



THE Cornerstone

April 2019

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

From the Rector

Our Neighbor

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:
Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with
all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great
commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt
love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments
hang all the Law and the Prophets. (BCP 324.)

How often we say those words. They are to seep into the very bones of our Anglican being. The gift of Rite One is found in the immersion it requires in the Bible's most central teachings. We hear such teaching in the Comfortable Words following the Confession. We hear it in the call to offer our lives as a living sacrifice. We hear it embedded in the words of humble access, and to "do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in." And finally it is heard in the "peace of God which passes all understanding." At every turn we are reminded of what our Faith asks and requires of us. We find challenge and mercy, love and forgiveness, renewal and commandment, and a vision for the week to come.

Some weeks are harder than others. We juggle two spheres of existence. The pain and suffering close to us and that coming to us often from far away in the nightly news. It is said that we are connected now as never before through the internet and social media. That is true. Much good comes of it. We saw it in the quick response to the deadly shootings in New Zealand, where worshipers were gunned down as Friday prayers were said in two of Christchurch's mosques. The citizens gathered quickly to condemn the hate, hold vigils, and to show unequivocal solidarity with the Muslim community. They responded to their Muslim neighbors not as outsiders, but as fellow citizens worthy of honor.

New Zealanders are painfully conscious of the drift in Europe to embrace the way of bigotry and false nationalism. Ideologies of fear soon replace the religious impulse to a common humanity loved by the one God. It helps to have a political leadership unafraid to act quickly and unambiguously. New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern rallied her people around the noblest sense of national identity. "We, as one people, will not tolerate this" she said again and again in so many words. But she was appealing to what was already there inside her people. She was answering clearly and unmistakably the question the lawyer asked Jesus before the Parable of the Good Samaritan, "But who is my neighbor?"

That question is not a legitimate question for the Christian. Our Lord answers it unambiguously in the Parable. Any soul that we make the other rather than the neighbor is that bleeding man desperate on the side of the road. The Two Great Commandments that we hear again and again in our liturgy are meant to bring to mind that to love God with all our heart, and soul, and mind will call us back to a common humanity. It was precisely that sense of common humanity on display in the good people of New Zealand.

After his election, our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry set the course for Episcopalians as "The Way of Love." St. John tells us, "perfect love casts out fear." (1 John 4: 18.) If there is an exorcism needed in our time, it is to cast out fear. Fear divides us and makes love limited to our tribe. We could say that to love is to overcome fear. Love is an act of the will and a movement of the heart. It is to see clearly another as a fellow child of God. "Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?" (Baptismal Covenant, BCP 305.) Our Presiding Bishop invites us to know and live this way of love.

The way of fear is to lose hope in the human heart itself, to retreat, to fall back, to look away. But we must not do those things. We must choose hope in the Way of Love, the way of presence, the Jesus Way. While I mourn that our young people are carrying candles and keeping vigils way too often these days, I am encouraged that they are choosing the Way of Love. Their hearts are especially tender for those who have been made "the other."

(continued on next page)

I find great encouragement in the young people of today. I sense in them a grasp of our common humanity that their sin-weary elders often do not possess. What we can do to help is to enter into their sense of connectedness and help ground it more in a dedicated religious life. We can invite them to see more clearly God doing the calling to one another. The Baptismal Covenant speaks directly here. But also to accept the sin-brokenness of the human condition without undermining their noble impulses. Discouragement can come from misunderstanding the broken human condition as that in which we are all complicit. We must forgive because we ourselves have been forgiven. Love matures only in this understanding of a broken and redeemed common humanity.

There are times such as these in which we are called to stand with specific people in need. The Muslim community is in need now of seeing Christians practice The Way of Love. I give thanks to God for the people of New Zealand. I pray that we can also be such a people in our place and time.

In Christ, Fr. Hartt+

From the Associate Rector

Easter Belief in the Miraculous!

Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow this year, thereby predicting an early spring. Then, on Friday, March 15th we reached a high near 70 degrees which seemed to confirm Phil's prediction. Too bad we had a 40-degree temperature drop and flurries the very next day...so far for predictions being reliable. Life is full of uncertainties. And, trying to predict the future is one of them.

But there is one prediction that we can hold firm to: Christ's return to earth. And, there is no better time to claim belief in that prediction than during the Easter season when we celebrate his Resurrection from the dead. Afterall, Easter is the Season in which we celebrate the unbelievable and miraculous.

Yes, Resurrection from the dead would seem unbelievable if we didn't have sound testimony of it. Yet, before it occurred, even Jesus' closest disciples couldn't fully understand in nor probably believe Jesus' prediction of it. That is why there was such weeping at the foot of the Cross and such fear as drove nearly every disciple into hiding. The arrest and crucifixion of Jesus seemed to be the end, leaving the disciples with no hope. On Friday, they could not yet see the dawn of Easter morning. So, how are we to understand and even believe in Christ's future return to earth? We not only don't know the exact details of all that will happen, but its timing remains shrouded in mystery as well.

We believe by faith, my friends; we believe by faith. Faith tells us to believe in God, to believe in his goodness, to believe in his truthfulness, and so, to believe in his promises. And God promises that someday Jesus will return to earth.

Gospel writer Matthew tells us, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'" (Matt 25:31-34).

And so, we are promised that when Jesus returns, he will judge all peoples; a judgment each believer should approach with sure and certain faith. Jesus will also bring the heavenly kingdom right here to earth. He does so in order to restore it to its former state of righteousness.

There's also another reason we might choose to believe – yes belief is a choice. And this other reason is because we know the world is not as it ought to be. It is not as God created it to be. It is not as we wish it could be. The world contains so much beauty and yet also so much pain. Each evening's newscast reminds us of this even if our own personal experiences do not. We need to believe that Jesus is coming back to set all things right. We need to believe this because we see evidence for this need every single day. We not only need it, but God promises it. And God's promise is certain.

God's promise is certain and so Jesus' return to earth is certain – as certain as Jesus' Resurrection that we continue to celebrate 2,000 years later. In his resurrection from the dead, Jesus triumphed over death itself, opening the way to everlasting life with the Father for all who Believe. The return of Jesus to earth is to bring God's kingdom here in its fullness. Yes, we have perfection in God's Heavenly Kingdom, but God even promises perfection here – in our earthly kingdom someday – that is what Jesus' return is all about. Jesus will return to free all of creation from the effects of sin and restore God's perfection here on earth.

Looking around us today this seems near impossible. There is war, famine, abuse, natural disasters, strife among peoples, starvation, sicknesses with no cure and many other tragedies. We often feel we need to do something about these. Sometimes we can act, and when we can we should. But sometimes we are quite helpless. Even if this is the case, we can do something by holding faith that Jesus is coming back. Jesus is coming back to bring God's Kingdom to every part of suffering on earth and to set things right again; to set things perfect again. Jesus – our Resurrected Jesus – bears the impossible as God's certain pledge for things to come. And that's a prediction we can hold fast to.

A Blessed Holy Week and Easter to each of you. My prayer continues that you live as Easter people in the hope and expectation of Jesus' return.

Yours in Christ,

Mother Sue+

Upcoming Events



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 14th: **Palm Sunday**

~ 8:30AM Holy Communion Service
~ 10:30AM Choral Holy Communion Service

April 15th: **Monday in Holy Week**

~ 12:05PM Noon Holy Communion

April 16th: **Tuesday in Holy Week**

~ 12:05PM Noon Holy Communion

April 17th: **Wednesday in Holy Week**

~ 12:05PM Noon Holy Communion

April 18th: **Maundy Thursday**

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

April 19th **Good Friday**

~ 12:00PM Liturgy;

1:15PM ~ *The Brockes Passion* by

G. F. Handel performed by The St. Peter's Choir
with Chamber Orchestra

April 20th **Holy Saturday**

~ 8:00AM Service;

11:00AM Egg Hunt at the Rectory

April 21st: **Easter Sunday**

~ 8:30AM & 10:30AM ~
Choral Holy Communion Services

St. Peter's Angels Softball Team

The Angels' 14th season will begin on Sunday, April 28th. Games will still be played only on Sunday afternoons, and again this year they're part of the Empire State Sunday Softball League. Anyone interested in playing should contact Pete Benson at 518-269-1293. Their Annual Pass-the-Cap Fundraiser Coffee Hour will be held in the near future. The game fields and schedule will be posted as soon as they are finalized.



Spring Tea

Our Annual Spring Tea will be on Sunday, April 28th, following the 10:30am service.

This year the proceeds from the tea will be used to provide scholarships to Beaver Cross for children from the Oaks of Righteousness in Troy. Please contact Judy Burns (518-441-7538) if you can help by making tea sandwiches or baked goods. We also need donations for the raffle of gift certificates, other items and gift baskets. Some suggestions for the baskets include bath and body, tea basket, coffee basket, movie basket, chocolate basket, gardeners basket or any others that you can think of will be very appreciated. Thank you for any assistance you can provide in helping children attend Beaver Cross this summer.

Chrism Mass

On Monday, April 15th at The Cathedral of All Saints, Bishop Love will bless the oil used by our church and the clergy of the Diocese renew their ordination vows. All members of St. Peter's and the Diocese of Albany are invited to attend the service beginning at 6:00pm.

Lenten Evensong - Fridays: April 5th and 12th.

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

Outreach

The April Outreach meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9th at 4:00pm. Please join us to learn about Outreach ministries and hospitality events being planned!

Vestry Meeting

The April Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9th at 5:15pm.

Daughters of the King - Julia Chapter

The next DOK meeting will be held on Sunday, April 14th at 11:45am in the Vestry room.

Crop Walk

Save the Date - Sunday, May 5th!



The Albany Crop Walk is one of the largest in our nation and raises funds for both local and national food programs. Locally, it supports the Capital District Food Pantries. Now is the time to begin collecting sponsors. We hope you will walk with us or consider sponsoring the St. Peter's team!

Easter Lily Requests

Parishioners and friends wishing to place lilies on the altars at Easter to honor, show thanks, or remember loved ones are asked to complete the enclosed form and return it to the church office with your donation no later than Palm Sunday, April 14th. The suggested donation is \$25.

Adult Education

Searching for more

#tryalpha

Alpha

ALPHA SERIES: Alpha is a series of talks exploring the Christian faith, run over eleven weeks. Each talk is presented in DVD form. The program comes out of the Church of England. The DVD talks are followed by open conversation in small groups. The Alpha program is now run around the globe. Everyone is welcome, but the program aims at those with fundamental questions about the Christian faith. Alpha is especially suitable for seekers.

ALPHA COURSE: Our spring Alpha course is held in the Pumpelly Room every Wednesday evening from 6PM to 7:30PM through April, and ending on May 29th. We hope you will consider joining us. You can still register with Ruth Manss in the church office or speak to Diana Martin or one of the clergy for more information.

Youth Formation & Sunday School

YOUTH SUNDAY / CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Sunday, April 28th 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 the 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.

The Blessing of the new Children's Chapel altar cloth made and donated by Donna Ohlman.



St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen

Saturday, April 20th ~ 11:00am to 1:00pm

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Due to the Easter Egg Hunt and the Angels in Training falling on the exact same day at the exact same time, Laura (Saffares) Rulison will not be able to participate in feeding the needy. Therefore, she is looking for some volunteers to help the Angels in Training at Grace and Holy Innocents on Saturday, April 20th from 11AM to 1PM. Could you please spare 2 hours to help those in need? Thank you so much in advance !!

Hello to all and Happy Spring~

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

Sunday, April 7th: We will have a reenactment of the Last Supper, this will include the story of Jesus and his disciples, washing of our feet and taking part in the Most Holy Bread and Wine (juice). Please come and take part in this wonderful activity.

Sunday, April 14th: The children of the Sunday School will be coloring over 700 hard boiled eggs, so please make sure the children are dressed in old clothes, smocks are available.

Saturday, April 20th: The Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the rectory (Fr. Hartt's home), 8 Loudon Heights South, Loudonville, NY at 11:00am sharp ~ rain, shine or snow! Refreshments will be served.

Other Happenings

SPRING BREAK!

Beaver Cross Spring Break Camp:
Monday April 22nd - Friday April 26th 2018

What better way to spend time off from school than at Beaver Cross Camp! Spring Break Camp, structured similar to our Day Camp program, brings the excitement of summer to the school year. Campers will have the opportunity to do all of their favorite camp activities including: archery, sports, ropes, crafts, field games, campfire and more! The cost of the program is \$150. Registration includes all programmed activities, lunch, and an afternoon snack. Early drop off with breakfast is an additional extra. More information at: www.beavercrossministries.org/spring-break-camp.

Performance-lecture with Dr. Jeremy Begbie

On Saturday, April 6, 2019, Cathedral Arts, a mission of The Cathedral of All Saints, hosts a performance-lecture with Dr. Jeremy Begbie, founding director of Duke Divinity School Initiatives in Theology and the Arts, "Lamenting and Hoping: How Music Can Mediate the Healing Power of the Gospel." For tickets and for more information on this event, please visit:

<https://www.cathedralofallsaints.org/events/2019/4/6/performance-lecture-with-dr-jeremy-begbie>



Thank you for attending our Lenten Day and for making Anglican Prayer Beads for hospital visits and shut-ins.



Welcome Home Initiative®

Retreat for Women only
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

April 8-10, 2019

If you know of a female veteran suffering from PTSD from combat or other service and would like more information visit ...

www.ckcenter.org



Saint of the Month Club


HARRIET STARR CANNON, Monastic, 1896




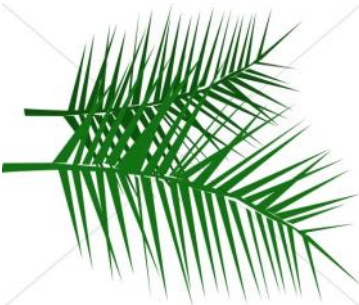

Harriet Starr Cannon was one of the founding sisters, and first superior, of the Community of St. Mary, the first religious order for women formally recognized in The Episcopal Church. Mother Harriet was born in Charleston, South Carolina in 1823, and was orphaned in 1824 when her parents died of yellow fever. She grew up with her sister, her only surviving sibling, in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Following the death of her sister, Harriet entered the Sisterhood of the Holy Communion, an order founded by William Augustus Muhlenberg, Rector of the Church of the Holy Communion in New York City. The sisters were heavily involved in the operation of clinics and care facilities that would become St. Luke's Hospital in the City of New York, and Harriet served as a nurse.

Over time, however, she and other sisters began to yearn for a more traditionally monastic form of the religious life. When agreement could not be reached with the Sisters of the Holy Communion, a small group of them discerned a call to begin a new order. On the Feast of the Presentation, February 2nd, 1865, Bishop Horatio Potter of the Diocese of New York received from Harriet Cannon and her sisters the traditional monastic vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience at St. Michael's Church in Manhattan. The sisters began life together as the Community of St. Mary, and Harriet became the community's first Superior. The apostolate of The Community of St. Mary began with nursing and the care of women who had endured difficult circumstances. After a time, however, the sisters became increasingly committed to providing schools for the education of young women in addition to their medical work. The Community continued to grow and developed schools for girls, hospitals, and orphanages in New York, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. They continue their ministries to this day in Greenwich, NY, Sewanee, TN, Milwaukee, WI, and Luwingu, Malawi. Mother Harriet died on April 5th, 1896 in Peekskill, New York.

Gracious God, who didst call Harriet Starr Cannon and her companions to revive the monastic vocation in the Episcopal Church and to dedicate their lives to thee: Grant that we, after their example, may ever surrender ourselves to the revelation of thy holy will; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	1 5:00pm - Treble Make-up Rehearsal	2	3 8:45am - Top of 12:05pm - Holy C 6:00pm - Alpha
7 The Fifth Sunday in Lent Healing Prayers 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion Sunday School - Last Supper Reenactment	8 5:00pm - Treble Make-up Rehearsal	9 4:00pm - Outreach Meeting 5:15pm - Vestry Meeting	10 8:45am - Top of 12:05pm - Holy C 6:00pm - Alpha
14 Palm Sunday The Sunday of the Passion 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion 12:00pm - DOK meeting Sunday School - Easter Egg Coloring	15 Monday in Holy Week 12:05pm - Holy Communion 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal w/ orchestra	16 Tuesday in Holy Week 12:05pm - Holy Communion	17 Wednesday in Holy Week 8:45am - Top of 12:05pm - Holy C 6:00pm - Alpha
21 Easter Sunday 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion	22 Office Closed No Treble Make-up Rehearsal	23	24 8:45am - Top of 12:05pm - Holy C 6:00pm - Alpha
28 The Second Sunday of Easter Youth Sunday 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer Spring Tea following 10:30am service	29 St. Mark the Evangelist 5:00pm - Treble Make-up Rehearsal	30	

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>of the Hill Communion Course</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir</p>	<p>5</p> <p>12:30pm - Organ Concert 5:45pm - Evensong</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>of the Hill Communion Course</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir</p>	<p>12</p> <p>12:30pm - Organ Concert 5:45pm - Evensong</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>in Holy Week</p> <p>of the Hill Communion Course</p>	<p>18 Maundy Thursday</p> <p>5:30pm - Full Choir 7:30pm - Holy Communion with Stripping of the Altar</p>	<p>19 Good Friday</p> <p>12:00pm - Good Friday Liturgy 1:15pm - <i>The Brookes Passion</i></p> 	<p>20 Holy Saturday</p> <p>8:00am - Holy Sat. Service 11:00am - Angels in Training 11:00am - Easter Egg Hunt at the Rectory</p>
<p>of the Hill Communion Course</p>	<p>25</p> <p>No Choir Rehearsals</p>	<p>26</p> <p>12:30pm - Organ Concert</p>	<p>27</p>
			

A Grateful Acknowledgment

The Congregation of St. Peter's is deeply grateful to the anonymous parishioner who created the \$100,000 Challenge Grant which gave impetus to the Restoration Fund Campaign.

The Restoration Committee wants to publicly thank and acknowledge those members and friends of St. Peter's Church who gave generously to the success of the campaign. Those gifts enabled us to match the grant and complete Phase I of the Restoration Plan for the interior of our historic church. Their generosity was so great that we were able to proceed into Phase II of The Plan. The pulpit has been cleaned and restored and we have met half of the cost (\$24,000) of cleaning the sandstone columns and completing Phase II of the restoration plan. We gratefully thank those who are listed for their part in a project which will ensure that we pass historic St. Peter's Church on to the next generation as a welcoming place to worship.

Thank You,
 Maria Holden , Committee Chair
 Fred Hershey
 Jim Chenot

2 Anonymous Donors	Mrs. Doris P. Fischer	Mrs. Caroline Mason
Edith Allen	Dr. Terrence Flannery & Maria Holden	The Mauren Family
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Ms. Diane Fenton	Mrs. Diana Martin	Mr. Jon Wolcott & Ms. Linda Becker
		Mr. Gary Wright & Ms. Katherine Marlay

From the Archives

FLOWERING DOGWOOD IN THE GARDEN



There has been a garden between St. Peter's Church and the adjacent Guild House since the 1960's. One of the first parishioners on record to work on the garden was Mrs. Richard T. Beebe who began her projects in the fall of 1960. In April of 1967 four truck loads of granite blocks were dumped on the site to be laid for our present walkway located beside the church. In this early time period the side door to the church was painted red, probably by Bobby Clancy and the points on the metal fence were painted alternatively red and gold. With the decorative plants, archival pictures show the garden was very beautiful.

On May 21st of 1968 the church held a spring garden art show which included a bake sale and plant sale. It was co-chaired by Mrs. Robert H. O'Conner and Mrs. Andrew Sangster. In 1970 a Garden Statue of St. Francis of Assisi was presented by the Women of St. Peter's and parishioners. In May of 1971 the garden was under the support of the Women's Organization

with Mrs. Arthur Bedell as chair. In 1985 after Sally Livingston had become Garden Chairman a Mini-Church Garden Party was held. Refreshments for the party were prepared by Arlene Chandler, William Moran and John Cerniglia. On May 18th 1986 Sally and her committee received an Albany Beautification Award. In 1987 a birdbath fountain was presented by Mrs. Ben Godley in memory of her mother Mrs. Dorothy Ferguson. In the annual Tulip Flower Show St. Peter's won First Prize in Spring Bulbs Class in both 1988 and 1989.

Recently, parishioners have continued to work on the garden. Notable work was done by Richard and Ellen Robison. When Allan Riga was here he was seen daily working among the plants. Others included Pat Shortall, Norm McGrattan and Jeffrey Hartt.

Other episcopal churches have also shown that they value beautiful flowers. The Cathedral of All Saints just completed a weekend flower show called Cathedral in Bloom which took place from February 22nd-February 24th. In addition to the weekend of flower displays, there was a champagne party, an afternoon tea, a display of the ornate robes worn by Bishop Barry, and even an organ recital. It was quite an event.

Concert at St. Peter's Church

The Choir of Lincoln College, Oxford, in Concert
Saturday, April 13th at 4.30pm at St. Peter's Church

Lincoln College Choir is widely regarded as one of the best mixed-voice chapel choirs in the University of Oxford. The Choir exists to sing a weekly service of choral evensong in Lincoln College's stunning 17th century chapel. The Choir tours extensively and will be spending a week in the North East USA, performing various concerts, leading worship and connecting with Lincoln College alumni in the region. In Albany, the Choir will be performing on Saturday, April 13th (4:30pm) at St. Peter's Church. The concert will last an hour and will feature a selection of British choral music suitable for Lent and Passiontide including the complete Mass for Five Voices by Renaissance composer William Byrd.

Program

Harris Bring Us, O Lord
Purcell Hear my prayer
Walton Set me as a Seal
Byrd Mass for Five Voices
Parry Lord, let me know mine end

Conductor: William Parkinson

There is no charge for admission - donations welcomed

St. Peter's Music

Good Friday

On Good Friday, April 19th, following the Noon service, the choir will sing the *Brockes Passion*, by Handel, and Cantata #12 by J. S. Bach, accompanied by a small orchestra.

Barthold Heinrich Brockes was an influential German poet who, in the traditional form of a Passion oratorio, added reflective and descriptive poetry into his Passion narration. The Brockes passion was set to music by numerous composers in Baroque Germany. It is not known exactly when Handel set the Brockes text, but it was performed in Hamburg in 1719. J. S. Bach copied out large portions of Handel's setting in his own hand, and Handel's work influenced Bach's own St. John Passion.

The choir will sing an English translation, edited to fit the context of our Good Friday observance.

Following Handel's music, the choir will sing, in English, a short Cantata by Bach, *Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen* (Weeping, crying, sorrow, sighing). The work consists of an instrumental opening movement, a substantial chorus, three solo arias, and a hymn. The text provides reflections on Christ's Passion and on human suffering.

MINUTES FOR THE VESTRY MEETING
ST. PETER'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
February 19, 2019

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

Absent: N. Creagan, S. Lencewicz
Opening Prayer Led by Father Paul Hartt

Approval of the Minutes of Vestry Meeting, January 8, 2019

The January 8, 2019 minutes were approved on a motion by F. Hershey and seconded by T. Murphy. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

Warden Report – D. Spath

The wardens began their report congratulating those elected at the annual meeting in January, Jim Chenot was elected to begin his first – two year term as Junior Warden, Jeff Russom (1st term), Mark Lundberg (1st term), and Nancy Creagan (2nd term), all three year terms to the vestry. We are all looking forward to working with our very committed vestry and clergy moving ahead this year.

We had a well-attended annual meeting on January 28th. We are all very grateful for those in the congregation who stayed after the 10:30 Sunday service for the annual meeting which was well attended and received. Many thanks to all those who were involved making the day a very successful and informative meeting, including the Alpha presentation and Ashley Spath's testimony. Also, we would like to thank George Scala and Maria Holden for all their help with the PowerPoint presentation. Thank you for all those who prepared their reports from each guild sharing their ministry missions that took place during the past year. Lastly, we would like to thank Janice and Ruth who compiled and printed all the reports with all the information given from all the guilds. A copy of the annual report was sent out in the beginning of February as part of our newsletter for those unable to attend the annual meeting.

We would like to thank all those who filled out their pledge card for 2019. It is so helpful to the vestry and finance committee with this information ahead of time to plan ahead as we try and meet our budget needs. For those who have not sent a pledge card for 2019, it is still not too late to do so. If you do not have a pledge card to fill out, please contact the office and we will put one in the mail or after Sunday services, please ask one of the ushers if they can give one to you.

Our Lenten season begins with our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner Tuesday, March 5th from 5 to 7 pm, followed by services on Ash Wednesday March 6th. We will continue our ritual Evensong services at 5:45pm each Friday during Lent.

Sunday Attendance – The Average Sunday Attendance is 95.0

Rector's Report - Father Hartt

Father Hartt congratulated the re-elected vestry members and our newest Vestry member Jeff Russom. Mark Lundberg has kindly agreed to serve the parish once more as a vestryman.

There was an unfortunate case of cyber fraud earlier in the month. It appears from our computer consultant Don Young that the fraud did not involve any hacking of our system. Rather, someone went online to our web-page and gathered contact information from the Newsletter and perhaps other sources. The fraud then involved sending out a request for a money from the rector. A fictitious email account was set up that mimicked a parish email address. Fr. Hartt alerted the Diocese and a warning was sent out to other churches. It is fortunate that the attack was limited in scope. However, one of our members did lose \$200 in the scheme. Fr. Hartt deeply regrets the loss. We are all on notice to check with clergy or any person directly who may make such a request. The clergy would not do so by email.

Father Hartt was encouraged by the Annual Meeting. It was well attended in terms of past numbers. George Scala did a wonderful job of speaking to our urgent need for a more robust response to our stewardship efforts. Fr. Hartt shared some of his thoughts on possible reasons for decreases in stewardship amounts and pledging units. Fr. Hartt will be writing to the parish concerning this matter. Fr. Hartt also thanked George Scala for his technical assistance with the power-point presentation and the showing of the Alpha video.

Alpha will be having a planning meeting next Wednesday. More promotional materials will be present inside and outside the church. Our Spring launch of Alpha will be March 13th.

The parish has had some new faces in church. It is encouraging. The warmth of our members to these new faces has been strong. This warmth of reception has been a growing strength. Fr. Hartt believes it will be especially important as the Spring Alpha unfolds. We may be seeing visitors from the Alpha sessions.

Father Hartt mentioned at Annual Meeting that the Cathedral congregation will be worshiping with us this summer. The Cathedral of All Saints is having asbestos tiles removed from the sanctuary and will need to vacate the church. We look forward to a shared life together this summer.

Father Hartt said that there are no new developments with the disciplinary actions against Bishop Love concerning same-sex marriage. Bishop Love remains restricted in his ministry as Bishop with respect to matters pertaining to same-sex marriage. Bishop Love cannot discipline clergy or parish who wish to go forward with same-sex marriages. Bishop Love has appealed this restriction on his ministry as Bishop. Bishop Love is able to function as Bishop in all other matters concerning the Diocese. It is unclear how long Bishop Love's appeal will take and the possible outcomes.

Father Hartt wished to thank the parish for its support of the Soup Sampler. It was an outreach fundraiser for the Girls' School in West Buganda. The school educates many orphans from the Aids crisis.

Our Archivist received a lovely letter from Professor Goodwin. Professor Goodwin wrote a detailed article about our Queen Anne's silver. Two copies of the journal were provided. Fr. Hartt shared the article with the Vestry.

Ash Wednesday is March the 6th. There will be services at 7:30AM, Noon and 5:30PM. The 7:30AM & 5:30 PM service will have Holy Communion. St. Matthews Passion will be performed at 1:00PM

Confirmation classes continue on Sundays. We have three candidates for Confirmation. The Diocese has yet to provide a date for the regional Confirmation Service.

Fr. Hartt and Mtr. Waldron have a wedding this Saturday of John Sterrett and Carol Ann Tribia. Congratulations to the couple.

Finance – G. Scala - Treasurer's Report

George reviewed the Treasurer's Report for January. Offerings for January were \$18,120. This compares to a budgeted number of \$18,971. Offerings through the same period in 2018 were \$15,383. While George reported that this was encouraging, he noted that the budget for 2019 for offerings was significantly reduced from prior years

The investment/endowment accounts both showed gains for January. Merrill Lynch had a return of +7.11% for the month. The Key accounts showed a monthly return of +5.55%. This leaves us with a positive variance in this area of \$221,003. George noted that we ended 2018 with a loss in this area so there is quite a bit of ground to gain back. Both accounts performed favorably versus market indexes. Expenses for January were \$2,349 over budget.

Pledges for 2019 are at 36 pledging units for a total amount of \$107,484. Much discussion occurred concerning the decline in pledging and the importance of it for all members of the congregation. George reported that he will be sending out letters to those members that have not completed a pledge and will also be working with our IT group to set up pledging on the St. Peter's website. Contributions and pledges for the Restoration Project remain very favorable.

Property – None

Outreach – Mother Sue

Many thanks to all who attended our Soup Sampler this month! In total, we raised \$375.00 for the West Buganda AIDS orphans! The Outreach Committee added to it and was able to send funds for five (5) scholarships for (5) girls to live and study in the school/orphanage. These monies provide life-changing quality to orphaned girls' lives by providing education, including books and uniforms, as well as room and board. Thank you for your generosity!

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be on March 5, 2019 from 5:00-6:30pm. Volunteers are needed for setting up, serving and breaking down the room for the Overflow Homeless Shelter. Please let Janice Chenot know if you can help.

The Women's Overflow Shelter continues daily operations through March. Thank you to all who have stayed overnight and/or donated towards its operation. The women have been greatly blessed and encouraged by this collective ministry. Please continue to pray for all who are homeless this winter. If you'd like to volunteer, please call Mary Malone at 518-527-5025 or visit www.capitalcityrescuemission.org

The Spring Tea is tentatively scheduled for Sunday April 28, 2019 following the 10:30 service. This year's proceeds will benefit the Beaver Cross scholarship fund for youth from Oaks of Righteousness in Troy NY. Please see Judy Burns for more information or if you can help with getting raffle basket donations (baskets and also goods to fill them).

CROP Walk will be on Sunday May 5, 2019 at 1:30pm (with registration beginning at 12:30pm) leaving from First Lutheran Church, Western Avenue Albany NY. A volunteer from St. Peter's is needed as our Coordinator. Please let the clergy know if you can assist in this way or would like to join the walk or sponsor someone on our team.

Old Business- None

New Business –

The vestry schedule for this year was voted on and approved on a motion by C. Gordon, seconded by A. Spath, then approved unanimously by the vestry.

There was a discussion about having the openings for weekly altar flower dedications to be included in the monthly newsletter. This way the congregation can more easily see the opportunities to dedicate flowers for the week.

Due to the snow storm on January 20, 2019 and the confusion about whether church would be held or not, it was decided that a Snow Policy should be created. Once we have created this policy, we will make sure the congregation is informed so that next time there won't be any confusion.

The vestry began to discuss delegates for the Diocesan Convention this upcoming June. There will still be more discussions to come as we find out others who may be interested in attending the convention.

Associate Rector's Report – Mother Sue

A Lenten Day has been planned for Sunday March 10th from Noon with the theme: Praying with Anglican Prayer Beads. The day will include hands-on instruction on making Anglican Prayer Beads, with lunch provided by members of the Daughters of the King. Time may allow for members to make more than one set of Prayer Beads (they make great gifts for family, friends and shut-ins). All members of the parish are invited to join us for this Lenten Day activity.

The 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 and will study chapter 7 next month on April 14th. We welcome new women to our order – please ask us about the Discernment classes.

Confirmation classes continue with three youths attending. They are working hard to prepare for a springtime Confirmation (date TBA). If you or a family member are interested in learning more about Confirmation, please speak with one of the clergy.

We are looking forward to offering Alpha beginning Wednesday March 13th. Alpha is a great way to explore the Christian faith (from all levels of faith, from inquirers to lifelong Christians). Please pray about attending and also inviting a friend, family member or neighbor to join us. Alpha includes dinner, a video and a group discussion. We will meet each Wednesday from 6:00-7:30pm. If you are planning on attending, please register with Ruth Manss in the church Office. There is a planning meeting scheduled for the Alpha Leadership Team on Wednesday February 27th at 6:00pm.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by C. Gordon and seconded by M. Lundberg, 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,

Maria Holden, Mark Lundberg,

Tim Murphy, Jeff Russom, 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@stpeterschurchalbany.org

Website:

www.stpeterschurchalbany.org

Services

Sunday

Holy Communion 8:30 a.m.

Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

(1st & 3rd Sundays)

Morning Prayer 10:30 a.m.

(2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Holy Communion 12:05 p.m.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

