



# THE Cornerstone

## May 2019

Newsletter of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church

107 State Street, Albany, New York

### From the Rector

#### Easter Rising

*Christ is risen from the dead,  
and become the first fruits of them that slept.  
For since by man came death,  
by man came also the resurrection of the dead.  
For as is Adam all die,  
even so in Christ shall all be made alive.  
(1 Corinthians 15: 20-22; BCP p. 46.)*

To hear our choir sing this Canticle is nothing short of a transcendent experience. Easter had me spiritually floating up to the rafters! I suspect that I was not alone up there.

It is part of the brilliance of The Book of Common Prayer that most Canticles are built of direct Scripture quotes. The way that those quotes are stacked one upon another to advance a theological theme is especially masterful. For reasons of space, I have quoted only the third stanza of this Canticle. The remaining two come from Romans and an earlier portion of 1st Corinthians. My point is that there is a way in which the setting of those verses to music brings out their full power. It is interesting to ponder why such rich theology lends itself to song. Perhaps Scripture forms the songs of Angels.

It is especially notable that it is St. Paul being sung. Our Patron St. Peter's writes of Paul's letters that "there are some things that are hard to understand." (2 Peter 3:16.) Yet those difficulties seem to drift away when set to music. I probably need to have a long conversation with Neil Keen about the possible reasons. What I do know is that the musical punctuation and the rhythm are quite helpful in this case. Some verses are musically stretched and suspended. It is as if they are hovering before our eyes in a fresh light. "Even so in Christ shall all be made alive..." is a particularly potent moment.

So what is it that emerges with sharper clarity? I think it is that these Scripture verses start to work together. They speak to one another in a way that our reading of them seems to break apart. I find myself seeing in a single snapshot the idea of Adam's sin undone and the resurrection as the core of that undoing. I also am joining those who have already "fallen asleep" with expectant triumph. The Communion of Saints is revealed in the resurrection hope that binds us together.

There may be much in the Apostle Paul's writings hard to understand. I'm rather glad that there are those difficult passages. The human heart is complex. Grace is a heavenly gift. God is known only by revelation. The Kingdom of God grows around us, we know not how. Faith is refined in the fire. The life of the Church is a sacred struggle and joy. Angels sing their special language. I wouldn't expect simple answers.

But this I do know. The Easter song is unfathomable love. The verses of this Canticle sing the Mystery. Indeed, our rafters feel like home. Thank you, Lord.

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

Easter blessings, Fr. Hartt+

*Christ  
is  
Risen!*

As I write this article I am barely recovered from Holy Week and Easter; a sleepiness continues to pervade. And, I thought, that's an ideal state for an Easter reflection. Easter begins in sleep. Jesus, the man, dies and rests in the tomb until the third day when God resurrects him. But before the Resurrection, we have death: deep rest and final sleep.

The Holy Saturday service during Holy Week, is particularly focused on Jesus' time in the tomb. Saturday is the day between – the day between the dying and the rising. Resurrection Life is what we celebrate on Easter Day but sleep and rest precede it. With our focus on times of rest, it helps us contemplate our need for God to bring life and vitality; especially when we are most depleted.

It is in the most difficult times, the most stressful times, when we are most weary and drawn out, when we are near out of or have already exhausted all of our own resources, and in such times that all hope seems lost, then we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that we need God. In fact, many people wait for this state to invade them before crying out to God; not that they need to, but it's almost as if they forget to need him until absolute desperation sets in. I don't wish desperation on anyone; but I do wish the need for God on us all.

The essential truth of Easter is that very need. Without Jesus' Resurrection, there is absolutely no hope for us; we remain in our sins and forever in a state of death which is the deepest and final sleep. But, Easter dawns and, with it, new hope arises. The empty tomb, the barrenness of the place of rest, and the final end to sleep comes in a flash bringing new hope with the morning's light. It's as if God strikes a match and sets the state of death on fire; kindling hope and light for the entire world.

Alleluia Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed Alleluia – Praise God!

Yes, with Easter's light and life in Christ we are to waken from our own spiritual sleep. Paul wrote to the Ephesians: "But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." (quoting a mixtures of verses from Isaiah and Malachi)

For those alive in Jesus' day, the startling reality of the empty tomb brought hope again. We have the luxury of 2,000 years of history and witnesses to know that Jesus Christ is alive and life in him is eternal. Somehow, however, we seem at a disadvantage; as if we've returned to a spiritual slumber and need to be shocked into belief so that we know we not only need God, but we have God.

This Easter season my prayer is that the Easter fire of Christ's light, life and love would kindle us anew. We need to be woken up – to awake from our spiritual slumber. We need to be set on fire with faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We need that faith to burn brightly within us and through us to others. We need to be the faith witnesses to our world today. Our world needs Jesus so very badly and we are the ones who need to bear him and his light to our world.

So, if you are a bit tired, as I must admit I am, then bring yourself to the flame and pray God kindles you afresh with the Light of the Easter Season. That flame burns brightly each Sunday of Easter. We see it when we walk into the church: The Paschal Candle ablaze at the Crossing. This Candle represents Christ's life and light in the world which dispels all darkness, even death. Alleluia Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed Alleluia – Praise God!

Easteride Blessings,

Mtr. Sue+



## Upcoming Events



### National Day of Prayer

The Annual National Day of Prayer will be held on Thursday, May 2nd. The Albany event will take place at the Capitol at 12:00pm

### Crop Walk - Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>!

**Location:** First Lutheran Church, 181 Western Ave. Registration begins in the church hall at 12:30pm. The walk will begin at 1:30pm. Walkers can choose between a 3 mile or a 1 mile loop. Refreshments served after the walk.

**Questions ?** Contact Tim Murphy or Maria Holden

Together we can help end hunger in our community and around the world!



### Outreach

The May Outreach meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14th at 4:00 pm. Please join us to learn about Outreach ministries and hospitality events being planned!

### Vestry Meeting

The May Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14th at 5:15pm.

### EDOA 2019 Diocesan Convention

Pre-convention meeting: For Delegates, and all interested parishioners, there will be a pre-convention meeting on Tuesday, May 14th at the Cathedral of All Saints starting at 6:00pm. The new EDOA budget along with other Business Meeting agenda items will be provided. Our elected delegates are particularly encouraged to attend.

### Regional Confirmation

On May 19, 2019 at 4:00pm is the Regional Confirmation Service here at St. Peter's Church, with Bishop William Love officiating. Confirmands should arrive at 2:45pm to meet with Bishop Love. Please join us in celebrating the Confirmations of our St. Peter's members:

Jayathri Obeyesekere Fernando  
Robert Edward Myers  
Richard Raymond Myers, Jr.



### St. Peter's Angels Softball Team



The Angels' 14<sup>th</sup> season began on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Games will still be played only on Sunday afternoons, and again this year they're part of the Empire State Sunday Softball League. Their Annual Pass-the-Cap Fundraiser Coffee Hour will be held in the near future. The game fields and entire schedule will be posted as soon as they are finalized. See below the first two games scheduled.

### 2019 ST. PETER'S ANGELS SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

Game 1	April 28th (Sun.)	STA	3:00	@ Mullens
Game 2	May 5th (Sun)	MIS	3:00	@ Mullens

### Daughters of the King

There will be no DOK meeting in May. The last meeting of the year will be held on Sunday, June 9th after the 10:30am service.



### Daughters of the King Spring Assembly, May 17-19

Christ the King Conference and Retreat Center, Greenwich, NY. Speakers: Kathy Polite, National Council Member, Self-Denial Chair, Prov. II VP Tammy Boyd, Prov. II President, Jr. Daughter National Chair, Rev. Jean DeVaty, Chaplain, Prov. II & Albany Episcopal Diocese. We are extending a warm invitation to Province I Daughters of the King to join us for this Assembly! Junior Daughters are welcome!

For information or a registration form, please see Mother Sue.

### Ascension Day Evensong

Please join us as we celebrate the fullness of the Easter Season with Ascension Day Choral Evensong on Thursday, May 30th at 7:30PM.

### ATTENTION 2019 GRADUATES

We would like to acknowledge all graduates for the 2018-2019 school year. If you, your child, or even your grandchild will be graduating from high school or college or has already graduated anytime during this past school year, please complete the enclosed form and return it to the church office. The deadline is Sunday, May 19th if you would like it to be included in the June Newsletter.





## Adult Education & Ministries

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. The last Alpha gathering will be 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.



Join us for the 151<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention  
of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany!  
June 7<sup>th</sup> - June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019

at Camp of the Woods

Christian Family Resort and Conference Center  
the Right Reverend William H. Love, presiding.

If you have any questions, please see clergy or contact Rev. Marian Sive at  
[msive@ctkcenter.org](mailto:msive@ctkcenter.org), 518-692-9550 ext. 201

## Other Happenings

**A Celebration of Cursillo** - Community Hosted by Troy Area Ultreya Saturday, May 18th at 11:00am - 2:30pm Grace Church 34 Third St., Waterford Covered Dish Lunch (meat to be provided by Grace Church) Witness Speakers: Bishop Dan & Carol Herzog Parking available at First United Church, 61 Third St. RSVP By May 11th to Deacon Denise at: [dcndenise5.30@gmail.com](mailto:dcndenise5.30@gmail.com) or 315-725-6504

### **Men's Cursillo Weekend, June 21-23**

Cursillo is a weekend retreat that is designed to show us how to have a closer relationship with our Lord and how to share His love with others. "I strongly recommend Cursillo as a way to strengthen your faith" stated one of the men after his weekend. Gary Roosa will be leading the next Men's Weekend on June 21-23 at Christ the King Spiritual Life Center in Greenwich NY. If you are interested in attending speak to your clergy. Visit the website at [www.albanyepiscopalcursillo.org](http://www.albanyepiscopalcursillo.org) or contact John Hyde at (518) 376-9477.

### **Whiffle Ball Tournament, June 21**

The St. Luke's Recovery Resource Center (SLRRC) is seeking Whiffle Ball teams for their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Whiffle Ball Tournament, Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 5:30 to 8:30 pm, McBride Fields (next to St. Luke's on the Hill, 40 McBride Road) in Halfmoon. This is a team building opportunity for businesses, non-profits, or groups of friends or families. Create your own team or just sponsor a team created for you. Contact Mark Polsinello at 518-441-6634. All proceeds benefit the SLRRC which engages with local and state resources in addressing the core causes and effects of the disease of addiction on the individual, their friends, family, and the larger community.



**What:** Join your sisters, learn tools to cope and trade trauma for hope

**Who:** All women. Bring your friends.

**Host:** St. Stephen's Church, 1229 Baker Avenue, Schenectady

**When:** May 18, 9:30 AM to 3 PM

**Cost:** Free with light breakfast and lunch

**Thank you for registering at:**

**Hawsalbany@gmail.com**, phone 518 439 8574 or  
mail Healing a Woman's Soul, Inc.  
68 S. Swan St. Albany, NY 12210

# BEAVER CROSS YOUTH MINISTRY

## SUMMER CAMP



### Beaver Cross Camp Registration Open

Registration for Beaver Cross Camp is now open! Experience the adventure of summer camp by being part of Beaver Cross Camp communities devoted to faith, friendship and fun. At Overnight Camp and Day Camp, campers explore and deepen their faith together through dynamic teaching and activities. New friendships are created and old ones rekindled as campers laugh and learn together in the environment they themselves help create to be safe, encouraging and fun. To register online for camp, <http://www.beavercrossministries.org/camp-registration.html>

### Beaver Cross Camp Dates!

#### 2019 Overnight Camp - K-12:

Beaver Bound	July 10 - July 12	K-2 Grade
Discoverers	July 7 - July 12	3-5 Grade
Adventurers 1	July 14 - July 19	6-8 Grade
Adventures Weekend	July 19 - July 21	6-8Grade
Adventurers 2	July 21 - July 26	6-8 Grade
Pioneers 1	July 28 - Aug 2	9-12Grade
Pioneers Weekend	Aug 2 - Aug 4	9-12Grade
Pioneers 2	Aug 4 - Aug 9	9-12Grade

\*Drop-off is Sunday, 2-4PM and Camper Pickup is Saturday at 10:00 followed by a closing ceremony and cook-out for campers and their families.

#### 2019 Day Camp - K-8:

Day camp 1	July 8 - July 12
Day camp 2	July 15 - July 19
Day camp 3	July 22 - July 26
Day camp 4	July 29 - Aug 2
Day camp 5	Aug 5 - Aug 9
Day camp 6	Aug 12- Aug 16
Day camp 7	Aug 19 - Aug 23

\*A Day Camp Week runs Monday-Friday from 8:00-5:00 every day. An early 7:30 drop-off with breakfast is available for an extra charge. Every Day Camp week is open to kids grades K-8.

For registration forms pick one up at the church office, or visit: <http://www.beavercrossministries.org/>

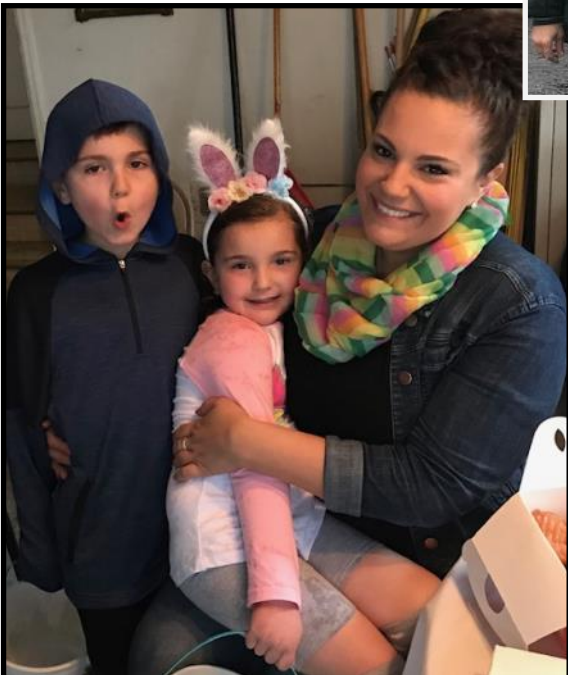
#### **COUNSELOR IN TRAINING PROGRAM:** (Sun June 30 through Friday July 26)

Our CIT Program has a limit of 2 participants per summer, and an application and interview are required to be admitted to the program. A four-week program for 16 to 18-year-old young adults ready to take on the challenges and responsibilities of camp staff. *\*This program requires an interview and an application for acceptance \**





## Easter Egg Hunt at the Rectory





## Easter at St. Peter's Church



**The Altar**

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.



**Paschal Candle**




**Baptismal Font**

# May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			<p>1 Saint P Saint Jam</p> <p>8:45 am - Top 12:05 pm - Ho 6:00 pm - Alp</p>
<p>5 The Third Sunday of Easter Healing Prayers</p> <p>8:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Holy Communion 12:00 pm - CROP Walk</p>	<p>6</p> <p>5:00 pm - Treble Make-up Rehearsal</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:45 am - Top 12:05 pm - Ho 6:00 pm - Alp</p>
<p>12 The Fourth Sunday of Easter Mother's Day</p> <p>8:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Morning Prayer</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>5:00 pm - Treble Make-up Rehearsal</p>	<p>14</p> <p>4:00 pm - Outreach Meeting 5:15 pm - Vestry Meeting 6:00 pm - Pre-Convention meeting at Cathedral of All Saints</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:45 am - Top 12:05 pm - Ho 6:00 pm - Alp</p>
<p>19 The Fifth Sunday of Easter</p> <p>8:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Holy Communion 4:00 pm - Regional Confirmation @ St. Peter's</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5:00 pm - Treble Make-up Rehearsal</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8:45 am - Top 12:05 pm - Ho 6:00 pm - Alp</p>
<p>26 The Sixth Sunday of Easter Youth Sunday</p> <p>8:30 am - Holy Communion 10:30 am - Morning Prayer w/ Children's Chapel</p>	<p>27 Memorial Day Office Closed</p> <p>No Treble Make-up Rehearsal</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8:45 am - Top 12:05 pm - Ho 6:00 pm - Alp</p>



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Philip and Andrew, Apostles  Top of the Hill Holy Communion Alpha Course	2 National Day of Prayer  5:00 pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30 pm - Full Choir	3  12:30 pm - Organ Concert	4  10:00 am to 3:00 pm - Alpha Course
Top of the Hill Holy Communion Alpha Course	9  5:00 pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30 pm - Full Choir	10  12:30 pm - Organ Concert	11
Top of the Hill Holy Communion Alpha Course	16  5:00 pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30 pm - Full Choir	17  12:30 pm - Organ Concert	18  11:00 am - Angels in Training
Top of the Hill Holy Communion Alpha Course	23  5:00 pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30 pm - Full Choir	24  12:30 pm - Organ Concert	25
Top of the Hill Holy Communion Alpha Course	30 Ascension Day  5:30 pm - Treble & Full Choir 7:30 pm - Ascension Evensong	31 The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary  12:30 pm - Organ Concert	Thank You to all the Men and Women who have served our country  

## Youth Formation & Sunday School

**Mark your calendar!!** On Mothers Day, May 12th, the Sunday School children will be making very special gifts for the moms, grandmoms, etc... please join us during the 10:30 service.

### St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen

Saturday, May 18th ~

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.

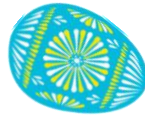


### YOUTH SUNDAY / CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

**Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

### EASTER EGG COLORING







A Mother's love can not be measured.  
It's a brilliant gem to be treasured.  
Happy Mother's Day to all the Moms  
You all are a true blessing from God.



If you are a New Parishioner or are looking to update our church records, or would like to be removed from receiving the Newsletter by mail, please fill out the section below and drop in the offering plate or mail to the Church Office.

#### **PARISHIONER REGISTRATION / UPDATE**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CELL  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check:

☐ New Registration

☐ Change of Address / Phone Number

☐ Remove from Mailing List

☐ Remove from receiving the Newsletter by Mail

☐ Need Envelopes

☐ Name Change

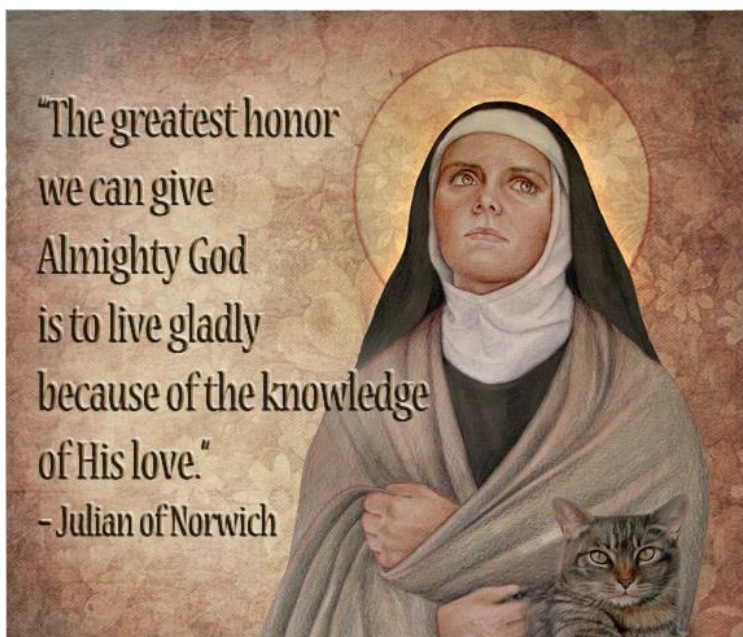
#### **Lay Eucharistic Ministers**

Are you looking to increase your religious experience? We are looking for members of St. Peter's who might be interested in becoming a Lay Eucharistic Minister. Experience the joy of serving God by assisting at both the Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharistic Sunday Services. If interested please call the parish office at 518-434-3502.

## Saint of the Month Club

JULIAN OF NORWICH

Mystic and Theologian, c. 1417



**Prayer:** Lord God, who in thy compassion didst grant to the Lady Julian many revelations of thy nurturing and sustaining love: Move our hearts, like hers, to seek thee above all things, for in giving us thyself thou givest us all; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Of Julian's early life we know little, only the probable date of her birth (1342). Her own writings in her *Revelations of Divine Love* are concerned only with her visions, or "showings," that she experienced when she was thirty years old rather than with the details of her biography. Julian had been gravely ill and was given last rites; suddenly, on the seventh day, all pain left her, and she had fifteen visions of Christ's Passion. These brought her great peace and joy. "From that time I desired oftentimes to learn what was our Lord's meaning," she wrote, "and fifteen years after I was answered in ghostly understanding: 'Wouldst thou learn the Lord's meaning in this thing? Learn it well. Love was his meaning. Who showed it thee? Love. What showed he thee? Love. Wherefore showed it he? For Love. Hold thee therein and thou shalt learn and know more in the same.' Thus it was I learned that Love was our Lord's meaning."

Julian had long desired three gifts from God: "the mind of his passion, bodily sickness in youth, and three wounds—of contrition, of compassion, of will-full longing toward God." Her illness brought her the first two wounds, which then passed from her mind. The third, "will-full longing" (divinely inspired longing), never left her. She became a recluse, an anchoress, at Norwich soon after her recovery from illness, living in a small dwelling attached to parish church. Even in her lifetime, she was famed as a mystic and spiritual counselor and was frequently visited by clergymen and lay persons, including the mystic Margery Kempe. Kempe says of Julian: "This anchoress was expert in knowledge of our Lord and could give good counsel. I spent much time with her talking of the love of our Lord Jesus Christ." Julian understood that God was both Father and Mother to us, and understood Christ as exemplifying this maternal face of God. "Thus Jesus Christ, that doeth good against evil, is our very Mother. We 267 have our being in him, where the ground of motherhood beginneth...As verily as God is our Father, so verily is God our Mother." Julian's book is a tender and beautiful exposition of God's eternal and all-embracing love, showing how his charity toward the human race is exhibited in the Passion. Again and again she referred to Christ as "our courteous Lord." Many have found strength in the words that the Lord had given her: "I can make all things well; I will make all things well; I shall make all things well; and thou canst see for thyself that all manner of things shall be well."

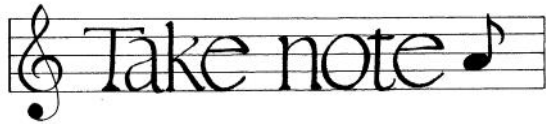


### The Church Choir Loft



The Third Edifice of St. Peter's Church contains a choir loft in which there is space for the church choir and organ. On the south wall behind and above the organ are the lancets and the beautiful Talcott Rose Window, given in loving memory of Sebastian Visscher Talcott (Nov 24, 1812-Nov. 10, 1888) and his wife (Olivia Maria Shearman (Oct 14, 1823-Jan 29, 1888) by their daughter Sarah Talcott Pruyn. On a bright day the details of the window can be observed. Within the large Rose Window or Catherine Wheel, are four arms forming a cross and containing the symbols of the Four Evangelists: Matthew (the Angel), Mark (the Lion), Luke (the Ox) and John (the Eagle).

Below the Rose Window are the organ pipes and the Instrument. This organ has quite a history. Following the building of the Third Edifice of the Church, the first choir organ dated 1860 was installed by Johnson and Son of Westfield, Massachusetts. It had a tone both sweet and powerful. But by 1880 it was in a deteriorated condition. For the period between 1886 and 1976 there was no choir loft organ. Instead in 1886 Hilborne Rossevelt built the first organ to be placed downstairs. Other organs were also built downstairs. The current choir loft organ, is considered a division of the current downstairs organ. Both were built by the Schlicker Organ Company and both were installed in 1976-77 under the supervision of Donald Ingram, who was the church organist and choirmaster from 1959 to 1978.



### St. Peters Music

#### Organ Music at St. Peter's

Tulip Time Mini-Concerts – Saturday, May 11th 1:00-3:15pm  
Five organists, at five different downtown churches, will be presenting 15-minute “mini-concerts” of organ music in association with Tulip Festival activities in Washington Park. There will be a different 15-minute program in each church, repeated at 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, and 3:00.

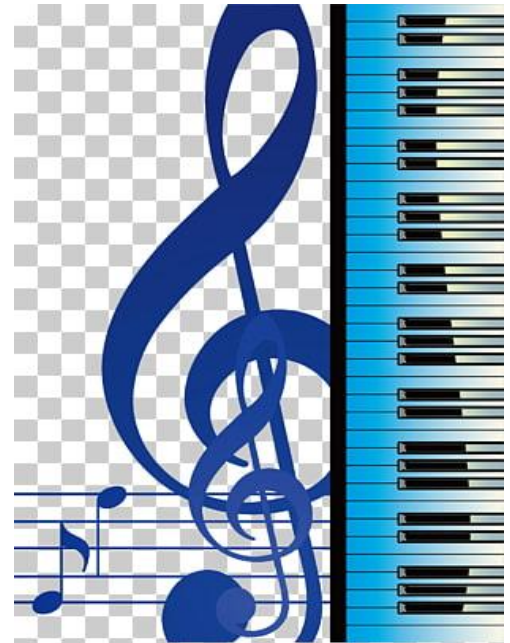
#### Participating Organists and Churches:

Neil Keen - St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
Mary Bon - First Church in Albany  
William Douglas - Cathedral of All Saints  
Alfred Fedak - Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Trevor Kahlbaugh - First Presbyterian Church



#### **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 Trebles  
Thursdays: 5:00pm - 6:30pm Trebles  
5:30pm - 7:00pm Adult choristers  
Sundays: 9:30am rehearsal for the 10:30am service  
Please contact Neil Keen for more information at [stpmus@gmail.com](mailto:stpmus@gmail.com) or 339-0137.

**MINUTES FOR THE VESTRY MEETING**  
**ST. PETER'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**March 12, 2019**

**Present:** Fr. Hartt, D. Spath, J. Chenot, N. Creagan, C. Gordon, F. Hershey, T. Murphy, J. Russom, G. Scala, A. Spath

**Absent:** S. Lencewicz, M. Lundberg, Mtr. Sue Waldron

Opening Prayer Led by Father Paul Hartt

**Approval of the Minutes of Vestry Meeting, February 19, 2019**

The February 19, 2019 minutes were approved on a motion by T. Murphy and seconded by A. Spath. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

**Warden Report** –We would like to thank everyone who had a hand in making our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner a successful, well attended dinner event and it was a great way to start off our Lenten season. Thanks to Jeff Russom and Ian King who slaved over the stove cooking pancakes and Janice Chenot, Laura Rulison and Pam Gerfin, helping set up before hand, preparing the food to cook, during and clean after the dinner. This year again we had an incredible turnout for this yearly event. Many thanks to those who stayed afterward to help set up the parish hall for the women's shelter. Fortunately, we were able to share the extra food left from the dinner to those that came in that evening to our shelter to enjoy the incredible meal. It was a great evening for all as we all came together in fellowship to preparing for Lent.

Ash Wednesday services were well attended, and we want to remind everyone that Evensong services are held each Friday evening at 5:45 during Lent. We also want to thank the choir and Neil Keen for their participation at these Friday services.

The homeless overflow shelter will end March 31st for the winter season. This year again was a humbling and successful year hosting women in need at our shelter in the parish hall who truly were in need for shelter this cold and snowy season. This now completes our 10th year working with the Albany City Mission helping the women in need in downtown Albany and we want to extend our thanks to the congregation for their support to this important ministry.

The season of Lent falls this year in March, consuming the majority of the month. During this season we would like to thank our clergy Father Hartt and Mother Sue and keep them in our prayers preparing services and keeping up with the pastoral care in nursing homes and hospitals during this busy Lenten season, as well as preparing for Palm Sunday, Holy week and Easter Sunday Services. Leading up to Holy week there is a tremendous amount of thought, time and dedication in other areas of our church life, those volunteering their time such as the Alter Guild, Flower Guild and Ushers. Thank you all in advance for all your time and talents. Please know your efforts and time does not go unseen and much appreciated. Also, we would like to thank Ian and Pat for their work ensuring the church and physical property is kept in order and clean. During the Lenten season, the church office takes on an incredible amount of extra work load compiling information for the upcoming Easter memorials, as well as all the extra printing of leaflets and programs. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to both Janice and Ruth in our office for the incredible work and tasks they put forth and thank them both for their dedication and support they bring to all of us at St. Peter's.

Neil Keen and the choir began preparing and rehearsing music for Good Friday service and Easter morning services. This year the choir will be performing G.F. Handel "The Brockes Passion" on Good Friday at 1:15 with orchestra. Thank you in advance to the choir for all their time and dedication at rehearsals preparing for all the music that will be performed at this musical event, as well as all the music at the two Easter Sunday services. Also, many thanks to Neil Keen for all his effort and musical talent he brings to the choir always making sure the choir is always at its finest, and our choir Mom, Diana Martin, making sure we look our finest. Finally, we are looking forward to the Easter egg hunt next month, on Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup>, the day before Easter Sunday at the rectory.

**Sunday Attendance** – The Average Sunday Attendance is 103.2

**Rector's Report** - Father Hartt spoke about the start of Lent. He began by thanking Janice Chenot and those who helped with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. It was very well attended. Fr. Hartt expressed concern about the somewhat reduced attendance at Ash Wednesday. It is an important liturgy for our Lenten journey. Three Services were offered, 7:30AM, Noon and 5:30PM. The First Sunday of Lent was also lightly attended due to the weather. We have had some attendance setbacks this year from the snow. The first of the Lenten Evensongs was held this past Friday. Father Hartt commended this Lenten devotion to us.

Fr. Hartt spoke about the recent Children's Chapel. He said that there was good participation. Fr. Hartt thanked Donna Ohlman for her lovely handmade Altar runner for our children's Altar. Mrs. Ohlman also made lovely woven crosses for both shut-ins and the children. Mrs. Ohlman has knitted hats, as well, for many of the homeless whom we serve.

The second run of Alpha begins tomorrow night. We are all excited about the new participants signed up. Alpha will build momentum as each series runs. Alpha is largely about word of mouth endorsements. The promotion materials raise awareness. Fr. Hartt thanked Jim Chenot for the promotional banners that he has made for us. Jim Troiano and Cary Carcuro worked hard on signing up participants at the Pancake Supper.

This past week we lost two dearly beloved parishioners. Warren Rymiller and Ellen Elmendorf. The funerals will be on Thursday and Friday of this week. We ask for your prayers for their loved ones. Father Hartt commended Mother Sue for her faithful care of Warren Rymiller during his last days.



John Sterrett and Carol Ann Tiberia were married at St. Peter's on February 23rd in a beautiful service.

Father Hartt spoke about Stewardship letters from the clergy.

Fred Hersey will be arranging for the rug on the Altar steps to be cleaned. It is delicate and in need of professional attention. Fr. Hartt thanked Fred, and also the solid work of the Altar Guild in this demanding season.

Fr. Hartt expressed concern about the need for additional Lectors.

Attendance has been poor since September. It is unclear the interplay between general downward trends and the impact of the Diocese's position on same-sex marriage. Regardless, we continue to see the general downward trends of the Episcopal Church as a whole. As Father Hartt has said in the past, the growing infrequency in attendance places an even greater burden on those who are committed to every Sunday attendance. Every Sunday morning, we each decide for the future of St. Peter's.

Outreach continues to be a strong force in the parish. Fr. Hartt expressed thankfulness for that face of St. Peter's.

Father Hartt wished us a Holy Lent.

**Finance** – George reviewed the Treasurer's Report for February. Offerings for February were \$19,130. Year to date offerings are at \$37,250. This compares to a budgeted number of \$37,942. Offerings through the same period in 2018 were \$32,954. While George reported that this again was encouraging, he reminded that the budget for 2019 for offerings was significantly reduced from prior years.

The investment/endowment accounts both showed gains for February. Merrill Lynch had a return of +3.29% for the month. Year to date return is +10.40%. The Key accounts showed a monthly return of +3.20% and a year to date return of +8.75%. This leaves us with a positive variance in this area YTD of \$333,211. George again noted that we ended 2018 with a loss in this area so there is quite a bit of ground to gain back and the market still can be volatile. Both accounts performed favorably versus market indexes. Expenses through February were \$8,354 over budget.

Pledges for 2019 are at 40 pledging units for a total amount of \$116,224. George reported that the letter will now be going out to those members that have not completed a pledge. The website is not yet able to accept pledges but hopefully will be soon. Contributions and pledges for the Restoration Project remain very favorable.

**Property** – The Albany Inspector came through and we will be updating the fire hood in the kitchen upstairs to ensure it is up to code and safe to use.

**Outreach** – Father Hartt will be giving the Outreach Report this month.

A Recruiter is sought for St. Peter's participation in the Albany CROP Walk (see packet for more information).

**Old Business**- None

**New Business** – Due to unforeseen circumstances, S. Lencewicz will be stepping down from her position on the vestry. The vestry would like to thank her for the time she has served. This leaves a position vacant in the middle of a term which allows the vestry to nominate someone to finish out the remainder of this term. The vestry has nominated M. Holden to fill the seat vacated by S. Lencewicz on a motion by J. Chenot and seconded by F. Hershey. The vestry unanimously approved the motion.

**Associate Rector's Report** – Lent has gotten off to a great start. Thank you to Janice and Laura for their work preparing for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and to the chefs and clean-up crew as well. We had a wonderful turnout and it was a great celebration before we began our Lenten Journey.

Ash Wednesday services were devoutly attended. The clergy and some parishioners were also tending to great pastoral needs on this Holy Day. The presence of God was palpable, and our parish family was knit together even more closely through these acts of devotion to God and one another.

The first week in Lent also found us preparing two funeral services for two long-time members of the parish. Our prayers continue for the family and friends of Warren Rymiller and Ellen Elmendorf.

A Lenten Day was held on Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup> at Noon with the theme: Praying with Anglican Prayer Beads. We had a wonderfully mixed crowd and enjoyed lunch (thank you Daughters of the King) as well as learning to make and pray with Anglican Prayer Beads. Many people in attendance made a second set of Beads and donated them for clergy visitation with the sick and homebound – a gracious offering.

The 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 and will study chapter 7 at our next meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup>. 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 the clergy.

We are looking forward to offering Alpha beginning Wednesday March 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. We have a nice mix of both St. Peter's parishioners along with newcomers registered and a variety of ages expected. Alpha explores how Christianity answers basic questions of life and includes dinner, a video and a group discussion. If you'd like to learn more, please speak with Diana Martin or the clergy.

**Adjournment**- A motion to adjourn was made by J. Chenot and seconded by C. Gordon, 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:

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Website:

[www.stpeterschurchalbany.org](http://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**

