



THE Cornerstone

Summer 2019

Newsletter of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church

107 State Street, Albany, New York

From the Rector

"Thine is the day, O God, thine also the night; thou hast established the moon and the sun; thou hast made summer and winter." (Psalm 74: 15, 16.)

Those words are one of the possible Scripture passages to begin Evening Prayer. I am always keen to say them. In the church, we go through liturgical seasons. But we also go through the seasons about which the Psalmist speaks. Christmas comes, we hope, with snow. Easter comes, we hope, with a little foretaste of summer. Inside the sanctuary, we associate heat and cold with changes of scents in the air. New fragrances come with the greening of the church and the Easter lilies, the dampness of fall and the snap of winter, and so on. Even the scent of the wood pews changes with the seasons.

Right now, the church is heating up. Choir robes become a real sacrifice. I try to be mindful of sermon length. It can be wilting by August. Yet there remains a wonderfulness to it all. The ability to be changed by the changes themselves. We need summer. We need winter. We need cycles and changes. We thank God for the rhythm of the seasons, both liturgical and in nature.

The Cathedral congregation's joining us this summer has already richly blessed us. We feel the vitality of combined worship. Our spiritual senses are tuned to new gifts from the Body of Christ. We are spiritually blooming through one another. It is a joy to behold. We also are becoming more aware. We start to think about the things that we do routinely. Those things might be second nature to us, but not so for our Cathedral guests. While everything is new to our guests, it is new to us to pause and think about the way we do things.

We are getting a better sense of what we do that is special to our history and practices. It is good to pause and say, "Yes, we do this in such-and-such a way for this reason. It is..." Like most parishes, we soon discover we do quite a few things simply because we "always have." But mostly, we come to see the reason certain practices came to be among us. They make sense for our architecture or for our elaborate Morning Prayer. We have a reason why the Choir receives Communion first or that we have the form of procession that we do. It is true that we do have our "special ways" often a mystery to the uninitiated! The need to explain has made me more thoughtful and appreciative.

Our first shared Coffee Hour was especially joyful. The Sunday School children put on their traditional ice cream social following the Sunday School Awards. The picture in the Newsletter is delightful. Yet that sense of delight was present from the start. There was a festive spirit in all that we did our first Sunday together. The Cathedral with us simply adds to our sense of joy. It feels a bit like having good neighbors over and showing them the house.

Life is given in change. The irony of church life is that nobody seems to want change. Yet it is the truth of our experience that change brings life. We are reopened. We see afresh. We have new experiences that point beyond the smallness that often holds us. Thanks be to God for summer and winter in all the many church manifestations. Thanks be to God for bringing us all together this summer. May we give and receive the gift with Kingdom wonder. God is so good to us. Welcome Cathedral!

Summer blessings,

Fr. Hartt+

Making a Commitment to Church: “Don’t see church as an option”

With the hazy, lazy days of summer upon us, I’d like to share the following devotional with you in hopes you will pray about your commitment to St. Peter’s Church, both in terms of financial and ministry support but also regular attendance. Realizing we all have pressing demands upon our over-stretched schedules, our answer to each demand requires commitment and sometimes sacrifice. Each time we answer a demand on our schedules we make a choice. Although the devotional is geared towards families with young children, I believe there are truths within it to guide each of us.

Will you pray about your choice regarding your faith and commitment to St. Peter’s Church?

"How Good It Is
Daily Devotional - June 15
By Sarah McCullough Cornwell

so that all the Israelites might see how good it is to follow the Lord.

A priest asked me recently if I had any “tricks of the trade” for getting our four small children to church. Without thinking, I said, “Really, there’s only one. Don’t see church as an option.” Now, that’s a tough sell to families in this day and age where obligations threaten to devour every precious moment. What could I do to demonstrate that it is not only possible to bring your children to church, but to make it desirable? An answer of sorts came to me on Sunday, in church.

I came into the service 30 minutes late after dealing with our unruly youngest son who had not been doing well in the service. I was cranky, distracted, soaking wet from the pouring rain, and I sat down next to my husband and our little baby, very much “in a mood.” I then realized there was a new family with two small children sitting behind us. My first thought was that I was doing a terrible job showing that it’s not that hard to bring your children to church. But then I had an epiphany of sorts. It’s not supposed to be easy and pretending that it is just makes other parents think they’re doing it wrong, or that if it’s not easy for them then church doesn’t apply to their family.

Sometimes, it’s just plain hard work. But the reward is bringing your children to Jesus Christ, building such a foundation of faith in their youth that it has the greatest chance of standing up to all the evil forces that will try and tear it down later in life. But we as parents can’t do it alone; we need help. For me, I need my spouse, the wonderful other congregants of our church, and, chiefly, the help of God. To be able to do something doesn’t mean to do it perfectly, without some sweat, grit, maybe a little silent swearing, and a huge amount of humility. It will also be work, but wonderful work if looked at in the right way. If you are a parent bringing your sometimes-unruly children to church, perhaps it would be helpful to see yourself as one of the friends of the paralytic man who brought him to Jesus, lowering their friend down through the ceiling when there was no other way to reach Jesus. Or, you can take encouragement from the warrior Joshua and from Caleb in [today’s] reading from Sirach, who together overwhelmed any obstacle in order to lead their children into the country of their inheritance. Let all see that though it may be difficult, how good it is to follow the Lord!”

Blessed to see you in church this summer,

Mother Sue+

Happenings

Vestry

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

Outreach

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



July 20, 2019

4PM -6 PM Chicken Barbeque & Pig Roast by the pond with music by *This Time Around*. \$15 per person. Call for reservations: 518-692-9550

7PM - Healing Service under the tent with Guest Speaker **Mike Hutchings** from the **Global Awakening** and the *Hoosick Valley Community Church Worship Band*.

Rain or Shine! Just show up!

A free will offering will be requested.



Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed!!

8:30AM - Coffee hour service concluded on June 16th and resume in early September. Everyone enjoy the summer months! Thanks to all who have joined us, and to Robin, Gayle and Maria for your service to this important stewardship. If anyone would like to join us please reach to our St. Peter's family – contact Michele Vennard at 518-274-4989 or at mlvennard@gmail.com

10:30AM - We are looking for volunteers to help with Coffee Hour following the 10:30AM service. This is a very well loved and cherished time for our parishioners to gather and enjoy each others company, but it cannot run without some helping hands! Anyone interested, please contact Caitlin Cehowski at caitlin.cehowski@gmail.com or at 518-669-3095. The hope is to get a few regular volunteers to create a rotating schedule beginning in the Fall!



2019 ST. PETER'S ANGELS SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

Games are played at the following parks: Mullens Park (35 North First Street, Albany), Stanford Heights FD (250 Morris Road, Schenectady), Fireman's Field, (1 St. George's Place, Albany) and Feura Bush (64 Mathias Place, Feura Bush). Directions are available on the website. Rather than doing a Google search, please type in your browser <http://www.softball-24-7.com/ESS-SundaySoftball/>. On the website, we are listed as St. Peter's Angels. Check rainouts call (518) 269-1293 - 1 hour prior to game.

2019 ST. PETER'S ANGELS SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

April 28th	Sunday	3:00PM	beat Stanford Heights	Won 15-10
June 2nd	Sunday	1:30PM	beat Stanford Heights	Won 13-2
June 9th	Sunday	1:30PM	beat Habitat 4 Insanity	Won 17-2
June 30th	Sunday	3:00PM	@ Mullen's	TCP Bomb Squad
July 14th	Sunday	3:00PM	@ Feura Bush	Cake Eaters
July 14th	Sunday	4:30PM	@ Feura Bush	Cake Eaters
July 21st	Sunday	1:30PM	@ Firemen's Field	Habitat 4 Insanity
July 21st	Sunday	4:30PM	@ Mullen's	Misfits
July 28th	Sunday	10:30AM	@ Feura Bush	TCP Bomb Squad
July 28th	Sunday	12:00PM	@ Feura Bush	Misfits



St. Peter's Angels: Hey St. Peter's Fans! We are still unblemished, 3-0!! The team has had to deal with a lot of rain, but when we've played, it's been pretty terrific! The rest of the schedule is changing, with makeups and the Angels are taking part in the Phil Sweeney Tourney on Sunday, June 23rd - it's all for charity! Hope you come out and support us! For more information about the tournament, call Pete at (518)269-1293. Pass the cap was missed - but IF you'd like to donate for the team - either send to the office (make check payable to St. Peter's Church w/softball donation in memo line, OR if you have Venmo App: @Peter-Benson-10). The deadline for donations is July 31st. Hope you try and make a game. Thanks for your support! Go Angels!

Youth Formation & Sunday School



Laura presenting awards to Cole and Ava ~ June 16th

On June 16th we honored those who teach our children here at St. Peter's Church. We give thanks to God for the service of these individuals:

Director of Christian Education

Laura Rulison

Teachers:

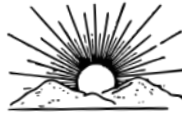
Victoria Pautler
Ashley Spath
Sharon Vardabash
Kelly Welch
Ariana Saffares

Thank you,
teachers!



Beaver Cross Summer Camp

There are still a few openings left for campers to join in the fun! If you have children who might benefit from summer camp, call Daniel Hyde at 518-692-9550



Grow in Christ!



ICE CREAM SUNDAE SOCIAL



Children's Chapel and Youth Sunday will return in the fall, and this September our Sunday School will be Hosting coffee hour after Children's Chapel. All parents are invited to bake with their children and bring a treat to share. Sunday School and Nursery care will continue throughout the summer during the 10:30 service, enjoying the wonderful lessons of the Bible. **Help is Needed** for Angels in Training on Saturday July 20th from 10am- 1pm, All that have some time and helping hands. I will not be there that Saturday and would so appreciate any help you can give that day. It's an amazing ministry and being summer and no school ...we will be packed with many children. The address is 498 Clinton Ave there is off street parking Thank you in advance. You can reach me at (518) 438-6236.

Blessings ~Laura.

St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen

July 20th and August 17th ~ 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. Call Laura at (518)438-6236.

Upcoming Adult Education this Fall

Searching
for more

#tryalpha

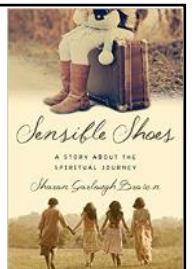
Alpha

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.

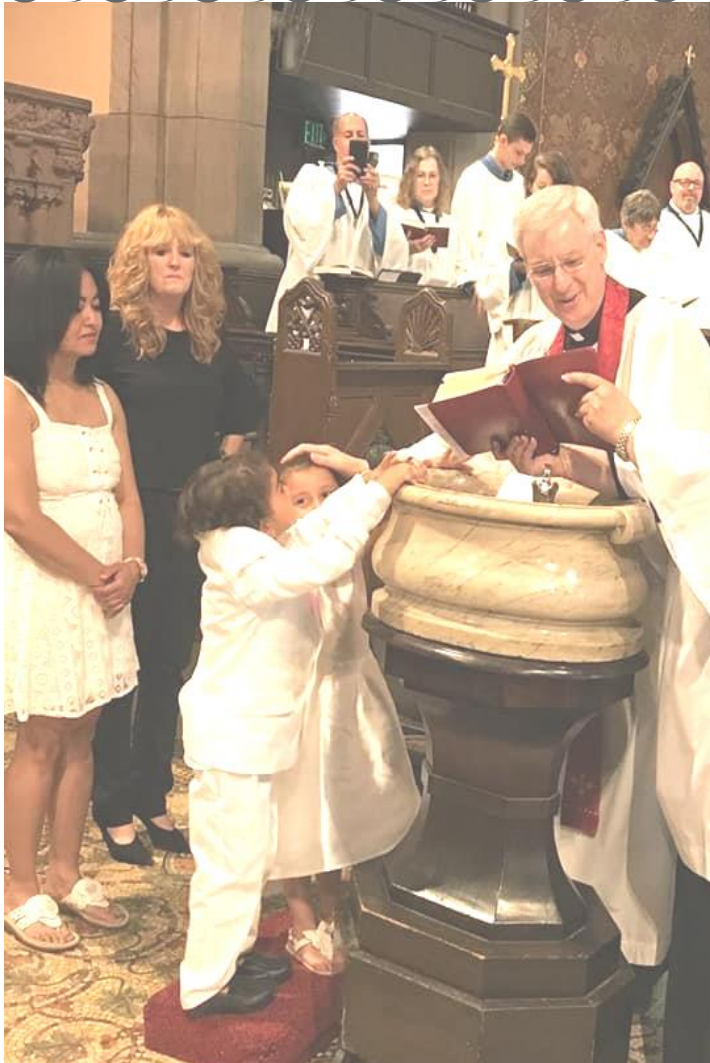
ALPHA COURSE: Alpha course will be offered on Sunday afternoons (following services) this Fall! Please watch for additional details and pray about attending and inviting a friend. Alpha is a great introduction to the Christian faith and church as well as for those wishing to deepen their faith.

Women's Book and Bible Study: Coming in September, Begins Tuesday September 3rd

This fall, please join the women of the church as we read and reflect on *Sensible Shoes, A Story About the Spiritual Journey* by Sharon Garlough Brown. We will read one chapter weekly and gather on Tuesday evenings (at 5:00) beginning September 3rd to discuss the material and spiritual guidance/ practices. So that books can be ordered in advance, please call the church office to indicate your interest by August 15th (\$10 for the book, with scholarships available). Also, please read chapter one in advance of our first gathering on September 3rd. Questions? Please speak to Mother Sue



Celebrations



Congratulations to Vinnie and Mary Troiano, who celebrated 60 years of marriage on June 6, 2019



Baptisms on June 9th ~ Elizabeth and Leonardo Pezzino

Upcoming Events

Retreats at Mons Nubifer Sanctus this summer contact at info@mons-nubifer.org or 607-832-4401.):

Thursday July 18 – Sunday July 21: Mid-Summer Silent Retreat

Spend some time this summer in a deep and regenerative silence. This retreat will not be as intensive as our Prayer Vigils, but will be sure to help deepen your practice of prayer and allow you to enjoy the blessings of summer in a quieted state. Participants can begin either Thursday or Friday, leaving Saturday or staying through the Divine Liturgy on Sunday. Therefore, this program will be especially attractive to people with Sunday obligations. All participants have an opportunity to take advantage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) and/or to receive individual spiritual direction during the program.

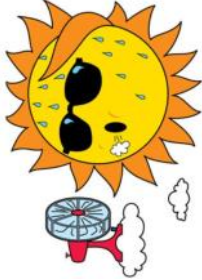
Friday August 16 – Sunday August 18: Introduction to the Theology and Practice of Contemplative Prayer

Dip your feet into the ocean of contemplative practice in the classical Christian tradition. Through an engagement of scripture and patristic and liturgical texts, participants gain a solid theological and historical foundation in Christian spirituality, put to work through a guided immersion in contemplative prayer. Learn how contemplative practice touches, deepens and unites all aspects of the Christian life: serving the Liturgy, study, serving others in our livelihoods, and in the Christian moral and ethical life. Learn the essentials of Christian prayer and how prayer can be deepened; how to chant the daily prayer offices in morning, noon and evening prayer services; how the Christian sacramental and communal life supports and deepens contemplative practice, and how to maintain prayer in activity and to make activity prayer. Participants have the opportunity to avail themselves of individual spiritual direction and/or the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) during this retreat.

July 2019

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

August 2019

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



Choir Awards - 2019

Choir Awards were given on Sunday, June 16th.

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

The Rector's Medal to an adult chorister for distinguished service: Victoria Waldron

Choir Mother, Diana Martin was recognized for her invaluable service.

Janice and Jim Chenot were recognized for 45 and 50 years, respectively, as members of the Choir.



Diana



Jim



Janice



Victoria



Summer Choir

During the summer months, we welcome parish members to sing with regular choir members for the 10:30am service. Beginning on June 23rd, the summer choir will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:45am to prepare music for the 10:30am service. There is no audition, although the ability to follow musical notation is helpful. Come and join the music making!

Boys and Girls, age 8 to grade 8
Are invited to join this professional 4-part
choir. Great music / musical training /
performance experience / monthly salary
Contact director Neil Keen
for more information
stpmus@gmail.com or 518-339-0137



From the Archives

The Paschal Candle



The Paschal Candle, Easter Candle, or Christ Candle is a tradition of the Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Lutherans or Methodists. It is a large white candle which is lit for Easter and used throughout the Paschal Season (the seven weeks of Easter until the Sunday after the Ascension or in some cases after Pentecost.)

The symbols in the candle are the Central Cross and the Greek letters Alpha and Omega signifying that God is the beginning and the end of all things. Also displayed in the candle may be the current year and five grains of incense representing the five wounds of Jesus on the cross.

Those churches celebrating the Holy Saturday Easter Vigil, light and bless the Paschal Candle before taking part in the procession into the church led by the Paschal Candle.

The Paschal Candle may also be used for special occasions such as for Baptisms and Funerals. The Paschal Trikirion is the equivalent candle used in the Orthodox Church.



The Right Reverend William Croswell Doane-Hew was the 1st Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany in the United States. He was bishop from 1869 until his death in 1913. As a student at Burlington College, New Jersey (where his family had moved in 1833), he was a founding member of a chapter of the college society St. Anthony Hall. He served about 60 years in ordained ministry, a huge span for those times. Doane is probably best known today for his Anglican hymn, *Ancient of Days*. Doane was born in Boston, and named for his father's best friend, the Rev. William Croswell. When he was born, his father, the Rev. George Doane, was Rector of Trinity Church, Boston, a prominent church. Within a year, his father was elected Bishop of New Jersey. While he was raised in Burlington, New Jersey, and attended St. Mary's School there, the place had little effect on him. In addition to also becoming an Episcopal priest like his father, he was also attached to the Oxford Movement like the elder Doane. He was ordained a Deacon on March 6, 1853, by his father at his home parish. Shortly thereafter, he married the former Sarah Katharine Condit; they had two children. He was ordained a priest in 1856 in the same church, and served at St. Barnabas Free Church in Burlington until 1860. In 1863, he

accepted a call to St. John's Church, Hartford, Connecticut, and he served there during the American Civil War. While there, parishioner Mark Twain pulled a joke on Doane, claiming "I have ... a book at home containing every word" of Doane's sermon that Sunday, then sent him an unabridged dictionary. He moved to Albany, New York in 1867 to serve "the venerable parish of St. Peter's, Albany." At the General Convention of 1868, in New York City, a new diocese of Albany was created, and Doane was elected the first bishop at the organizational convention of the diocese in St. Peter's Church. His election had "strong opposition," because he was a "young rector," but also because "the evangelical element ... looked upon Mr. Doane as a high churchman, [with] his ritualistic practices...." He was consecrated as a bishop in the Church of God in his own parish

church, St. Peter's, on the Feast of the Purification, February 2, 1869. --George Lynde Richardson

His consecrators were:

Right Reverend Horatio Potter, Bishop of New York

The Right Reverend William H. Odenheimer

The Right Reverend Henry A. Neely.

William Croswell Doane was the 92nd bishop consecrated in the Episcopal Church. Doane had a large diocese, and spent many years in visitation, establishing churches, and confirming persons. Doane's biggest project, for many years, was the building of the Cathedral of All Saints, his major legacy. He got the land donated by the wealthy Erastus Corning, and set about building the edifice starting with its incorporation in 1873, and the laying of its cornerstone, on June 3, 1884, "with impressive ceremony. The Cathedral of All Saints was dedicated in 1888. Like, his father, Doane liked Gothic architecture for Episcopal churches. However, until that time, smaller Episcopal churches served as seats of the bishop, and the "cathedral idea" -- the concept that a bishops' main church is more than merely a parish church, but the "Mother church" -- had not yet taken hold in the United States. Much of the building was paid for a gift by his unlikely friend, J. Pierpont Morgan. He died in New York City while travelling in 1913, at the age of 81. He was replaced by his Coadjutor, Richard Henry Nelson.

MINUTES FOR THE VESTRY MEETING
ST. PETER'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
May 14, 2019

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

Absent: N. Creagan, A. Spath

Opening Prayer Led by Father Paul Hartt

Approval of the Minutes of Vestry Meeting, April 9, 2019

The April 9, 2019 minutes were approved on a motion by T. Murphy and seconded by M. Holden. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

Warden Report –D. Spath

We began the month of April with our traditional Palm Sunday services, both at the 8:30 and 10:30 services. Both services were incredibly well attended compared to past years and it was great seeing the choir do its traditional Ride On procession at the end of the 10:30 service. Easter Sunday services were both well attended as well, and it's always great to see parishioners we normally don't see on a regular basis return for those services.

While the Palm Sunday service was in progress at the 10:30 service, the Sunday school children were decorating Easter eggs for the Easter egg hunt for the following Saturday at the Rectory. It was quite a morning at the egg hunt weathering heavy rain, but as you can see on our Facebook page we had an incredible turnout with coffee and donuts for all to enjoy. Many thanks to Laura Saffares and all the other Sunday school staff for all their work each Sunday, as well as helping at these special events.

As they have done in the past, the choir did an incredible job with all the music that was performed during the six weeks of lent which included evensong each Friday evening. The performance of the G.F Handel's "The Brockes Passion" on Good Friday was magnificent which included orchestra. Many thanks and gratitude is due for our organ and choirmaster Neil Keen, as well as our choir. The Easter Sunday music was top notch and we thank each and every one of the choir members for their musical talents and gifts, working so hard at all the rehearsals to perform all this wonderful music. Also, I would like to thank our choir Mom, Diana Martin who coordinates the brunch in between the Easter Services for the choir, as well as to make sure the Choir is looking their best at all times for all the services.

We would also like to thank the altar guild for all their preparation for the Maundy Thursday evening service and the preparation of the altars for both services on Easter Sunday. We are also blessed to have members at St. Peter's with the talent they bring, on our flower guild, and this Easter was no exception. The labor and love beautifying our church, with their flower arrangements throughout, was spectacular. Acknowledgement needs to be given as well, to our ushers who offer hospitality to all the newcomers as well as to our parishioners each and every Sunday. Also, thanks to Pat and Ian for keeping the Church and physical plant clean and in order. We also want to recognize and thank both Janice and Ruth for working tirelessly in the church office during the Lenten season. Again, the amount of work that is processed in the office during this time is an incredible task – printing items for the extra services, as well as all the record keeping for Easter Lilies memorials is an enormous undertaking. We are blessed and sincerely thankful for both of them for all their tireless work during this busy season.

The second Sunday in Easter, we celebrated the baptism of Dan Closson, and are blessed to have him as he joins our church family. Dan and Ashley Spath are now preparing for their wedding at the end of this year on December 27 at St. Peter's. We also have two other weddings coming up, Mollie Flannery and Ryan O'Connell, Saturday May 25th at Trinity Episcopal Church in Rensselaerville, NY, Father Hartt will be officiating, and Geoffrey Gerfin and Melissa Urquhart, Saturday June 8th at St. Peter's. God bless you and your families in this wonderful time in your lives.

To finish, we would like to thank our devoted and loving clergy Father Hartt and Mother Sue for all their preparation for all the services during the Lenten season and the Sunday services that led us to Easter Sunday. From sermon preparation, ministering those in need in our parish, as well as helping those in need that come in during the week for help is quite a feat with much dedication. We cannot express enough on how much the both of you are so loved and appreciated by all, the vestry, choir and congregation at St. Peter's.

Sunday Attendance – The Average Sunday Attendance is 121.8

Rector's Report - Father Hartt

Father Hartt began by thanking Fred Hersey for the cleaning of the Altar rug. It is a lovely work of needlepoint and has been transformed by the specialized cleaning it received. The work is a very nice renewal for Easter. Father Hartt also thanked Jim Chenot for the polishing of the church floors. The Sanctuary will be lovely for the upcoming weddings. Father Hartt also remarked that appreciative comments continue from parishioners and visitors alike about the interior restoration and particularly the historic color of paint. Fr. Hartt thanked Maria Holden and Fred Hersey for their fund-raising and research that made it all possible.

There will be Confirmations May 19th at St. Peter's, 4:00 PM. Saint Peter's has agreed to be the site of the spring regional confirmation. Our Confirmands are Jayathri Kaitryn Fernando, Robert Edward Myers, Richard Raymond Myers, Jr. and Cary Daniel Carcuro. St. George's and St. Stephen's Schenectady will also participate.

Fr. Hartt drew our attention to the fine letter from Dean Harding detailing to the Cathedral congregation's plans for joining St. Peter's this summer, as asbestos tiles are removed from their Sanctuary. The Cathedral congregation will be with us from June 16th through September 7th. The Cathedral will continue to offer an 8:00A.M. Holy Eucharist to their congregation in a back chapel that will be unaffected by the asbestos removal. The chapel would not be adequate, however, for their principal Service. The Cathedral clergy, choir, and Lectors will be fully integrated into the worship of St. Peter's. We look forward eagerly for the Cathedral's congregation to be with us this summer and to have the fine ministry of Dean Harding and Deacon Carpenter among us. Deacon Carpenter is already well known to us from his assignment to St. Peter's during his ordination process.

There are three weddings on the horizon. May 25th, Ryan O'Connell and Mollie Flannery; Geoffrey Gerfin and Melissa Urquhart on June 8th; and Erik Nielsen and Brenna Roche on June 22nd. We rejoice in the upcoming marriages and what they mean to the church community.

Father Hartt turned our attention to some charts from The Episcopal Church Headquarters. Relevant graphs only exist through 2017. The data reveal membership, attendance, and giving. Statistics for comparable parishes to St. Peter's within our Diocese as well as supplying our own figures. The report is instructive. St. Peter's is in fact having better attendance than comparable parishes and relatively solid overall giving. Only the Cathedral has slightly more in attendance. Of course, we do need to address with urgency our own dynamics. But these charts provide context for what is often speculative without hard data.

Alpha continues on Wednesday nights. We have now run the program twice with over 20 sessions experienced. The program has been fruitful in many ways. We have seen deepening of faith, theological questions answered, and growth in the Holy Spirit. The parish will run Alpha again in September. At this juncture, the plan is to offer it on Sundays following church in the Parish Hall.

Father Hartt spoke about possible approaches to a final stewardship letter from the rector. It is a complex dynamic that enfolds contemporary stewardship at St. Peter's, but equally The Episcopal Church as a whole. The simple fact is that many in our congregations are new or returning and perhaps not yet fully integrated in our current stewardship norms. We need a new strategy which uses both existing practices for long term members and new approaches for more recent membership.

Fr. Hartt brought up some maintenance items at the Rectory. Fr. Hartt also inquired about the microphones for worship. We will have increased need for mics this summer and for the upcoming Confirmation service.

Finance – G. Scala

George reviewed the Treasurer's Report for April. Offerings for April were \$25,979. Year to date offerings are at \$82,105. This compares to a budgeted number of \$75,883. Offerings through the same period in 2018 were \$75,887. George reported that these were encouraging numbers.

The investment/endowment accounts both showed gains for April. Merrill Lynch had a return of +3.06% for the month. Year to date return is +14.45%. The Key accounts showed a monthly return of +2.34% and a year to date return of +11.17%. This leaves us with a positive variance in this area YTD of \$443,917. George again noted that the market still can be volatile. Both accounts performed favorably versus market indexes. Expenses through April were \$9,982 over budget.

Pledges for 2019 increased to 46 pledging units for a total amount of \$123,854. 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 fans in the choir stalls in the church have been fixed and are back in working order. The Altar Guild is requesting some silver to be repaired. We will contact the jeweler to make sure this is done. There are some leaks in the Rectory roof that will be repaired.

Outreach – Mother Sue

April 28th was the Spring Tea. We'd like to thank Judy Burns and Christy Fish for their work in organizing the Tea. This year the proceeds of \$350 will benefit Beaver Cross Scholarships for Diocesan youth.

Many thanks to Tim Murphy and Maria Holden for volunteering as St. Peter's Recruiters for the Albany CROP Walk. Our team raised \$425.00 in support of local and national food programs – thank you!

Old Business– None

New Business –

The Restoration Committee is applying for a \$10,000 grant from the Bender Foundation. This is a continuation of our efforts to complete the 2nd phase of the Interior Restoration Project

Associate Rector's Report – Mother Sue

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 8 at our next meeting on June 9th. The May meeting was cancelled (due to Mother's Day). We welcome new women to our order – please ask us about Discernment classes.

Confirmation classes continue with three youths and one adult attending. We are excited to host the Regional Confirmation service on May 19th here at St. Peter's with a light reception following the service.

Alpha continues each Wednesday at 6:00pm through May 29th. The participants experienced a tremendous Holy Spirit "weekend" on Saturday May 4th. We are enjoying growing closer to one another and deepening our faith. We hope to offer the program again in the Fall.

We had a glorious Holy Week and Easter here at St. Peter's thanks to all the dedicated lay members on the altar guild, flower guild, choir, LEM's, Lectors, Ushers, teachers and members. Easter season continues to be joyous with all of you. Special thanks to the staff, and especially to Fr. Hartt, our godly leader, for the preparation and work that was done in advance so that we could enjoy such a special Easter season.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by M. Lundberg and seconded by D. Spath, 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 ScalaTreasurer
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.

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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.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

