

THE Cornerstone

September 2019

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

From the Rector

The Nest

It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches. (Matthew 13:32.)

The smoketree outside of our kitchen window is a favorite with the birds. In fact, we can always count on getting a nest. From my novice eye, the reason for the tree's popularity is the great multitude of branches. These branches are intricately woven and abundantly leafed. Clearly, the combination provides a good measure of protection for nesting. A bonus for us is that we get a good view of the process of nest building. This task falls on the male. The reward for a good product is a good mate.

The life of a church is a bit like building a nest. We do our best to make an attractive home and hope to attract a mate. Our recent interior restoration project has a bit of that quality. Already, we are being rewarded. Our work is truly being noticed by visitors. They are quite taken by what has been accomplished. We tell them of the blessing of a paint expert who sampled down to the original color. They can see that great care has been taken with every step. It is stunning how the original paint color has tied the other colors in the church together. They really notice. Even after many months, I am still taken by it all. Our faithful restoration project is important work to the glory of God.

There is no question that the project was desperately needed. One parishioner remarked a few years back that we were "beyond shabby chic." No more. I am grateful for the generosity of so many. We are certainly very far from shabby now! We still have some work to do, but the beauty has already arrived. We look forward to the finishing touches this year. But now back to nest building.

I found myself pondering the role that this work plays in the bigger project of building a church nest. We hope our visitors will choose to make our nest their home. But what truly causes them to choose us as a mate? I think that is an important question.

One thing that I have noticed through the years with our smoketree is how some of the best nests are built by seemingly unimpressive birds. Often they are smaller than usual and a bit rough around the edges. But these birds work extra hard and get impressive mates. They are judged not by their appearance, but by their workmanship. A pretty nest catches the eye to be sure, but the nest itself must be trustworthy and structurally sound. Offspring are precious. Souls are precious. Nests have important work to accomplish. Our project now is how to take the transcendent experience of our sanctuary as the promise that yet more will be revealed to those who pass through our doors.

Choosing to nest in a church is a big decision. The quality of our liturgy, our music program, and our church's beauty are a powerful combination. They do welcome visitors with great power each Sunday. We are not careless with the gifts of God. We appreciate what we have been given by those who have gone before and give right now. But as Jesus says, the purpose of the nest is new growth for the Kingdom of God. It is to hatch and to raise. It is to draw souls to the Living Lord who beckons all to find rest for their souls and to grow as Christians. What makes a nest is the love that goes into it, the devotion, the prayers, and the insistence on doing our best. We then trust God to bring us a good mate. No matter what kind of bird you imagine yourself to be, fancy or seemingly ordinary, God is calling you to build our nest. It is the heart given for others that matters. I give thanks for you all and look forward to building together this coming year. Twig by twig, act by act!

Peace of Christ, Fr. Hartt+

From the Associate Rector

Ch...ch...ch...ch...changes

This summer felt like the summer of change as we ventured into combined worship with our dear Cathedralites while their sanctuary was closed due to a floor replacement project. Each week, subtle nuances of our liturgy and customs were re-discovered and re-examined. As Cathedralites, lay and clergy alike, arrived to take part in our service, intentional thought and conversation took place about our practices and habits. I even heard from some St. Peter's parishioners as they experienced church a "wee bit different" these past summer weeks. And although I didn't hear from many of them, I'm sure the Cathedralite worshippers experienced the most profound changes of all.

Regardless of our close adherence to the Book of Common Prayer and its rubrics, each worshipping community has their own set of "rubrics" and practices that govern their liturgy. We move through these seamlessly and effortlessly as a congregation accepting it's "how it's always done" without much question or discomfort. Yet, an experience such as this summer points out to us that others who walk through our doors aren't familiar with "how it's always done" and may have experiences here at St. Peter's that differ greatly from what they are used to and even what they are comfortable with. Perhaps you traveled this summer and worshipped elsewhere, experiencing similar changes in the liturgy or customs of worship? Can you remember how that felt? Can you use that experience to be empathetic to our visitors?

All of this brings to my mind the Practice of Hospitality. How can we, as a worshipping community, practice gracious hospitality to those who visit us either once, or for the summer, or as potential members of St. Peter's? How can we remember that those who visit us may have a different worship experience than we have and that ours may be one full of changes, discomfort and unknown practices for them rather than our experiencing "how it's always done"?

We've grown so much in the area of hospitality already. Decades ago, we used to be known as a more closed-off community – even an unwelcoming church. Today that is not the case. I see you warmly greet others welcoming them to our gracious space. I see you shake hands with visitors at the Peace and invite them into Coffee Hour after worship. I see you gain names and phone numbers for the clergy so that we can follow-up with visitors. All these practices are pertinent. And yet, is there more we could or should be doing to show gracious hospitality?

What if we look at our own practices and customs through the eyes of a visitor? What about our service is easy to follow? What about it may be difficult for others? Should we offer more helps to newcomers? What would those look like? Perhaps we should even have volunteers who would be willing to sit with visitors and help guide them through our worship service? How can we help visitors navigate our liturgy and our buildings and grounds not to mention feel ready to become full members of our church family?

These are just a few questions we might ask ourselves as we expand our thoughts on hospitality. Changes might even be necessary for us to grow our church and attract and retain visitors. What are your thoughts? Your clergy and Vestry are eager to hear them. In the meantime, I'm eager for September to begin and the return of folks from summer vacation so that we can get back to worshipping together "how it's always done"!

With Blessings,
Mtr. Sue+

Upcoming Events

Daughters of the King

The September DOK meeting will be held on Sunday, September 8th after the 10:30am Service in the Vestry room.

We will continue, where we left off, with the review of chapter 7 of the study guide. Also, we will need to update our prayer list and discuss a meeting date/time that works consistently for our DOK monthly meetings.

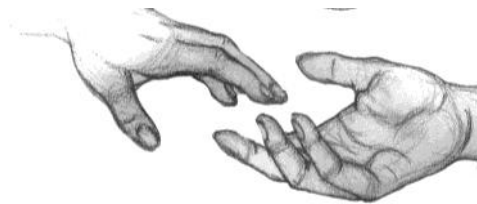


Vestry Meeting

The September Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 10th at 5:15pm.

Outreach

The September Outreach meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 10th at 4:00pm. Please join us to learn about Outreach ministries and hospitality events being planned!



Parish Picnic: September 22nd!

The annual parish picnic will be held at The Rectory, 8 Loudon Heights South, Loudonville, NY 12211 on Sunday, September 22nd after the 10:30AM service. Chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass for the meal or a dessert. A free will offering will be taken with a suggested donation of \$10.00 per family. Driving directions to the rectory will be available in the rear of the sanctuary.



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 church office at (518)434-3502.

Coffee Hours : The 8:30am coffee hour will resume on September 8th.

Coffee Hour Volunteers are NEEDED:

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 other's 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! Anyone interested in helping with the 8:30am coffee hour can contact Michele Vennard at: mlvennard@gmail.com or at 518-274-4989.



St. Peter's Angels: On Sunday, August 25th the Angels played in the Championship Finals playing back to back games against Habitat 4 Insanity. They lost both games with final scores of 12-8 and 16-7. These losses eliminated them from winning the Championship and their season came to an end. We would like to thank coach Pete Benson and all of the "Angels" for an outstanding season. To see all of the final results of the season please visit <http://www.softball-24-7.com/ESS-SundaySoftball/index.html>.

Flower Memorials

During the year, our Flower Guild arranges flowers to bring beauty to our sanctuary and joy to our congregation. Those wishing to make a donation for flowers for a memorial, thanksgiving or celebration should call the Church Office to confirm available dates. During Advent, we use only greens; during Lent, the altars are bare. Other Sundays, we welcome contributions. Cost of flowers: Main Altar is \$50, St. Mark's Altar is \$35, and the Tower Altar is also \$35.

All requests are payable in advance.

Searching for more

#tryalpha

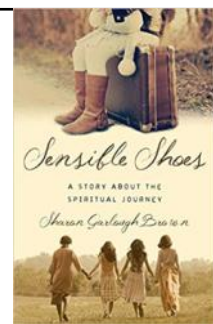
Alpha

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 the 10:30am service, beginning on September 29th. 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: Beginning on Tuesday, September 3rd

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. Beginning September 3rd, we will read one chapter weekly and gather on Tuesday evenings at 5:00pm, except for September 10th. Meetings will be held in the vestry room. We will discuss the material and spiritual guidance/practices. So please read chapter one in advance of our first gathering. Questions? Please speak to Mother Sue.



Healing a Woman's Soul

A journey of hope.

ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT

September 6th -7th, 2019 at the Dominican Retreat Center
6:30pm Friday- 6:30pm Saturday

Discover and build spiritual wellness for the ups and downs of life. The retreat will empower our progress and show us through fellowship, fun, crafts and healing prayer more tools to sustain our lives. Together we can investigate how to grow and overcome challenges that keep us stalled.

Our female retreat team of Episcopal and Baptist ministers are already praying for you. Please join us. Cost is \$120 per person. Full or partial scholarships are available first com-first served so prompt action is appreciated. Please call Gretchen at (518) 439-8574 or at hawsretreats@gmail.com.

Healing PRAYER

LEVEL 1 2019 CLASS SCHEDULE

Introduction to the foundations for healing...
The History of Healing in the Church | Gifts of the Holy Spirit | Becoming a Prayer Minister

Note that Level 1 requires a pastor's recommendation.

September 12-15, 2019

4-Day Class

Registration Deadline: September 5, 2019

Youth Formation & Sunday School

Blessing of the Backpacks

We invite the youth of St. Peter's to bring their backpacks to church to be blessed for the new school year. This will happen on Sunday, September 8th during the 10:30am church service.

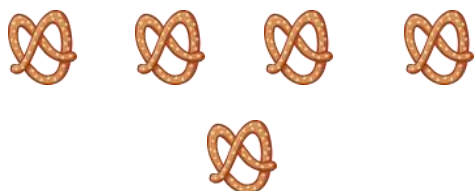


Backpacks & Supplies for Back-to-School

Every year the Sunday School collects backpacks (new or lightly used) and back-to-school supplies to be donated to the children at Grace and Holy Innocents. Please pick up an extra backpack, notebook, pack of pencils or pens, loose leaf paper, or markers and place the items in the bushel baskets located in the Pumpelly Room or in the Sunday School rooms. These supplies and backpacks will be delivered to Grace and Holy Innocents on Saturday, September 21st. Thank you for your support, your donations are greatly appreciated.

Prayer Pretzels/Sunday School Registration

On Sunday, September 8th Sunday School registration will take place and the children will be busy making prayer pretzels. Please take a moment to stop upstairs to complete a registration card for your child(ren).



St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen

Saturday, September 21st ~ 11AM to 1PM

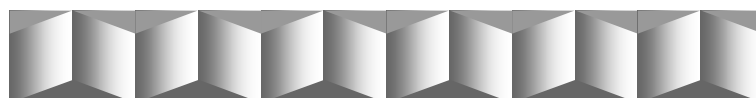
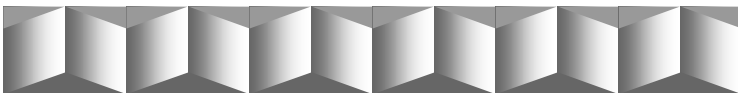
On the 3rd Saturday of every month St. Peter's Church is committed to preparing and serving lunch to 100+ people at the St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen (formerly known as Grace and Holy Innocents) located at 498 Clinton Avenue, Albany, NY 12206. We invite you, and the youth of our church (the Angels 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.



Calling all Families to **Youth Sunday:**
held on the last Sunday of each month
resuming on **September 29th!**

The clergy of St. Peter's continues this ministry which highlights the youth of our church at the **10:30am service** on the last Sunday of the month. We are proud of our youth and how they are growing into their roles as members of St. Peter's Church. Because of this, we invite them to take special part in the Youth Sunday service on the last Sunday of each month. The teens fill important roles 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. 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.

Youth Sunday helps our youth learn about and connect with our liturgy as well as take their place among us as St. Peter's Church members. Please speak to Fr. Hartt or Mtr. Sue if your child would like to have a special role during an upcoming Youth Sunday (i.e. reader, acolyte).



September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
1 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion	2 Labor Day Office Closed	3 5:00pm - Women's Book and Bible Study	4 8:45am - Top of 12:05pm - Holy C
8 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer w/ Backpack Blessing Sunday School Registration and Prayer Pretzel Baking 11:45am - DOK Meeting	9 5:00pm - Treble Make-up Rehearsal	10 4:00pm - Outreach Meeting 5:15pm - Vestry Meeting	11 8:45am - Top of 12:05pm - Holy C
15 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion 11:30am - Picnic @ the Cathedral	16 5:00pm - Treble Make-up Rehearsal	17 5:00pm - Women's Book and Bible Study	18 8:45am - Top of 12:05pm - Holy C
22 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer Church Picnic @ The Rectory following the 10:30 Service	23 5:00pm - Treble Make-up Rehearsal	24 5:00pm - Women's Book and Bible Study	25 8:45am - Top of 12:05pm - Holy C
29 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost Youth Sunday 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer w/Children's Chapel	30 St. Michael and All Angels 5:00pm - Treble Make-up Rehearsal		

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
the Hill Communion	5	6	7
the Hill Communion	12 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	13 12:30pm - Organ Concert	14 Holy Cross Day
the Hill Communion	19 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	20 12:30pm - Organ Concert	21 St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist 11:00am - Angels in Training
the Hill Communion	26 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	27 12:30pm - Organ Concert	28
			



THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, SEPTEMBER 8th.

The gospels tell us little about the family and home of our Lord's mother. She is thought to have been of Davidic descent and to have been brought up in a devout Jewish family that cherished the hope of Israel for the coming kingdom of God, in remembrance of the promise to Abraham and the forefathers. In the second century, a devout Christian sought to supply a fuller account of Mary's birth and family, to satisfy the interest and curiosity of believers. An apocryphal gospel, known as the Protevangelium of James or The Nativity of Mary, appeared. It included legendary stories of Mary's parents Joachim and Anne. These stories were built out of Old Testament narratives of the births of Isaac and of Samuel (whose mother's name, Hannah, is the original form of Anne), and from traditions of the birth of John the Baptist. In these stories, Joachim and Anne—the childless, elderly couple who grieved that they would have no posterity—were rewarded with the birth of a girl, whom they dedicated in infancy to the service of God under the tutelage of the temple priests. Many provinces of the Anglican Communion celebrate September 8th rather than August 15th as their primary Marian feast. Although we do not know the truth of Mary's parentage or birth, we nevertheless rejoice for those who brought her into this world, and who raised her in such a way that even as a young woman she was able to give a courageous “yes” in response to her call from God.



THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

I Almighty God, heavenly Father, we remember in thanksgiving this day the parents and birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary; and we pray that we all may be made one in the heavenly family of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who with thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth, one God, world without end. Amen.

St. Peter's Music

CHOIR START-UP

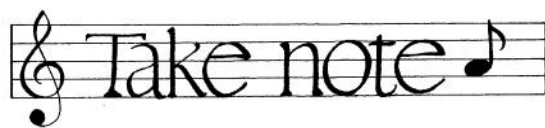
Regular Choir Rehearsals will resume the week of September 9th on the following schedule:

Mondays: 5:00PM - 6:15PM ~ Treble supplementary rehearsal time
Thursdays: 5:00PM - 6:30PM ~ Trebles
5:30PM - 7:00PM ~ SATB
Sundays: 9:30am rehearsal for the 10:30am service

We are eager to welcome boys and girls age 8 to grade 8 to join the Treble section of the choir. Please contact Neil Keen at (518)339-0137 for further information. There are also openings for singers of high school age and above.

FRIDAY NOONTIME ORGAN CONCERTS

will resume on Friday, September 13th. These free half-hour concerts are presented each Friday at 12:30pm. Come and hear organist Neil Keen and guest artists perform on our wonderful pipe organ, one of the largest and finest in the Capital District.



ST. PETER'S CHOIR

Boys and Girls

Age 8 to grade 8

Join us in 2019

- Musical and Vocal training
- Monthly Salary
- An opportunity for free piano lessons
- No experience required.

***Choir singing makes you smarter
and happier.****



There are also openings in other voice parts.

Please contact Neil Keen with any questions about the program

stpmus@gmail.com

(* Google "benefits of choral singing." you may be surprised.)



St. Peter's Church
1859

St. Peter's Receives Challenge Grant

St. Peter's Church has received a \$10,000 grant from the Bender Family Foundation. The application for the grant, which was submitted by the Restoration Committee, stated that the money would be used as a Challenge Grant to raise additional funds toward the completion of Phase 2 of the restoration (cleaning the stone columns). Due to the generous response of the congregation to this type of grant in the past, the Restoration Committee is hopeful that we might also raise funds which would be sufficient to complete the first part of Phase 3 of the restoration. The first part of Phase 3 would be the painting of the plaster arches between the columns. Completion of that painting would be the last element in visually restoring the sanctuary to its appearance as it was when it first opened in 1859. A campaign will be launched in the early fall to solicit contributions to meet the challenge.

Congratulations Julian!!

From your friends at St. Peter's Church



Troop 1701
Eagle Scout Court of Honor
Julian Kovacs
August 18th, 2019



Julian's Scouting days started like so many other scouts, putting on the Blue and Orange colors of the Tiger Scout. In those first few meetings, there were many older Boy Scouts who served as mentors and provided lots of encouragement and adventurous stories of what a life in scouting brings to a boy. Julian looked up to those high ranking Boy Scouts who appeared to be at least 2-3 times his size but more importantly, they had many badges, patches, pins and a bunch of cool stuff on them that seemed to be beyond the reach of any young scout.

Then came years of meetings, campouts, trips to Washington D.C., Gettysburg, skits, hiking, PLC, Albany Indoor Rock Climbing, Pinewood Derby, popcorn sales, lock-ins, Order of the Arrow, rank advancements, troop guide, Turkey Freeze Outs, Giant Pixie Sticks, Hey Santa Fe "What's the Point" caroling, 31 merit badges and always having FUN...

It's been a Phenomenal Trek and Julian would like to thank everyone for all their time and support, especially to the Scout Leaders who guided him to reach the highest honor in scouting, the Eagle Scout.

The Dean and Chapter of The Cathedral of All Saints

Invite You To
A Cathedral Homecoming Celebration
Picnic on the Grounds
With The Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys and a Brass Quintet

September 15, 2019 at 11:30 AM

In Celebration of
A New Cathedral Floor
A New Outdoor Garden and Performance Space
The Launching of a New Look for the Cathedral Brand
and
The Announcement of the 2019-2020 Cathedral Arts Program

The Concert and Picnic will be preceded by a special
Service of Thanksgiving at 10:00 AM
sung by The Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys

All are welcome at both events.

To insure ample food,

Please RSVP for the picnic by Monday, September 2, 2019

To Meredith Ewbank

mewbank@thecathedralofallsaints.org

or 518-465-1342

Or by clicking on the RSVP button on the banner of the Cathedral's website
cathedralofallsaints.org/.

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

