers. The day in and day out work of maintaining and reviewing the life and ministry of our congregation, all require hand, heart, and mind, and sometimes can become tedious or seem nearly impossible.

However, we are always fortunate to have new people, new perspectives and new challenges that keep us innovative in problem-solving and keep our spirit of engagement and joy. God has led us through prayer, to make the best possible decisions in all situations that we encountered. During this year we've seen God raise up leaders who have helped to do the Lord's work. Our Vestry in partnership with our clergy has worked very diligently in a team effort with mutual accountability, to oversee and guide the spiritual, strategic, administrative and fiduciary aspects of our congregation.

In the past several years we have been particularly blessed adding to our Vestry, several representatives of the youth and young families of our congregation. Although several of us "old guard" provide continuity and experience, we take great joy in watching them actively participate with respect, honesty, and dignity. Challenging at times, "this is the way we always did it" with "we can do this", and of course they can, and do!

Each year we end our hard work with the annual process of rotating new Vestry members in and saying goodbye, and more importantly, thank you to the members leaving. This year we say goodbye and sincere thanks to Maria Holden, Kevin Cehowski and Earl Stafford. The Vestry members spend many hours outside of church participating in additional Vestry business, which can be, challenging, rewarding and fulfilling work. Ministry and mission have been the main focus of this lay and clergy leadership team. In particular I would like to thank our Junior Warden Jim Chenot. Jim's leadership and contributions to our Vestry and church are numerous. His knowledge, transparency, trust and friendship support and guide me daily.

This year we are trying a new approach to our annual meeting. Focusing on the Alpha program. I personally participated in Alpha. It was a wonderful opportunity for me to strengthen my faith and develop special relationships with the Christians I attend the course with. Sharing faith questions and stories without judgement. The movies moved me and with the great food combined, made it well worth the time commitment. My faith has grown stronger. I enjoyed this experience and invite you all to invest the time to attend. It has truly made me closer to our parishioners. This change was in no way meant to diminish the committee reports which are printed for you in the annually published report. We must also not forget the Guilds. We are so thankful to the committees and Guilds for their hard work, time, and much dedication.

This Fall, extensive work began on the Interior Restoration project. Phase one is almost completed, and we want to again thank our Junior Warden, Jim Chenot, and our Vestry members Maria Holden and Fred Hershey for their expertise, talent and dedication in seeing that this project become a reality. And a special thanks to all of you who have generously donated to the campaign. The beauty of this restoration can never be truly captured by words. You must have the full experience of walking in church and spending the time to see how each improvement stands alone in grandeur but yet together bring forth the original beauty and design intent of Richard Upjohn. The Phase two campaign has already begun and the gifts you give, make wonderful things happen! Thank you all for being a part of making many wonderful things continue to happen.

Finally, the Vestry has approved a budget for 2019. The approved budget continues to rely on diligence, prudence, and attention to the careful stewardship. In a moment our Treasurer, George Scala, will report to you the details of the fiscal health of our church. I would like to take a moment to thank George for his letter to us. George did a great job reminding us of the financial future of St. Peter's. It is clear to see that our support is needed. I too ask you to commit to attending Church faithfully and support our church financially to the highest level of your means.

We have the most beautiful, sacred Church, a wonderful place that draws people to Christ. Our church needs to be here to share the love of Christ in the future. I along with the entire Vestry, thank you for your continual support.

Faithfully, Debby Spath

## **ST. PETER'S CHURCH PROPERTY AND RESTORATION REPORT**

In the past few years the property committee has not had much to report at the annual meeting, many items that are normally addressed regarding the properties pertain to normal maintenance and repair. 2018 was an exception with plans that had been in the works toward possibly beginning an interior restoration project at St. Peter's. Egan's Restorations based out of Rhode Island, noted to have done many historical churches primarily in Boston as well as throughout the northeast, made numerous trips meeting with us during 2017. With many of their recommendations they were able to quote the restoration project in phases allowing us to raise the funds to meet each phase. When the project was mentioned early on in 2018 in one of the newsletters, an anonymous donor donated \$100,000.00 as a matching grant to get the project underway. When this was noted in the minutes in the following newsletter, we began to receive donations before we had actually announced a fundraising appeal which was very encouraging.

In June, our interior restoration project took its first step by sending a letter with the intent to raise funds for the first phase of the project. A sample of the wall repaired and painted with the intended color was accomplished near the columbarium in back of the church. We received many positive comments in regards to the color choice which was the fruit of a great deal of time testing core samples of the wall to ensure that we were using the correct color that was used in the past. Another formal letter with a brochure was prepared to go out in September explaining all of the planned phases as well as where we were in regards to the \$100,000.00 matching grant which needed to be reached to move forward with the first phase of the project. Phase one entailed cleaning and repairing the walls in the church as well as cleaning the stonework around the stained-glass windows.

Much to our surprise with energy behind the project and donations ahead of time towards the matching grant, we were able to inform Egan that they would be able to start some of phase one in August. The formal kickoff letter and brochure went out in September which enabled us to meet the matching grant and we were able to instruct Egan to continue the work needed to be done on phase one. By Christmas Eve services, approximately 80 percent of the work was done which enabled many that had not seen the ongoing work to get a first look at the breathtaking progress that had been made. The color that was chosen has enhanced so many of the other colors throughout the church and we received so many compliments during the Christmas season.

We are now close to completing phase one this January and have already received donations from some family members who have decided to donate funds to clean the pulpit. The restoration committee would like to thank all those who have already given to this worthy endeavor as well as for all of the compliments. In February we will begin to assess when we will be able to move forward on additional phases. The next phase moving forward will be the cleaning of the pillars. However, we are still in need of additional financial support to take this step. Please consider giving to this worthwhile project if you have not already done so. As parishioners of St. Peter's, we have been able to worship in one of the most beautiful churches in Albany which we should be proud of calling our home. We all have a shared responsibility in maintaining its beauty and integrity.

Submitted: James Chenot

## **WOMEN OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH**

The Women of St. Peter's Church provide support for various ministries that the parish participates in throughout the year. The Women of St. Peter's Church assisted with the assembling of Blessing Bags and with hosting coffee hour during the year. We look forward to other important ministries that the Women of St. Peter's can participate in during the upcoming 2019 calendar year.

Respectfully submitted, Julia Hotmer Drao

## ST. PETER'S CHURCH USHERS GUILD

Ushers are the first faces of welcome and hospitality that people coming to worship at St. Peter's Episcopal Church encounter. I am most grateful to all the members of the St. Peter's Church Ushers Guild who served during the past year and those continuing to serve on the guild this year. Our ushers welcome the congregation and visitors attending services at our historic downtown Church. Ushers meet, greet, and offer service bulletins to our congregation. They keep order, collect tithe and offering, and guide the congregation during services. They assist the Rector and Associate Rector to ensure that all services proceed and flow smoothly. Please join me in acknowledging the contributions of the following ushers:

**8:30 Service:** Clark Daggett, Fred Lincoln, Bernie Burnell, John Davis, John Sterrett, Robin LaPlante

**10:30 Service:** Catherine Schunk, Julie Hotmer Drao, Sharon DeBonis, William Collins, Kevin Creagan, Jeff Russom, Sherry Bishko, Frank Spath, Chris Grill, Mark Lundberg, Michelle Lundberg, Moses Kamya

We are always looking for new Ushers to assist during Sunday services and during special services. The Usher Guild is a great way for parishioners to become active in the life of St Peter's. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested please contact Moses Kamya at 518-869-6599 [mmkamya@aol.com](mailto:mmkamya@aol.com) or any member of the Ushers Guild for more information.

Respectfully submitted: Moses M. Kamya, Head Usher

## ST. PETER'S CHURCH ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild had another busy year in 2018, setting and clearing on 135 occasions for our services. Members also participated in the Maundy Thursday, Christmas, and Thanksgiving holidays.

All of our silver service ware was cleaned and polished for Easter and Christmas. Our brassware was polished for Christmas. Our linens were repaired and mended. Thanks to John Davis and Sharon DeBonis for polishing, and thanks to Donna Hershey for the linen repair.

Our members also wash and iron our linens throughout the year, and I thank Sharon DeBonis, Donna Hershey, and Diana Martin for their contributions to this service.

We welcomed a new member, Betsy Newnum, from the 8:30 service. Thanks to all of you, especially John Davis, for your teaching and instruction for Betsy. I also thank Connie Powell for her time this summer learning to set up on Fridays. New members are always welcome, please see me or call the church office anytime.

This year we received an anonymous gift of a pair of new glass cruets. Many thanks to our donor: they are very welcome and appreciated.

I was fortunate in attending a Church Linen workshop this summer at the Cathedral of All Saints given by the renowned Bunny Martin. Bunny has made linens for decades, and I learned a great deal from her that I hope to use in caring for our own linens and frontals.

My thanks as always to Pat Shortall, Ian Mike, and Sharon DeBonis for their time, expertise and advice.

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Schunk, Director

Active members for 2018: Barbara Adams, John Davis, Sharon DeBonis, Pam Gerfin, Laura Grill, Catherine Gabriels, Donna Hershey, Barbara Kelly, Michele Lundberg, Diana Martin, and Betsy Newnum

## ST. PETER'S CHURCH FLOWER GUILD

Once again, the Flower Guild has worked smoothly and conscientiously to provide beautiful and appropriate flowers for the altars throughout the year. We are dependent on the generosity of parishioners, who request and fund memorials or thanksgiving every week. We work hard to stay within our budget while providing arrangements for the altar every week.

As in past years, we have decorated the Main Altar every Sunday – except for Lent, when the altars are bare, and Advent, when we use only greens. If there are special requests, we also do flowers for the St. Mark's and Tower altars. Christmas poinsettias and greens, Palm Sunday palms, Easter lilies and our special Thanksgiving display of food are long-standing traditions at St. Peter's, organized and implemented by members of the Guild.

Help for the Flower Guild is always appreciated. We hope parishioners will continue to request memorials or special contributions for specific dates. Flowers for the Main Altar are \$50, St. Mark's or the Tower Altars are \$35 – all arranged through the Church Office (and payable in advance.) Our spectacular Christmas and Easter displays are also funded by generous parishioners (and we find, not surprisingly, are more expensive each year). Donations of non-perishable food at



Thanksgiving are received thankfully before being donated to a food pantry. The Guild members are all very conscious of keeping costs down – while providing lovely and appropriate altar enhancement throughout the year..

New hands and ideas are always welcome. Anyone who loves flowers and might enjoy working with us should consider joining this wonderfully satisfying ministry.

Sally Jennings, chair, with Edith Allen, Sherry Bishko, Ann Collins, Nancy Creagan, Catherine Gabriels, Laura Grill, Jeffrey Hartt, Cathy Schunk

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

The Julia Chapter of the DOK in St. Peters Church continues to stay active with all prayer requests from St. Peter's Church. In 2018 the DOK assembled Blessing Bags for the Women Overflow Shelter. In addition the DOK hosted a Lenten Quiet Day and Advent program during the year. Our DOK chapter meets monthly to honor all prayer requests as well as improve the spirituality within the Julia Chapter. The Julia Chapter of the DOK held a Discernment program which involved teaching inquirers. The Induction of our new chapter members occurred in the early spring of 2018. We look forward to the promise of 2019 in prayer for all DOK members and the entire parish of St. Peters Church.

Julia Hotmer Drao, President

## **ST. PETER'S CHURCH ARCHIVES**

1. *Boxes of Documents*: This is the main job of the archives at this time. There are 3 boxes of documents that need to be sorted. After the sorting is complete, I hope to have an on-site open house for the Parish in the Archives.
2. *Visitors*: The Archives had some important visitors this year. One of them was Joscelyn Godwin. Joscelyn was researching our Queen Anne Silver Communion set in order to write an article in the journal *Silver Studies*. I will be listed as an assisting person when the article is published, which I thought was quite an honor. Another important visitor was George Bryant, a photographer and stained glass expert who took pictures of the stained glass windows of Henry Holiday. He sent a CD of his pictures which we now have in the Archives collection. One other interesting visitor was Aaron Mair who was interested in maps of the church property to 1899. He copied our large laminated map of our early church property.
3. *Newsletter Articles*: I have continued to write and illustrate articles under the title *From the Archives* for the monthly Church Newsletter.
4. *Chronology*: I am keeping a chronology of important events as they occur in the Church. This continues the chronology back to the early days of the founding of St. Peter's Church.
5. *Supplies*: I have bought document boxes and labels and acid free manila folders from Gaylord and Company to house our documents.
6. *Wrote documents*: I have written book reviews which were relevant to American history and filed them in the Archives. I have written a new, more complete tour guide for visitors to the church
7. *Cathedral*: I have visited the Cathedral members including the Cathedral Archivist. I am working on activities to combine the information in both Archives.

Thanks to Jim Chenot for his support for getting supplies and working on the water leak in the Book Room.

Submitted by Evelyn Constance Powell Archivist

## **ST. PETER'S CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL**

I want to begin my report by thanking Deb Spath, James Chenot and the Vestry for their support with St. Peters Sunday School. The only way to have a successful Sunday school is to have full support of the Church. I want to thank Father Hartt and Mother Sue for the wonderful children's sermons each week. They continue to bring the children to the front row to hear the word of God! Thank you both.

I want to thank the parents and grandparents for bringing our little angels to church each Sunday. A big THANK YOU to some of the most fantastic Sunday School teachers; Sharon Vardabash and Kelly Welch in the nursery, Vicky Pautler and Ashley Spath, all bringing exciting lessons to our children every week. Thank you also to Pat, Ian, Ruth, and Janice Chenot for all the behind the scenes support that allows me to do my best to reach our children.

This year we collected "Back to School Backpacks" in which the children and parishioners collected school supplies for St. Francis Mission (formerly known as Grace and Holy Innocents.) We collected over 50 bags and supplies to stuff them. Many children of the Soup Kitchen were able to start school with everything on their supply list. Thank You! On the same note, many thanks to the Daughters of the King for their help in collecting coats, gloves, and hats for the children and elderly of Grace and Holy Innocents. The congregation of St. Peter's hit a home run! For two months I was able to bring children back to the kitchen and fit them with warm coats for the winter months. Blessings to all that donated.

Please check the monthly newsletter for more outreach opportunities to come, and please give me a call with any comments or suggestions you might have for our Sunday School, always love hearing from you. Thank you for letting me serve the children of our church. I am truly blessed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura (Saffares) Rulison

## ST. PETER'S CHURCH MUSIC PROGRAM

2018 was a busy year for music at St. Peter's. Friday noontime organ recitals continued, including performances by guest musicians. Our choir continued its work with great skill and dedication, and we welcomed several new singers to the choir. The Choir's principal work is the musical enrichment of regular Sunday worship. In addition, we note these special services and events in 2018:

February/March:	Ash Wednesday noon service Friday Lenten Evensongs (six services)
Good Friday:	Haydn's <i>Seven words of Christ on the Cross</i> , with orchestra
Easter Day:	Two choral services, with trumpet and timpani
May:	Evensong for Ascension Day
November:	Thanksgiving Eve service
December:	A well received performance of Handel's Messiah, which also featured our new Continuo Organ* Service of Lessons and Carols Two choral services for Christmas Eve, with trumpet and timpani

The choral singing in 2018 has been especially secure and expressive, and we applaud the choir's efforts and artistry.

We are grateful for the support that the parish gives to its music program. Choir Mother Diana Martin gives the choir invaluable service. She keeps the vestments organized, polishes medals, facilitates the Easter breakfast, is always there to help at every service and event, and plays a vital role in the training and orientation of new choristers. We also owe a great deal to the strong support of the parents of our young singers, without which we couldn't even begin. Thank you.

As 2019 begins, we are more eager than ever to welcome new singers to the treble section. The return of many choir alumni to our Christmas Eve services, in the choir and congregation, speaks to the enduring value of the experience that singing in the choir offers young members. The best way, by far, to reach potential trebles is by word-of-mouth, and we ask for the help of our parish members in reaching out to musical youngsters. The rehearsal schedule has recently been eased in recognition of the many demands on young people's time.

### \*The John M. Seiling Continuo Organ

John M. Seiling was a life-long choir member and friend of music at St. Peter's Church. His bequest to the program made possible the purchase of this organ, as well as many important choir activities, including our periodic overseas trips, beginning in 1989.

Built by English organ builder David Leach, the compact design and versatility of the new instrument will permit use for a variety of events and locations in the musical and worship life of the church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Neil Keen, Organist and Choirmaster

## ST. PETER'S CHURCH OUTREACH PROGRAM

Outreach continues to grow and thrive at St. Peter's Church. We have had a wonderful year with many projects and programs. Thank you to all who have contributed in so many different ways and made this such a special year.



Here are some of our many 2018 activities-

**St. Peter's Overflow Shelter-** This ministry in conjunction with the Capitol City Rescue Mission is in its 10<sup>th</sup> year. During the colder months, St. Peter's serves as an overflow shelter and host for up to ten homeless women from the mission. The support for this project has been truly amazing. We have received numerous monetary and food donations.

**St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen-** Laura Saffares and her "Angels in Training" together with other church members volunteer in the preparation and serving of a hot lunch to over 100 people on one Saturday a month.

**West Bugunda-** Outreach provided scholarships for four girls from West Bugunda to attend school.

**Thanksgiving-** For the sixth year, a large collection of food donations adorns our altar at Thanksgiving. Thanks to Jeffrey Hartt, the youth and flower guild members for arranging this beautiful display. Some of the food is kept at the church and much of it is donated to the food pantry at St. Mary's Church.

**Adopt A Family for Christmas-** St. Peter's adopted two Burmese refugee families and provided 45 gifts for these families. Thank you to all who participated and contributed many gifts.

**Equinox-** Many members and church families helped prepare meals for the annual Thanksgiving Meal Program.

**Overflow Shelter at the First Lutheran Church-** This major outreach program provides a complete hot dinner for 20 men each Thursday evening from November 1st through April 30th. Volunteers from St. Peter's sign up for a week. They may either deliver the meals to the first Lutheran Church or to St. Peter's on the Sunday before for Pat Shortall (our sexton) to deliver the meals during the week. Many thanks to Pat Shortall and Deb Spath for seeing that this program runs smoothly.

**Tea-** a tea was held in April to raise money for the HAC (Homeless Action Committee) Van. The HAC Van touches the lives of homeless people living on the streets in Albany by providing food, clothing, blankets and an ear to listen.

**CROP Walk-** Thanks to Tim Murphy for organizing the CROP Walk and the parishioners who walked to raise money for hunger.

**Daughters of the King-** The members of the DOK with donations from the parish members assembled 81 Blessing Bags for the women who stay in our shelter.

**Siena College-** The Siena College Franciscan center donated 10 large bags filled with Christmas gifts for the women staying upstairs in our shelter.

**Homeless Action Committee –** The Outreach Committee donated funds in support of their work for the homeless in Albany.

**Beaver Cross-** St. Peter's also provided four Beaver Cross Scholarships.

**Church Office Staff and Clergy Outreach-** Father Hartt, Mother Sue and Pat, Ian, Ruth and Janice continue to provide outreach and welcome to the many daily "walk-ins" in need during office hours on a daily basis. A special thanks to our clergy and the staff for going the extra mile to help those in need.

**Free Organ Concerts-** Our very talented organist and Choirmaster, Neil Keen, continues to graciously reach out and generously provide free recitals on Fridays at 12:30 pm for the enjoyment of the public.

**St. Peter's Softball Team-** St. Peter's Angels Softball Team led by Peter Benson provides a wonderful athletic and fellowship program for church members.

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

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

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

**Friends of St. Peter's-** This is a new social group that meets weekly on Tuesdays from 1 to 3 PM.

As Chairperson of Outreach, I continue to be thankful and truly amazed by the support and generosity of so many members of this parish to our many outreach programs. I am grateful to Carol Daggett for all her years as Chairperson of Outreach and the many wonderful programs she helped start. A special thanks to Jim Chenot, Deb Spath, Father Hartt, Mother Sue, Carly Crewell, Janice Chenot, and Pat Shortall for all they do to assist with our Outreach programs, and to Laura Saffares for all she does to involve the children of the parish in outreach.


Respectfully submitted, Judy Burns



# February 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<b>3 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany</b> Healing Prayers 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion 11:45am - Confirmation Class 12:00pm - Soup Sampler	<b>4</b> 5:00pm - Treble Make-up Rehearsal	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Hol
<b>10 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</b> 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer 11:45am - Confirmation Class DOK Meeting	<b>11</b> 5:00pm - Treble Make-up Rehearsal	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Ho
<b>17 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany</b> 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion 11:45am - Confirmation Class	<b>18 President's Day</b> Office Closed  No Treble Make-up Rehearsal	<b>19</b> 4:30pm - Outreach Meeting 5:15pm - Vestry Meeting	<b>20</b> 8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Ho
<b>24 Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany</b> <b>Youth Sunday</b> 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer w/ Children's Chapel 11:45am - Confirmation Class	<b>25 St. Matthias the Apostle</b> 5:00pm - Treble Make-up Rehearsal	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Ho

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 12:30pm - Organ Concert	2 <b>Presentation of Jesus in the Temple</b>
o of the Hill y Communion	7 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	8 12:30pm - Organ Concert	9
o of the Hill y Communion	14 <b>Valentine's Day</b> 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir 	15 12:30pm - Organ Concert	16 11:00am - Angels in Training St. Francis Soup Kitchen
o of the Hill y Communion	21 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	22 12:30pm - Organ Concert	23
o of the Hill y Communion	28 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir		

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - 2019 BUDGET

	2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2019 Budget
<b>INCOME</b>			
Offering Income/Pledged/Envelopes	\$ 236,900	\$ 178,906	\$ 200,000
Offering Income/Loose	\$ 5,500	\$ 4,928	\$ 4,500
Offering Income/Special Funds	\$ 34,900	\$ 22,253	\$ 23,150
<b>TOTAL Offering Income:</b>	<b>\$ 277,300</b>	<b>\$ 206,087</b>	<b>\$ 227,650</b>
<b>Other Income (Columbarium, Interest, Misc.):</b>	<b>\$ 1,000</b>	<b>\$ 4,342</b>	<b>\$ 2,000</b>
<b>Investment Income</b>			
Key Trust Return (Net of fees)	\$ 71,476	\$ (104,466)	\$ 54,394
Merrill Lynch Return (Net of fees)	\$ 99,659	\$ (173,502)	\$ 75,000
<b>TOTAL Investment Income:</b>	<b>\$ 171,135</b>	<b>\$ (277,968)</b>	<b>\$ 129,394</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>\$ 449,435</b>	<b>\$ (67,539)</b>	<b>\$ 359,044</b>
=====			
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Outreach - Total Outreach</b>	<b>\$ 15,000</b>	<b>\$ 14,965</b>	<b>\$ 15,000</b>
<b>Fellowship - Parish Events &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>\$ 8,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,337</b>	<b>\$ 4,000</b>
<b>Music/Choir</b>	<b>\$ 16,000</b>	<b>\$ 13,401</b>	<b>\$ 16,000</b>
<b>Pastoral Support</b>			
Diocesan Conferences	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,928	\$ 3,000
Travel	\$ 4,150	\$ 4,009	\$ 4,150
Discretionary - Rector/Assistant	\$ 8,400	\$ 8,400	\$ 8,400
Visiting Clergy Stipends	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
<b>Total Pastoral Support</b>	<b>\$ 15,050</b>	<b>\$ 15,337</b>	<b>\$ 16,550</b>
<b>Christian Education</b>			
Sunday School Supplies	\$ 3,250	\$ 1,511	\$ 1,500
Adult Education	\$ -	\$ 287	\$ -
Youth Programming	\$ -	\$ 157	\$ -
<b>Total Christian Education</b>	<b>\$ 3,250</b>	<b>\$ 1,955</b>	<b>\$ 1,500</b>
<b>Worship</b>			
Altar Supplies	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,091	\$ 2,750
Altar Flowers	\$ 5,750	\$ 2,832	\$ 2,750
<b>Total Worship</b>	<b>\$ 8,750</b>	<b>\$ 5,923</b>	<b>\$ 5,500</b>
<b>Administration/Salaries</b>			
Salary: Lay, Clergy, Other	\$ 223,382	\$ 223,417	\$ 230,890
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 66,000	\$ 63,958	\$ 64,000
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>\$ 289,382</b>	<b>\$ 287,375</b>	<b>\$ 294,890</b>
<b>Operations</b>			
Supplies, Equip Maint, Insurance, Office Exp.:	\$ 75,700	\$ 74,096	\$ 72,000
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>\$ 75,700</b>	<b>\$ 74,096</b>	<b>\$ 72,000</b>
<b>Payroll Related Expense/Benefits</b>			
Payroll Taxes, benefits, etc.:	\$ 118,450	\$ 135,250	\$ 136,100
<b>Total Payroll Related/Benefits</b>	<b>\$ 118,450</b>	<b>\$ 135,250</b>	<b>\$ 136,100</b>
<b>Plant Operations</b>			
Utilities, Repairs, Property Maintenance:	\$ 65,500	\$ 64,340	\$ 66,000
<b>Total Plant Operations</b>	<b>\$ 65,500</b>	<b>\$ 64,340</b>	<b>\$ 66,000</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$ 615,082</b>	<b>\$ 615,979</b>	<b>\$ 627,540</b>
<b>GAIN/(LOSS):</b>	<b>\$ (165,647)</b>	<b>\$ (683,518)</b>	<b>\$ (268,496)</b>

### 2018 VESTRY MEMBERS

**SR. WARDEN:** Deborah Spath  
**JR. WARDEN:** James Chenot  
**TREASURER:** George Scala  
**VESTRY MEMBERS:** Kevin Cehowski  
Nancy Creagan  
Christie Gordon  
Fred Hershey  
Maria Holden  
Stephanie Lencewicz  
Timothy Murphy  
Ashley Spath

### PAROCHIAL REPORT FIGURES

Baptisms	2
Confirmation/Reception	2
Weddings	0
Funerals/Committals	2
ASA 2018	115.1

### 2019 VESTRY ELECTION RESULTS

Jim Chenot was elected Junior Warden for his first two-year term.

Nancy Creagan was elected for her second three-year term.

Mark Lundberg was elected for his first three-year vestry term.

Jeff Russom was elected for his first three-year term.

Congratulations to all!.

### St. Peters Music

#### FRIDAY NOONTIME ORGAN CONCERTS

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



#### CHOIR

Choir rehearsals are on the following schedule:

Mondays: 5:00pm - 6:15pm Treble Make-up Rehearsal  
Thursdays: 5:00pm - 6:30pm Trebles  
5:30pm - 7:00pm Adult choristers  
Sundays: 9:30am rehearse for the 10:30am service

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



### 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. The cost of flowers is: Main Altar is \$50, St. Mark's Altar is \$35, and the Tower Altar is also \$35. All requests are payable in advance.

### Daughters of the King - Julia Chapter

The next DOK meeting will be held on Sunday, February 10th at 11:45am in the vestry room.

### Office Closed

In observance of President's Day, the church office will be closed on Monday, February 18th.

### Outreach Meeting

The February Outreach meeting will be held on **Tuesday**, February 19th at 4:30pm. Please join us to learn about Outreach ministries and hospitality events being planned!

### Vestry Meeting

The February Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 19th at 5:15pm.

### St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen

**Saturday, February 16th ~ 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.



## **Annual Soup Sampler**

Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> following the 10:30 service.

Please bring your favorite soup to share and your appetite as well!

To-go containers will be made available.

This year, our Soup Sampler will benefit the West Buganda AIDS Orphans.

### 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](mailto:mmmalone2017@gmail.com). You may also visit the Capital City Rescue Mission website at: <https://www.capitalcityrescuemission.org/>



## Adult Education

### St. Mary's Institute for Christian Studies Traditional Silent Retreats

#### Presidents' Day Weekend Retreat 2019

Mid-winter Traditional Silent Retreat

Take It and Read It:  
Deepening our Faith Walk Through *Lectio Divina*  
Conducted by  
The Rev. Steven Peay.

February 15-17, 2019  
Presidents' Day Weekend

The Retreat begins with Friday Vespers and ends after lunch on Sunday. Attendees on this retreat will participate in five meditations that draw from Father Steve's long experience in spiritual direction and Benedictine discipline.

Email: [compunun242@gmail.com](mailto:compunun242@gmail.com) or  
call (518)692-3028 to register.

Suggested Donation: \$158 for a full retreat--2 nights, meals, & program

\$75 for commuters--meals & program only  
\$79 for an extra day on long weekends

#### 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](https://s3.amazonaws.com/mychurchwebsite/c3738/arise_registration_form.pdf)



#### 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 either of the Holy Eucharistic Sunday Services. If interested please call the parish office at (518)434-3502.



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>



## Youth Formation

### YOUTH SUNDAY / CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Sunday, February 24th during the 10:30AM Service

On the last Sunday of each month we invite the children of our parish to take special part at the 10:30AM service. The teens fill important roles during the service in the Sanctuary. Additionally, we offer **Children's Chapel** for our youngest members. In lieu of our traditional Sunday School offering, pre-Confirmation youth and Sunday School teachers celebrate a Youth Eucharist in the Pumpelly Room during the service. Children begin worship with their parents in the main Sanctuary and following the first reading the children are invited to process into Children's Chapel for their own Gospel message, homily and instructed Eucharist service. Please speak to Fr. Hartt or Mtr. Sue if your child would like to have a special role during an upcoming Youth Sunday.



## BEAVER CROSS YOUTH MINISTRY

### ***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

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

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



# BEAVER CROSS YOUTH MINISTRY: SUMMER CAMP

Registration for Beaver Cross Summer Camp is officially open! Get ready for the summer by securing your place at the Diocesan summer camp. Beaver Cross has been *Building Community in Christ* since 1964. Camp activities include: Christian teaching, high ropes & low ropes course, swimming, worship, crafts, archery, sports, camp-wide games and more! For more information visit:

<http://www.beavercrossministries.org/camps.html>

## OVERNIGHT CAMP

Dates	Session	Grades
Sun. July 7-Fri. July 12	Discoverers	3rd-5th
Wed. July 10-Fri. July 12	Beaver Bound	K-2nd
Sun. July 14-Fri. July 19	Adventurers I	6th-8th
Fri. July 19-Sun. July 21	Adventurers Weekend	6th-8th
Sun. July 21-Fri. July 26	Adventurers II	6th-8th
Sun. July 28-Fri. August 2	Pioneers I	9th-12th
Fri. August 2-Sun. August 4	Pioneers Weekend	9th-12th
Sun. August 4-Fri. August 9	Pioneers II	9th-12th

## DAY CAMP

Dates	Grades	Session	Regular Rate	Sibling Rate
Mon. July 8-Fri. July 12	K-8	DC 1	\$255	\$230
Mon. July 15-Fri. July 19	K-8	DC 2	\$255	\$230
Mon. July 22-Fri. July 26	K-8	DC 3	\$255	\$230
Mon. July 29-Fri. Aug. 2	K-8	DC 4	\$255	\$230
Mon. Aug. 5-Fri. Aug. 9	K-8	DC 5	\$255	\$230
Mon. Aug. 12-Fri. Aug. 16	K-8	DC 6	\$255	\$230
Mon. Aug. 19-Fri. Aug. 23	K-8	DC 7	\$255	\$230

## COUNSELOR IN TRAINING PROGRAM

Dates	Age
Sun. Jun 30-Fri. July 26	16-18 yrs. old

Our CIT Program has a limit of 2 participants per summer, and an application and interview are required to be admitted to the program. Please click the button below to apply and for more program information



**MINUTES FOR THE VESTRY MEETING**  
**ST. PETER'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**December 11, 2018**

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

**Absent:** S. Lencewicz, T. Murphy

Opening Prayer Led by Father Paul Hartt

**Approval of the Minutes of Vestry Meeting, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**

The November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 minutes were approved on a motion by C. Gordon and seconded by F. Hershey. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

**Warden Report** –D. Spath

We started the first Sunday of Advent in the afternoon, Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup> with a magnificent performance of the Handel's Messiah done by our choir with orchestra, led by our dedicated choir director Neil Keen. The annual musical tradition was very well attended and we want to thank all the musicians for all their musical talent and dedication that is needed to put a top notch performance such as this together. We would like to also thank Father and Jeffrey Hartt for opening their doors at the rectory hosting the traditional Messiah party for the choir after the performance. A special thanks to our choir director, Neil Keen for all his hard work and dedication during this past year.

As the year comes closer to a close, we would like to thank all of those who have sent in their pledge cards already for next year and hope others will be able to fill out a card to help the finance committee properly budget for 2019. We also want to thank all of those who have committed to the interior restoration campaign enabling us to work on phase one of the restoration. The majority of phase one will be completed by Christmas Eve.

Just before Advent, in November our church again volunteered at Equinox helping them prepare Thanksgiving Dinners for those in need. This year we volunteered on Thanksgiving morning at 9:00. Laura Rulison headed up this outreach and we thank her for her continuing support to this incredible community service held each year in Albany. In addition, we held a service on Thanksgiving eve which was well attended that included the choir.

On Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> we also opened our doors to the women's shelter we host to those in need for a warm place to stay in the evening during the upcoming cold months in conjunction with the City mission in Albany. This is our 10th year hosting this incredible outreach at St. Peter's helping those in need in the immediate downtown area. Many thanks to those on our outreach committee who coordinate this important program with the City mission and volunteers that help out each night to accommodate those in need. Please remember that we are always looking for donations; drinks, snacks as well as momentary donations to support this program.

This past Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 service, the Sunday school performed their annual Christmas Pageant. Many thanks to Laura Rulison and all those in the Christian education department for all the coordination and rehearsing that went into to perform this performance. Lessons and Carols will be performed this coming Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 service followed by The Hanging of the Greens at 12:00. Lunch will also be served for all those helping decorating and preparing the church for Christmas. We always look forward to this Sunday event each year beautifying the church for our Christmas services.

During this time of year there is an incredible amount of unseen extra work and time put in that is needed to for us to enjoy the Advent and the Christmas season. The vestry would like to thank the Flower Guild, Altar Guild and the Usher's who volunteer so much of their time during this busy time of year. We also need to thank Ian Mike and Pat Shortall for keeping the Church and physical plant clean and tidy especially during this Advent season. Lastly enough cannot be said to Janice and Ruth for all their work throughout the year and especially this time of year in the office. We are truly deeply indebted to both of them and we thank them both for all their dedication and hard work.

Lastly, we would like to thank Father Hartt and Mother Sue for all their tireless work preparing for this upcoming Advent Season. We want to thank them for their love and commitment to St. Peter's Church as well as the work they for the immediate community in outreach. St. Peter's Church as well as downtown Albany is blessed to have both of them ministering to all of us and those coming off the street for help.

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

**Sunday Attendance** – The Average Sunday Attendance is 115.4

**Rector's Report** - Father Hartt

Father Hartt began by expressing his thankfulness to the parish for its response thus far to the Stewardship Drive. Many pledge cards have come in and many have increased their level of giving. George Scala's letter to the parish helped us all to understand our financial realities. Simply put, the endowment is not sufficient to meet our expenses at our present level of giving. The parish has responded with increased commitment as they have grasped afresh our need and circumstances.

The Interior Restoration has been moving along nicely. With each new brush of paint, we see the beauty to come. The project is well advanced at this point. Christmas Eve Services will showcase the substantial work thus far. Parish giving has once more been generous. Phase One has been fully funded and Phase Two funding has begun to build. Phase One addresses cleaning, repairs, and painting. Phase Two will be the stonework in the church.

The Choir's performance of the Messiah was stellar. It was one of the best performances in memory. Attendance was good. The choir party following at the Rectory was a wonderful time of celebration. Fr. Hartt thanked Janice and Jimmy Chenot for all of their work in making the party come together nicely.

Last Sunday was our Christmas Pageant. Attendance was very good and the children were a delight. We thank Laura Rulison for her capable directing. Father Hartt has requested email addresses of parents from Laura. He would like to send out notices from time to time.

The Women's Shelter has begun. Mother Sue has done much to organize volunteers and arrange for the assembly of the Blessing Bags. Several parish members helped put the bags together last Sunday. Siena College students will be providing Christmas gifts as in the past.

Father Hartt commended the parish for its outreach to the Burmese refugee families at Christmas. The giving tree has only two items left! Outreach at Christmas time has always been a strength of the parish. Likewise, our gift to the food bank at Thanksgiving was abundant again this year,

Father Hartt said that the ALPHA Program will be having its concluding session tomorrow. He looks forward to running the program again with the Downtown community in mind. Bishop Love has asked that Fr. Hartt present his experience with Alpha at the Parish Leadership Conference in January.

Father Hartt reviewed the Advent and Christmas schedule. He looks forward to Lessons and Carols this Sunday.

At this time, there is no new development in the response of the Presiding Bishop to Bishop Love's letter.

Sacred Spaces will be touring St. Peter's on the 18th of December. Connie Powell will be leading the tour.

Fr. Hartt thanked Jimmy Chenot for arranging for the furnace to be fixed at the rectory.

Father Hartt wished us all a blessed Christmas.

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

George reviewed the Treasurer's Report for November. Offerings for November were \$11,964. YTD offerings through November were \$175,617. This compares to a budgeted number of \$254,192. YTD Offerings through the same period in 2017 were \$207,043.

The investment/endowment accounts both showed gains for November. Merrill Lynch had a return of +1.02% for the month and is at a +0.58% return YTD. The Key accounts showed a monthly return of +1.12% and is at -0.89% YTD. This leaves us with a negative variance in this area YTD of (\$163,443). Both accounts performed favorably versus market indexes. Expenses YTD through November were \$7,899 under budget.

Pledges for 2018 remain at 42 pledging units for a total amount of \$119,720. Contributions and pledges for the Restoration Project are very favorable. Total contributions received are \$211,564 with many pledges to be received. 2019 pledges are starting to come in and George reported optimism in what has been received to date versus previous years.

### **Property** –

The leak in the church roof was repaired and there is a plan in place for the future to prevent more leaks in the roof. The archives are going to be getting new gutters that will prevent future leaking here as well. The greens are ordered and on the way for Hanging of the Greens.

### **Outreach** – Mother Sue

Many thanks to those who donated items for the Blessing Bags for the women who stay in the Overflow Homeless Shelter this year. The Daughters assembled **85 Blessing Bags** on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Christmas giving for the Burmese refugee families is currently underway. We thank everyone for their generosity. For those who took gift tags, please return the wrapped item by December 16<sup>th</sup>.

On December 3<sup>rd</sup> our Overflow Homeless Shelter opened for its 10<sup>th</sup> year, housing up to eight women nightly through March. Mary Malone (from Capital City Rescue Mission) is the Director again this year.

There is a new schedule process for volunteers through the Capital City Rescue Mission website. We thank Siena College for providing Christmas gifts for the women this year.

### **Old Business-**

The Parish Choice Elections for 2019 were discussed and agreed upon. Of the 15% of revenue that needs to be allocated, 10% will go to The Episcopal Church and 5% to Diocesan Initiatives. This was approved on a motion by G. Scala and seconded by J. Chenot then unanimously approved by the vestry.

### **New Business-**

The annual meeting and elections were discussed.

N. Creagan will be running for her 2<sup>nd</sup> 3-year term. She is running to fill her present seat.

J. Russom will be running for his 1<sup>st</sup> 3-year term. He is running to fill the spot formerly held by K. Cehowski who has stepped down and will not be running for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term.

M. Lundberg will be running for his 1<sup>st</sup> 3-year term. He is running to fill the spot formerly held by M. Holden who has completed her 2<sup>nd</sup> term.

J. Chenot will be running for his 1<sup>st</sup> 2-year term as Jr. Warden. This past year he was elected by the vestry to finish out the Jr. Warden term vacated by D. Spath when she was elected to Sr. Warden, so this leaves the Jr. Warden spot open for election this year.

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

The Book and Bible Study on Matthew 6:9-13 The Lord's Prayer and *Abba* by Evelyn Underhill went very well, completing on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Daughters of the King continue to gather monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. We have been working through the DOK Spiritual Formation Bible study together, recently finishing chapter 5. We welcome new women to our order to attend the Discernment classes in the New Year.

We thank the Daughters for assembling the Blessing Bags for the women of our Overflow Homeless Shelter.

The Diocese has asked me to supply at Church of the Redeemer, Rensselaer on Sunday December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by G. Scala and seconded by J. Chenot, then was approved 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 Scala .....Treasurer

Nancy Creagan, Christie Gordon, Fred Hershey,  
Stephanie Lencewicz, Mark Lundberg,  
Tim Murphy, Jeff Russom, Ashley Spath

## *How to Contact Us*

### **Office Hours:**

Monday -Friday

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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.

### **Wednesday**

Holy Communion 12:05 p.m.

## **ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

