

Cornerstone

October 2019

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

From the Rector

Our annual Parish Picnic is important. It is both a cherished tradition of the parish and something that marks parish time. The picnic is also significant for our children. The presence of the "Bouncy-Bounce" for them on the front lawn is more than an invitation to fun. It is a visible sign to our children that they truly matter, that church sees them as essential to the family. Indeed, each "little" act that focuses in on our kids helps them to see that church isn't just for adults. It is about them as much as us -- and arguably more so. Whether it is our monthly Youth Sunday or the weekly children's homily, our children need to experience the parish family as only complete with them.

One of the struggles of Episcopal parish life in recent years concerns the presence or absence of children. We are blessed at St. Peter's by the presence of an unusually high number of kids for an Episcopal Church of our size. The presence of children in our midst first encourages the hearts of the adults. We see new life. We rejoice to teach them and simply have any occasion to delight in them. They do grow up fast, in the twinkling of an eye. While there is a little melancholy in the speed of it, we also like to watch the process and have joyful memories of the various stages. In every sense, children are life-giving for a parish.

Of course, the absence of children has the opposite impact. We feel in our spiritual bones something is missing, something essential. It is good that we do have those feelings. They are reminders of our sacred responsibility. The Bible is clear that the church is about conveying the faith to each new generation. I am reminded of two Psalms in particular, although the theme repeats throughout Scripture.

"One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts."

(Ps. 145: 4.)

*"O God, you have taught me since I was young,
and to this day I tell of your wonderful works."*

*And now that I am old and gray-beaded, O God, do not forsake me,
till I make known your strength to this generation
and your power to all who are to come."* (Psalm 71: 17-18.)

Those generations sure happen very quickly -- from bouncy-bounce to college in a moment.

One of my greatest joys as rector is that our kids like church. They feel the parish family truly cares for them and they are deeply shaped by the liturgy. I often remark to my colleagues that Rite One has no appreciable impact on our children's grasp of the service. In fact, there are many signs that it has deepened their appreciation. The same could be said about the richness of our music program. St. Peter's is a spiritually lush environment. The fact that we are an urban church adds greatly to this richness on Sunday mornings. Likewise, we have the presence of many generations in common worship.

My principal point here is to remind us that our children are equally a joy and sacred responsibility. Moreover, the presence or absence of children affects the whole congregation and perhaps especially the children themselves. Children form friendships and they learn from one another. Devotional practices learned at home also benefit more than one's own child. These practices inform the children's interactions. For example, the children chime in at the children's homily the things that they know. Perhaps it will be about a Bible story that they have learned or some aspect of the life of the church. They also welcome other kids. Children are their own best ambassadors. Their joy and sense of ownership are highly infectious.

I am quite aware that there are many competing claims on our kids these days. But please know that our decisions as parents concerning church attendance affect not just our children, but other kids. If one thinks about it, it becomes clear that these competing claims on Sunday morning are broadly felt by all those at church. They also pale in comparison to being together. There is truly nothing more enriching or special than church life. We kid ourselves (no pun intend) if we think otherwise. Our children value what they see the grownups value. Actions do speak louder than words.

Many of us here are getting gray-headed. I count myself in. Our kids will be the ones to carry on the Episcopal Church, St. Peter's, and our local parish traditions. Soon they will be ordering the Bouncy-Bounce and making a dish to pass for the picnic. Indeed, we already saw this happening at the charcoal grills. One generation passing the gift of hospitality to another. In fact, some of those laborers once bounced away in the front yard. The church is not an abstraction. It is a lived thing.

The gift of church is the Faith. Of course, the Christian faith is shared in a context which varies some from parish to parish. But the truth holds that the Faith itself can never be an abstraction. Church is truly how our children learn to love the Lord and to serve others in His Name. Sometimes it is as simple as learning to share the joy of the Bouncy-Bounce with a new kid at St. Peter's. I saw that last Sunday with pride and joy! We rightly count our blessings one by one, child by child. We must bless them in return by bringing them to church. It is our greatest joy and most sacred calling as parents. No abstractions. The life of the church is the life of Faith.

Faithfully, Fr. Hartt+

From the Associate Rector

The Blessing of the Animals

You may have noticed on our church calendar that I will be holding a Service for the Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 6th at 2:00pm. This has become a favored tradition here at St. Peter's and I thought some background on the event might be interesting to all of you.

Traditionally, churches hold such a Service close to the Feast day of St. Francis of Assisi which is October 4th. We do this to honor St. Francis' particular love for all of God's creatures. We also do so to honor the place that our pets have in our lives. Truly, many of us enjoy companion animals. They fill our hearts and our homes and provide safety and security as well as comfort and companionship. Lastly, we do this because God blessed the animals.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." (Genesis 1:20-26)

Yes, God blessed the creatures, and saw that it was good.

When we Bless the animals, we are praying a special prayer to God that he would bless the life of the animal as well as the unique relationship between them and their humans remembering that God gave humans "dominion over the animals of the earth." In doing so, we also recognize the beauty of all of God's creation and his Creative hand at work in our world today.

Truly animals hold a unique and special part of our lives. I am thankful to have blessed many cats and dogs over the years and have even blessed pets at other times as they approached an operation, serious sickness or even death. I hope that you will consider bringing your pet(s), or those of a child or grandchild, to our Blessing of the Animals service this year. Truly we celebrate our pets every day of our lives, but isn't it wonderful to come together as a community and do so in a special way? You may wish to extend an invitation to a neighbor or friend to join us – this can be a nice way to introduce the community of St. Peter's Church to them.

If you can't join us, I would ask that you offer your own prayer for the Blessing of all Animals, especially those who are homeless or are suffering. Let us pray,

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon all the animals. May our relationships with them mirror your love, and our care for them be an example of your bountiful mercy. Grant the animals health and peace, and strengthen us to love and care for them as we strive to imitate the love of Jesus Christ our Lord and God's servant Francis, Amen.

Yours in Christ, Mtr. Sue+



Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 6th at 2:00pm! As is custom in celebrating the Feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, our church invites you to bring your pet to this church service for a blessing. The service of prayers and blessing will take place in the St. Francis Garden next to the sanctuary at 2:00pm allowing parishioners time to return home after morning services and return with their pet. We welcome you, family members and friends to bring your pet on a leash or in a crate for your pets safety.

Outreach

The October Outreach meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 8th at 4:30pm. Please join us to learn about Outreach ministries and hospitality events being planned!

Vestry Meeting

The October Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 8th at 5:15pm.

Healing Prayers are offered during Holy Communion on the first Sunday of every month. Please receive Holy Communion first and then proceed directly to the Tower Chapel in the rear of the sanctuary for prayers and anointing with the clergy.



Offering Envelopes for 2020

We are in the process of preparing a final list for the printers of those parishioners who wish to receive weekly Offering Envelopes for the 2020 calendar year. Please review your envelopes for accuracy in your name and address. Should you wish to make any changes, or if you do not presently receive Offering Envelopes but would like to, or if you would like to discontinue your envelopes, please send your changes and/or information to Janice Chenot at office@stpeterschurchalbany.org or call the church office at (518)434-3502. In order for you to receive your envelopes by the first of the year, your changes must be received by **Sunday, October 20th.**

Daughters of the King - Julia Chapter

The next DOK meeting will be held on October 6th in the Sunday School room on the second floor, immediately following the 10:30 service. As a Daughter of The King, we pledge to pray daily for others, to be of service to our clergy and community, and to share the word of God. Our events center around these rules and we invite you to join us for upcoming events include hosting coffee hours, putting together blessing bags for the Women's Overflow Shelter, and collecting food and clothing for St. Francis Mission. Please join us in our endeavor to bring God's blessings to those in need.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation Classes

Youth in grades 1-2 are often ready for Holy Communion instruction while Confirmation is reserved for those over 13 years (adults included). For both classes, the individual must be baptized first. Please speak to Mother Sue or Father Hartt if you desire baptism, First Holy Communion or Confirmation instruction this Fall.

First Holy Communion Classes will begin on October 13th, following services.



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.

Flower Memorials

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

Adult Education

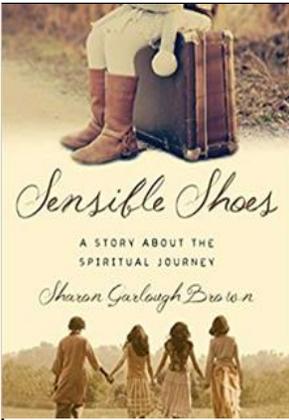
Searching for more

#tryalpha

Alpha

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

ALPHA COURSE: Alpha course will be offered on Sunday afternoons from 12:15pm - 1:30pm in the Vestry Room, 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:

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 read one chapter weekly and then discuss the material and spiritual guidance/practices. We gather on Tuesday evenings at 5:00pm, (except for October 8th) in the Vestry Room.

October 1st	Chapter 4:	<i>Learning to Linger</i>
October 8th	No Class	
October 15th	Chapter 5:	<i>Come and See</i>
October 22nd	Chapter 6:	<i>Hiding and Seeking</i>
October 29th	Chapter 7:	<i>Walking Attentively</i>

Other Happenings



Healing a Woman's Soul Benefit:

Healing a Woman's Soul, a ministry helping domestic violence victims on their journey to heal physically, emotionally and spiritually is holding its eleventh Annual Fund Raiser; "Anything Chocolate" at St. Paul's Church, 21 Hackett Blvd. in Albany on Saturday, October 19th from 6PM to 8:30PM. There will be a hot/cold buffet, silent auction and this year we will have a special time honoring Mother Anne Curtin for her ten years of dedicated service as Executive Director as she transitions into her new role as Chaplain. The cost for the event is \$20. For tickets or more information, call Gretchen Coyner at (518)439-8574 or contact the HAWS office at 68 S. Swan Street, Albany, NY 12210.

THE BIBLE AND THE IMAGINATION OF C.S. LEWIS

With Dr. Michael Ward

Saturday, October 12, 2019

9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Cathedral of All Saints, Albany



Join us for the annual fall Bible symposium with C.S. Lewis Scholar and author of "Planet Narnia," Dr. Michael Ward. Michael Ward is Senior Research Fellow at Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford, and Professor of Apologetics at Houston Baptist University, Texas.

Purchase tickets at: <https://www.cathedralofallsaints.org/>

Youth Formation & Sunday School



Calling all Families to our next **Youth Sunday:** **October 27th!**

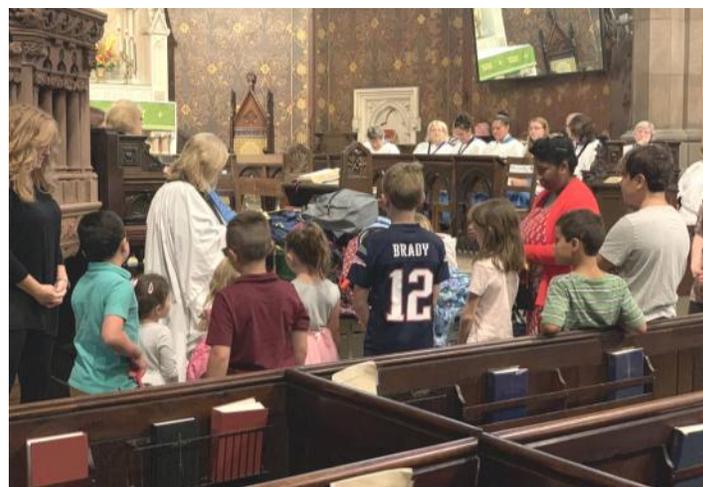
(held on the last Sunday of each month)

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.

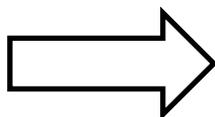
Youth Sunday helps our youth learn about and connect with our liturgy as well as take their place among us as St. Peter's Church members. Please speak to Fr. Hartt or Mtr. Sue if your child would like to have a special role during an upcoming Youth Sunday (i.e. reader, acolyte).

St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen Saturday, October 19th ~ 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. Join us! We would Love to show you the amazing blessing of community service. A Huge Thank You to all that come to volunteer each month. For information or to let her know you are coming please call Laura at 368-4284.



Blessing of the Backpacks



Thank you!

Thanks to the whole St. Peter's congregation for the outpouring support for the children of Grace and Holy Innocence! We were able to serve over 50 children and young adults in the Albany school system! The blessing of this generosity also left some extra school supplies for future use!



Thank you all.

Keep a look out for the green barrel...We are going to collect coats for kids and gloves and hats for the elderly.

Reminder to Youth Sunday School Parents:

The Sunday school will be doing coffee hour, the last Sunday every month. We have children's chapel and will stay in the back to get the treats and coffee ready. I encourage parents that want to bring a treat to meet me in the downstairs kitchen. We will put it out with the coffee. Thank you all in advance for your help.

Beaver Cross: FALL EDITION 2019

All the fun of a week of camp – crammed into one awesome weekend retreat! Join us for some great camp games, worship, messages, and fellowship. The focused scripture will be Colossians 3:12-14. This retreat will help encourage young people to stand firm in their faith! A chance for campers to catch up with their friends and counselors from summer camp whilst enjoying fall themed activities.

WHEN: Friday to Monday, October 11th-14th

DROP-OFF: Friday at 6:30-7:30pm

PICK-UP: Monday at 2:30pm

WHO: Jr. Fall Edition: 3rd-7th Grade

Sr. Fall Edition: 8th-12th Grade

PRICE: \$180/camper

HOW TO REGISTER: Registration is via the Beaver Cross <https://www.beavercrossministries.org/bcfalledition.html>

For more information contact Danny at dhyde@ctkcenter.org or (518) 692 9550 ext. 114.

St. Peter's Music

CHOIR

Choir rehearsals are on the following schedule:

Thursdays: 5:00pm - 6:30pm Trebles

5:30pm - 7:00pm Adult choristers

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 have resumed. Our organist and occasional guest performers present free half-hour programs each Friday at 12:30pm. On October 18th Neil will be joined by Oboist, Geoffrey Stein.

ORGAN RECITAL

Neil Keen will be performing an organ recital at the Cathedral of All Saints on Sunday, October 20th at 2:30pm preceding a service of Choral Evensong sung by the Cathedral Choir. Neil will play music of Bach, Brahms, Saint-Saens, and Dupre.

Composer of the Month Club



350th ANNIVERSARY - LOUIS MARCHAND (1669 – 1732)

French organist and composer

- Born into an organist's family, a child prodigy, incredible keyboard virtuoso.
- appointed organist at Nivers Cathedral at age 14
 - Had a violent temper, difficult personality and constantly cycled through church jobs.
 - Said to have accepted “dueling organists” competition with J. S. Bach, but fled the city the day before it was scheduled
 - In his prime, he was highest paid organ teacher in all of France, but died in extreme poverty
 - Was the French King's organist.

After Marchand's wife left him, the king ordered that she should receive half Marchand's salary. Marchand, in response, stopped playing half-way through a service saying:

"Sire, if my wife gets half my salary, she may play half the service."

Saint of the Month Club



OCTOBER 4: FRANCIS OF ASSISI, Friar and Deacon, 1226

Francis, the son of a prosperous merchant of Assisi, was born in 1182. His early youth was spent in harmless revelry and fruitless attempts to win military glory. Various encounters with beggars and lepers pricked the young man's conscience, however, and he decided to embrace a life devoted to Lady Poverty. Despite his father's intense opposition, Francis totally renounced all material values and devoted himself to serve the poor. In 1210, Pope Innocent III confirmed the simple Rule for the Order of Friars Minor, a name Francis chose to emphasize his desire to be numbered among the "least" of God's servants. The order grew rapidly all over Europe. But, by 1221, Francis had lost control of it, since his

ideal of strict and absolute poverty, both for the individual friars and for the order as a whole, was found to be too difficult to maintain. His last years were spent in much suffering of body and spirit, but his unconquerable joy never failed. In his later years he was ordained as a deacon, but he resisted all efforts to persuade him to become a priest. Not long before his death, during a retreat on Mount La Verna, Francis received, on September 14th, Holy Cross Day, the marks of the Lord's wounds, the stigmata, in his own hands and feet and side. Pope Gregory IX, a former patron of the Franciscans, canonized Francis in 1228 and began the erection of the great basilica in Assisi where Francis is buried. Of all the saints, Francis is perhaps the most popular and admired but probably the least imitated; few have attained to his total identification with the poverty and suffering of Christ. Francis left few writings; but, of these, his spirit of joyous faith comes through most truly in the "Canticle of the Sun," which he composed at Clare's convent of St. Damian's. The version in The Hymnal begins (The Hymnal 1982, #406; #407):

Most High, omnipotent, good Lord,
To thee be ceaseless praise outpoured, —
And blessing without measure.
Let creatures all give thanks to thee
And serve in great humility.

Collect:

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may, for love of you, delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lessons and Psalm

Galatians 6:14–18

Psalm 121

Matthew 11:25–30

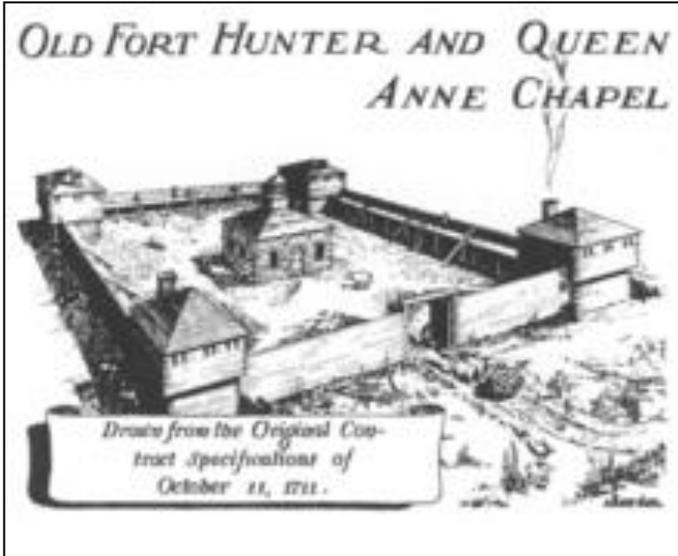
October 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		1 5:00pm - Women's Book & Bible Study	2 8:45am - Top of 12:05pm - Holy C
6 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost Healing Prayers 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion 11:45am - DOK Meeting 12:15pm - Alpha Course 2:00pm - Blessing of Animals	7	8 4:30pm - Outreach Meeting 5:15pm - Vestry Meeting No Book & Bible Study	9 8:45 am - Top of 12:05 pm - Holy C
13 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer 12:15pm - Alpha Course	14 Columbus Day Office Closed	15 5:00pm - Women's Book & Bible Study	16 8:45 am - Top of 12:05pm - Holy C
20 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion 12:15pm - Alpha Course	21	22 5:00pm - Women's Book & Bible Study	23 St. James c 8:45am - Top of 12:05pm - Holy C
27 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost Youth Sunday 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer w/Children's Chapel 12:15pm - Alpha Course	28 St. Simon & St. Jude, Apostles	29 5:00pm - Women's Book & Bible Study	30 8:45am - Top of 12:05pm - Holy C 5:00pm - Treble 5:30pm - Full C

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>of the Hill Communion</p>	<p>3 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir</p>	<p>4 12:30pm - Organ Concert</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>of the Hill Communion</p>	<p>10 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir</p>	<p>11 12:30pm - Organ Concert</p>	<p>12 9:30am - Diocesan Bible Symposium</p>
<p>of the Hill Communion</p>	<p>17 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir</p>	<p>18 St. Luke the Evangelist 12:30pm - Organ Concert</p>	<p>19 11:00am - Angels in Training</p>
<p>of Jerusalem of the Hill Communion</p>	<p>24 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir</p>	<p>25 12:30pm - Organ Concert</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>of the Hill Communion Rehearsal Choir</p>	<p>31 HALLOWEEN </p>		

Our Heritage

Part I - The American Indians Meet the Europeans



Albany, New York has a rich and colorful heritage. The Iroquois tribes of Indians were indigenous to New York. After the Iroquois, Albany became the home for Dutch immigrants. The voyage in 1609 of Henry Hudson up the Hudson River was on behalf of the Dutch West India Company.

Fort Nassau (Fort van Nassouwen) located by the Hudson River was the first Dutch settlement in North America. Built in 1614 or 1615 it was a stockade, serving as a trading post and warehouse. When it was destroyed by flooding, a companion fort was built in 1618. This was also destroyed by flooding and abandoned.

In 1624 the Dutch built Fort Orange on the west bank of the Hudson just south of the future site of Albany. Beverwyck a lucrative fur trading community was built north of Fort Orange and served the Algonquian speaking Mahican and the Iroquoian speaking Mohawk people.

In 1630 Killian van Rensselaer was the first successful patroon to establish a Dutch work community. This community on the Hudson River was called Rensselaerwyck. It would be successful into the 1800s. The patroon also established First Church in Albany in 1642 to serve Rensselaerwyck. First Church was the second oldest church built in New York State. Meanwhile Peter Stuyvesant became the Dutch Director-General of the Colony of Nieu Nederland (New York City) from 1647 until it was ceded provisionally to the English in 1664, as the Dutch battled with the British for control.

When the English captured Nieu Nederland in 1664 English laws were first introduced. Then on July 1st 1674 the Church of England was established. By an order of the Duke of York, a regiment of soldiers was to be stationed at the British Fort Frederick at Albany and a Chaplain for these soldiers was to be maintained at a salary of 121 pounds 8 shillings and 6 pence.

Although throughout the 1600s there were early missionaries from the Church of England there was not much success until Reverend Thomas Barclay arrived in 1707. He ministered to the Indians as well as to the soldiers at Fort Frederick and the townspeople of Albany. Barclay was supported by an organization called the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, a missionary organization founded in 1701 by Thomas Bray and his associates to promote the establishment of the Church of England in the new world.

When the Mohawk Indians requested a minister, the Reverend William Andrews was sent to the tribe. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel paid Andrews 150 pounds per annum and 60 pounds for an interpreter. And the Queen arranged for the building of Fort Hunter, a fort 150 foot square with a block house at each corner and a Chapel and a Manse in the middle. (See picture above) Attached to the fort were an officer and 20 men.

In 1712, to furnish the Chapel Queen Anne sent engraved silver vessels for Holy Communion. A similar set of silver vessels were sent for the Onondaga tribe. Since no Chapel was built for the Onondagas, that set was given to St. Peter's Church which was in the process of building a Chapel. Also in 1712 in order to influence the Iroquois tribes to side with the British, St. Peter's Church was made a Royal Peculiar Parish by Queen Anne and it became a part of a British diocese.

A grant was issued for the building of the first St. Peter's Church in 1714. Before the first Edifice of the Church was complete the church met in the Assembly Room of Fort Frederick and later at the Lutheran Church in town. By 1715 St. Peter's Church was built, and by 1716 it was dedicated.

In 1802 a new church, the Second Edifice, was built in the place of the First Edifice which was becoming too small for the burgeoning congregation.



ST. PETER'S CHOIR SEEKS Boys and Girls age 8 to grade 8

The Trebles of St. Peter's Choir

St. Peter's Choir is a four part choir of children and adults

- Musical and Vocal training
- Work with a team to prepare the performance of great music
- Special concerts, including some with orchestra.
- An opportunity for free piano lessons.
- Choristers are paid for their service

Thursdays: 5:00pm to 6:30pm,
Sundays: 9:30am to Noon

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



No experience required.

There are also openings for music readers in other voice parts.

Please contact Neil Keen with any questions about the program

stpmus@gmail.com

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 107 State St., Albany

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

REGISTER NOW FOR THESE OCTOBER/NOVEMBER EVENTS

An evening with Darryl Strawberry
Saturday - October 12, 2019

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
21 HACKETT BLVD
ALBANY, NY

Accredited for 2.75 CEU's



Darryl Strawberry, Ordained Minister
Former Major League Baseball Player

*"I have a heart for people, especially those who are faced with conditions, situations or battles in their lives that often bring a deep sense of hopelessness to the soul."
-Darryl Strawberry*

3:30 – 4:30pm	Networking/Table Displays
4:30 – 5:45pm	Stephanie Campbell, OASAS Dir. NYS Ombudsman Project
6 – 6:45pm	Bag Dinner (Complimentary)
7 – 8:30pm	Darryl Strawberry, Speaker - Q&A



This faith-based evening with a focus on recovery will give vision and hope to anyone in recovery or who knows someone who could be.

Join us as we hear Darryl's encouraging testimony of his journey from disaster to hope through the power of Jesus Christ.

Sponsored by
Diocese of Albany Recovery Commission (DARC) &
St Luke's on the Hill Recovery Resource Center (SLRRC)

<https://stlukeonthehill.org/recovery>

Free Event
Free Parking

Registration Required – St. Luke's Recovery Resource Center Facebook – Eventbrite

Daughters of the King
Fall Assembly

What's in your Cup?

Plans are underway for The Daughters of the King Fall Assembly, on Saturday, November 2, 2019 at Christ the King Spiritual Life Center from 9:00am – 3:30pm (registration at 8:30am). We will be meeting in the Great Hall and the cost (including lunch) is \$25. Mother Jean DeVaty will be our Speaker and Celebrant and our theme is "What's in Your Cup?"

DOK Assembly information and registration at: <https://files.constantcontact.com/2f974ad1701/64bc06da-0d79-481d-8e59-96806da08366.pdf>

Men's Conference

Information and registration at:
https://www.ckcenter.org/2019_mens_retreat_2745

Honest to God
Finding truth in a world of lies
A retreat for men...with keynote speaker Stan Key
November 15-16, 2019

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. — John 16:13



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A Day of Quiet and Healing

*For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength."
—Isaiah 30:15 RSV*

Saturday, October 26, 2019
9:30 a.m. — 3:30 p.m.

The Holy Spirit

Soaking Prayer | Reconciliation
Healing Holy Communion

TO REGISTER: call 518-692-9550 ext 201 or email healing@ctkcenter.org
Lunch is available at the Welcome Center (\$14)

There is no charge for this ministry

CHRIST THE KING CENTER
575 Burton Road | Greenwich, NY
www.ckcenter.org



Welcome Home Initiative

a program for combat veterans

Monday - Wednesday, November 11th - 13th

The Welcome Home Initiative© is a healing program for military combat veterans and spouses. These veterans may be suffering in varying degrees from Post-Traumatic Stress or Moral Injury and are in need of Soul Repair. The format of the program helps veterans and spouses understand the hidden impact of combat and provides a safe place for their emotional healing. This essential spiritual and emotional healing is a complement to healing received from medical, psychiatric, and social services. There is NO CHARGE for veterans or their spouses thanks to the generosity of individuals, churches and businesses.

To learn more, apply to attend, or to support this initiative contact

Christ the King Spiritual Life Center

<http://www.ckcenter.org> | healing@ctkcenter.org | (518)692-9550, ext. 201

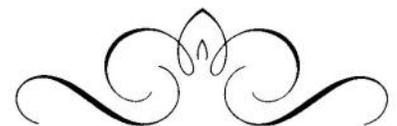
Parish Picnic 2019



**Thank you all
for coming to our
Parish Picnic!**

&

A Special Thanks
to the chefs
and all who contributed
to make this such a
wonderful day !



**MINUTES FOR THE VESTRY MEETING
ST. PETER'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

June 11, 2019

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

Absent: M. Holden, M. Lundberg, T. Murphy

Opening Prayer Led by Father Paul Hartt

Approval of the Minutes of Vestry Meeting, May 14, 2019

The May 14, 2019 minutes were approved on a motion by C. Gordon and seconded by G. Scala. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

Warden Report –D. Spath

During the month of May we continued to observe the Easter season. We also celebrated Mother's Day, May 12th with the Sunday school children planting small mums in planters to give to all the moms and others after the 10:30 service. It is a great way for the children to celebrate all the dedicated moms out there. Many thanks to the Sunday school staff for coordinating this meaningful event.

We finish the remainder of the Easter season in June, celebrating Pentecost on June 9th with baptisms at both the 8:30 and 10:30 service. At the 8:30 service, Jesse Williams, a long standing member of St. Peter's was baptized and at the 10:30 service we had both Elizabeth and Leonardo Pezzino, brother and sister baptized. It is encouraging and a blessing to have a current member and future young members commit and join our church family. This commitment by these members is a positive sign to the future growth and life of our St. Peter's church family.

The Diocesan Convention was held this past weekend at Speculator. Special thanks to our delegates, Alice Sanigular, Jack Ratzel and Cary Carcuro for representing St. Peter's at this year's convention, as well as Mother Sue.

This coming Sunday we will be celebrating Trinity Sunday. It will also be the last Sunday for the choir and Sunday school before summer break, presenting awards as well as acknowledging milestones and accomplishments. Thanks to our Choir Director Neil Keen, our choir mom Diana Martin and Laura Rulison, our Sunday school director for their guidance and leadership to these important ministries at St. Peter's. The choir and Sunday school will pick up their regular schedule on September 8th. We will also be welcoming members from the Cathedral beginning this Sunday and continue through the summer, worshiping with us as renovations are in progress being done this summer as explained in Father Hartt's letter sent out a few weeks ago.

Following the 10:30 service this Sunday, the Sunday school will host their annual Ice Cream Sundae Social at coffee hour. The choir will also have a choir picnic hosted at the Chenot's residence that afternoon. The vestry and clergy would like to thank both of these important ministries for all their continued service and dedication to the spiritual life at St. Peter's.

Our choir will continue to sing regularly during the summer. Any parishioners that would like to join in and help out are more than welcome. Those who would like to join in should arrive at 9:45 to rehearse the music designated for that Sunday's service.

The wardens and vestry would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

Sunday Attendance – Fr. Hartt 121.8

Rector's Report - Father Hartt

Much has transpired since our last Vestry meeting. We have had two joyful weddings -- Mollie Flannery & Ryan O'Connell were married May 25th and Geoffrey Gerfin and Melissa Urquhart were married this past weekend. Both Weddings were glorious indeed. There will be another wedding on June 22nd of Brenna Roche and Erik Nielsen.

On Pentecost we had baptisms at both Services. Elizabeth and Leonardo Vasquez were baptized at 10:30AM and Jesse Williams at 8:30AM. Jesse is the second adult baptism this year. It is important that we understand that Baptism has always occurred at all ages. The Book of Common Prayer has provision for adults and children. However, it is a sign of the cultural changes in our midst that adult baptisms are increasingly common. Fr. Hartt rejoices that the parish is able to witness so many adult baptisms. A mature adult affirmation of the Faith reminds us of the necessary call to evangelism and the fruit thereof.

Confirmation took place at St. Peter's on May 19th. St. Peter's had three Confirmands -- Robert Myers, Richard Myers Jr., Cary Carcuro, and Jayathri Fernando. Jayathri's grandparents traveled from Sri Lanka for her Confirmation. It is a tribute to the scope of the Anglican Communion. Bishop Love made a point of recognizing Jayathri's grandparents and conveyed prayers and concern from the Diocese at the recent Easter bombings of churches in Sri Lanka.

While Father Hartt had the wedding and Baptisms this past weekend, Mtr. Sue was with Alice Sanigular, Cary Carcuro, and Jack Ratzel at Diocesan Convention. Father Hartt said that Mtr. Sue would report on the Bishop's address in detail. Fr. Hartt did wish to highlight one aspect in his address. (The Bishop's address to Convention can be found on the Diocesan website for those who wish to read it in full.) The Bishop expressed concern and surprise that the Office of the Presiding Bishop and Disciplinary Board have yet to act on his case. However, he does expect action to occur. We ought not to assume that the present stability will be longstanding. Bishop Love remains fully committed to the stance he took in his Pastoral Letter last November. At present, Bishop Love's ministry is under restriction with respect to all matters of same-sex unions.

One piece of news is the Average Sunday Attendance in the Diocese as a whole is now 35. Clearly, such a figure is alarming. But we have been on notice for some period that faithful Sunday attendance is a matter not only of Godly living, but of parish survival. As Fr. Hartt has said in the past, St. Peter's is actually beating the trends in most ways. We are especially blessed by the range of ages in our church. The concerning issue of church attendance is accelerating. We have seen very rapid change over the past decade. Father Hartt understands that new initiatives are in order. Alpha has been one such imitative and it has been a significant contributor to our spiritual well-being this past year. We have run Alpha twice this past year and will do so again in September. It is our principal program for evangelism.

There is quite rightly Vestry concern about attendance. Fr. Hartt showed charts last Vestry from the National Church on attendance of comparable parishes. We are doing slightly better than others and only slightly less so than the Cathedral. There remains much work to do to be sure. But it is unhelpful not to see ourselves in context. In context of comparable parishes, we are doing rather well. So what is the best approach to a changing religious landscape? Over the past year, we have focused in three areas as we have pondered the matter. They are attraction, promotion, and commitment. Clearly, these three have much to say to each other.

There is a sense that we need to better promote the parish. There is a sense that we ought to try new things to attract and retain folks. There is a sense that every existing member will need to commit to every Sunday attendance. Fr. Hartt looked at the strengths of each of these with the Vestry. However, nothing is sustainable without the commitment portion of the equation. Fr. Hartt understand that some feel pressured to attend in ways they have not had to in the past. However, the religious landscape has changed to such an extent that the already converted must commit at an even greater levels to sustain the conditions for parish growth. People come to parishes looking for vitality. Existing members are the only ones who can provide that core sense of vitality from which to build.

Fr. Hartt concluded with a recap of the plans for the summer with the Cathedral joining us for worship. Fr. Hartt is delighted in the way the parish has made itself ready to receive our guests. The Cathedral is having asbestos removal this summer and needs a temporary new home. It will be a joy to have our friends from All Saints Cathedral with us.

Fr. Hartt is grateful for the response to his recent letter to the parish. As of tonight's meeting, three additional pledges have come to the church.

As in past years, Fr. Hartt will be on vacation during July.

Finance – G. Scala - Treasurer's Report

George reviewed the Treasurer's Report for May. Offerings for May were \$13,207. Year to date offerings are at \$95,312. This compares to a budgeted number of \$94,854. Offerings through the same period in 2018 were \$89,912. George reported that these were encouraging numbers.

The investment/endowment accounts both showed losses for May. Merrill Lynch had a return of -4.01% for the month. Year to date return is +10.44%. The Key accounts showed a monthly return of -3.82% and a year to date return of +7.35%. This leaves us with a positive variance in this area YTD of \$278,914. George again noted that the market still can be volatile. Both accounts performed favorably versus market indexes. Expenses through May were \$9,647 over budget.

Pledges for 2019 increased to 49 pledging units for a total amount of \$126,154. Discussion occurred concerning recent communications to parishioners and the effect it had on recent pledges.

Property –

In the coming months, we will be repairing some of the Mosaic Tiles in the church. The window sills in the church will be painted with a fresh new color to go along with the new interior wall paint color.

Outreach – Mother Sue

Additional Beaver Cross scholarship monies will be provided to help a family of St. Peter's send their child to summer camp this year.

Old Business- None

New Business –

The church office is looking to redo the large print Service Booklets that are in the pews. It is a helpful tool for new members and visitors to follow along with in the service and they could use some updating. We will also be looking to weed out from the pews some of the older Prayer Books and Hymnals that may not be in good shape and replace them with new books.

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. Annual Dues should be submitted by September which will be our next meeting date. I have scholarships available to meet any need.

Confirmation service was glorious and a great celebration. Congrats to our four confirmands!

Our second Alpha session ended successfully May 29th. The group enjoyed it immensely. We are hoping to offer our third Alpha session this fall on Sunday afternoons (following morning worship services). Watch the September newsletter for additional information.

Summer combined rotas have been developed for both members of St. Peter's and the Cathedral to serve as lectors/LEM's this summer. It is going to be a great summer of worship developing new friendships and strengthening the bonds between our two parish families.

Diocesan Convention (June 7-9) was wonderful with spectacular weather in Speculator NY as well! Thank you, Jack Ratzel, Alice Sanigular and Cary Carcuro for attending Convention along with me. The business meeting was successful and worship services were grand. Congratulations to Fr. Hartt on his election to the Disciplinary Board and appointment as Co-Director of the Diocesan Formation Program, and to Jeffrey Hartt for her re-election to the Great Chapter. I offered a workshop on Sunday morning about the Diocese's Ordination process.

I was also blessed to host a guest from the Diocese of Down and Dromore, N. Ireland for the week surrounding Convention. Joly was a great houseguest, a deep and mature Christian, and we developed a strong friendship that hopefully remains despite the Atlantic Ocean that separates us!

I am supplying at St. Eustace Lake Placid on Sunday June 23rd. There remains a clergy shortage in the Diocese with 16 churches currently seeking a priest/rector.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by J. Russom and seconded by N. Creagan, 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

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E-Mail:

Receptionist@stpeterschurhalbany.org

Website:

www.stpeterschurhalbany.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

