



THE Cornerstone

September 2020

Newsletter of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church

107 State Street, Albany, New York

From the Rector

A Word from St. Peter

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2: 4-5.)

What is the Church? Sometimes we are invited by circumstance to ponder that question as more than an abstract question. In countless ways, the pandemic has brought the Church question to our minds in fresh ways. I want to write about that here, but first a hearty “Welcome!” to a new year at St. Peter’s. As much as Episcopalians know that Advent truly starts the Church year, yet the school year and re-grouping after the summer set the terms. Your clergy have made some decisions about how to proceed in our present context, but first St. Peter’s words guide us.

The Church is first and finally her members in union with Christ, her Lord. The Church is truly a work of God. It is a gift given for our welfare and to be the vessel that carries us through mortal storms to heaven. The Church is the people (*living stones*) proclaiming by word and deed the Way of Jesus to the world as disciples. In the words of the Prayer Book, the Church is “that sacred mystery” in which the “plan of salvation” is actually occurring before our eyes. The Church bears witness that “things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new. And that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ.” (BCP 280.)

At the moment, although it may be difficult to see, something of our salvation is being worked out. It will be worked out in the world and in us. It will ask of us faith, resolve, and spiritual maturity. It will require what St. Peter calls “spiritual sacrifices.”

I mention these things by way of preamble because the new initiatives and plans for September will not be the “normal” St. Peter’s we quite rightly love and cherish. We will need to make some “spiritual sacrifices” for the common good. There will equally be many blessings. God is always giving refreshment in the wilderness. We will know joy in the Holy Spirit, as we offer our spiritual sacrifices. God is good, always.

Because we are not clear yet about a vaccine against Covid-19, a possible second wave of the virus, and the changing landscape of directions from NYS and our Bishop, we plan to go a month at a time in policies and practices. There will be a monthly update in the Newsletter. We all pray that we will move incrementally to greater freedom, but for now we must face the facts on the ground and make the best of it.

Here are the basics: We will continue to offer the online videos of Sunday Services. These videos have met the need of those who are rightly cautious for reasons of age, their own underlying health concerns, or the health of loved ones. We will continue to offer a single Service of Holy Communion at 10:30AM. Why not two services? We have had very sparse attendance over the summer. There were never more than fourteen congregants. Most often the number was in the single digits. I wish to assure everyone that the 8:30AM Service will return. But it is simply not sensible at this time, especially in light of the cleaning and aerosol from one Service to the next. So worship will be both online and in church at 10:30AM. We will continue to offer a Wednesday Holy Communion, weather permitting, in the church garden during September. This will provide a safe outdoor venue for those at high risk. In all cases, social distancing, masks, and related protocols will be observed.

Later this month, online Sunday programming will begin for our children. Laura Rulison is working on the technical details and we will be keeping you posted. We will probably begin with videos and then explore the possibilities for things that are more interactive via Zoom. This online Sunday School will begin the 3rd Sunday in September.

Also later this month, we will start a “virtual coffee hour.” This will be done via the Zoom platform. The app is widely available and many are already using it in business and personal settings. We are presently working on both wi-fi for the church itself and Zoom accounts with the needed security. The “virtual coffee hour” will be at 11:30AM. Tori Waldron has kindly agreed to arrange the launch. We should be able to begin this Zoom coffee hour by the 3rd Sunday in September. Zoom will allow us to see one another’s face. It also allows people to call in and join without video. Your clergy share your concern that times of fellowship be restored. If things go well with Zoom, we can offer educational offerings and classes as well later.

This brings us to the whole technology issue. Many of us do not have proficiency in these platforms yet. I assure you that was true of me as well. As frustrating as it can be at times, one sacrifice we might be called to make is learning some new things. Some take joy in these technologies. Others of us go kicking and screaming. In any case, there are some things about church life in these times which require use of these platforms. We commit to making it as easy as possible, but some learning of new things will be needed by most of us. I tend to go kicking and screaming into technology myself! But I have also been humbled by the efficacy of these platforms in real life. A friend of mine said recently that he would rather have half a cup of coffee in the morning than none at all. It’s a bit like that. St. Peter’s is worth the effort. I know that some of us, despite our best efforts, will find some aspects of the technology difficult or impossible. I only ask that we all make our best effort. Once learned, these platforms are actually easy to use. We also will be able to help you once you get online.

One of the most difficult spiritual sacrifices for the start of the year concerns our music program. The science is clear that choir as we know it is dangerous. There have been many cases of Covid-19 outbreaks in the context of communal singing. What we can safely do is incorporate instrumental Service music and a soloist anthem, with proper distancing, on Sunday morning. Neil Keen has a heavy responsibility for the health of choir members *of all ages*. I ask that you support the hard decisions he makes with love and understanding.

Mr. Keen has been rigorous in his study of the science. Much has been published by the American Guild of Organists and responsible professional journals about best practices. We will reassess as the year goes on. Believe me, I want to hear our choir angels sing as much as you do. But we must be responsible to all, both choir members and congregants. We do not want to create a context of peer pressure around church dynamics. As I have mentioned to the Wardens, people “vote with their feet.” Sunday attendance patterns this summer reflect the true level of concern among us.

The last spiritual sacrifice involves our looking at a truth about ourselves as a parish. Let’s face it, the truth of life at St. Peter’s is that we are a tad spoiled. We have liturgy and music of a very high order. I treasure this gift as much as you do. I yearn for the return of the richness of our worship life. But I also know that this is a matter of spiritual maturity as well. Our common life as a congregation is asking for a “spiritual sacrifice” now of a specific kind. It is that we will accept the reality in which we find ourselves and give our all to sustain church life despite our disappointments that things are of necessity curtailed. In a word, we are being asked to commit to St. Peter’s and her worship life as it must be for now. If we drop away because we want something we cannot safely have, we may do lasting harm to our congregation. We in fact need to recommit as never before, whether online or in-person. We need one another as never before to make this work. It can work with God’s grace. The Israelites did forty years in the wilderness. I doubt we are looking at more than some months!

Your rector has made a big ask here. I know that our love for St. Peter’s will carry the day. If you think about it, our church has lived through another pandemic in 1918. We will make it through this one. God is good, always.

Peace of Christ,
Fr. Hartt+

From the Associate Rector

This is NOT about the Coronavirus!

It feels that we have lived a lifetime speaking and thinking of nothing but the Coronavirus. That is why this article is NOT about it! Lately it seems as if we have unraveled a bit as a faith community. And because it's September, a typical month for re-starting things, I thought I would plant some seeds for us to get back to some basics of our faith...

The Church: The Church was never about a building, but rather the gathering of the people. In Greek, the word for church is ekklesia and it means the assembly or gathering. We are and can continue to be the Church. Think back to how you have been part of the ekklesia in the past. How are you part of it now? What are your thoughts for the future? The gathering of Christians is so very important for many reasons. We come together, united as many parts to make together the one Body of Christ. What does the Christian ekklesia do? We praise and worship God, we teach and also to learn, we serve and are served. Where are you in the ekklesia today?

The Connection: We may need to think out of the box a bit, but we do need to be intentional about our connection. And we need not only be intentional in our thoughts and efforts but intentional outside of ourselves and towards one another. Think back to your connection with other Christians. How have you connected in the past? How are you connecting now? How do you think we should connect in the future? It is true that there is no Lone Christian. We need each other because truly we complete one another. Without each other, we are always lacking. God has put us together to share spiritual gifts, to fellowship, to learn and to grow in our faith. Where are you connecting today?

The Mission: Our Christian faith has always been about the Mission – the Mission of God through Jesus Christ. As we learn from the Gospel of John: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” (John 3:16) This is truly the Mission of God. He loves us so very much he gives us Jesus so that Jesus can bridge us back to God. Jesus, likewise, gives a specific mission to his disciples – those who believe in him. Before his ascension into heaven, he commanded “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20) Christianity is anchored in Mission. This mission is rooted in God's love for the world and everyone in it. It is also rooted in Jesus' sacrifice, and one's belief in him that leads to everlasting life. But it is also rooted in the mission that spreads this Gospel – or good news – to everyone in the world. The Gospel is not ours to keep, but ours to spread. Think back to how you have spread the Gospel in the past? How are you spreading it now? How should we spread it in the future?

Church...Connection...Mission...let's get restarted!

With love and blessings,

Mtr. Sue Troiano+

For Your Information

Vestry Meeting

The September Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 15th at 5:15pm. The meeting will be held upstairs in the Auditorium, in order to social distance.



Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King will meet on Sunday, September 20, 2020 (following church services) at 11:30am in the 2nd floor Parish Hall (masks will be worn and social distancing will be maintained). Please join us as we reconnect following the summer months.

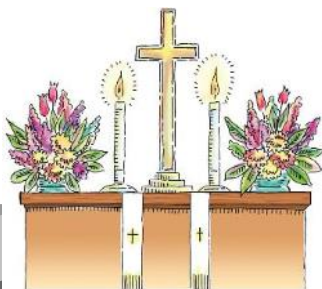
Wednesday Noon Service

The Wednesday Noon Service with Holy Communion will take place **ONLY** if the weather permits, as it will take place in the church garden. Masks will be required and social distancing will be maintained.

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.



Sunday Service Videos

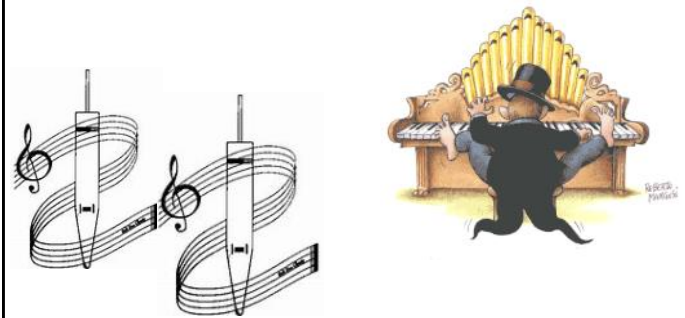
Every Sunday a filmed Sunday Service from inside St. Peter's Church with Fr. Hartt and Mtr. Sue is available for your viewing. Each service also contains music from the St. Peter's Choir. Every Sunday, St. Peter's parishioners are emailed the YouTube video link for that day's service through a Constant Contact email from the church. Each video is also published on the church website on Sunday morning for that day as well as on the St. Peter's Church Facebook page. The leaflet and readings for each Sunday are also available on the church website as well. Click on the "Info Center" tab then click on "Weekly Leaflet" or "Weekly Readings" and then click on the appropriate date for each. Both the leaflet and readings can be printed out so that you may follow along with the service.

Morning and Evening Prayer Videos

Every day the Morning Prayer and the Evening Prayer are recorded by both Mother Sue and Father Hartt. These recordings are available for your viewing on the St. Peter's Church website, as well as on the St. Peter's Church Facebook page.

Friday Noontime Organ Concerts

The Friday Noontime Organ Concerts will resume in October. If we are unable to host these safely, live and in person, then we will record the concerts for you to view on You Tube.



Youth Formation & Sunday School



Supplies for Back-to-School

Due to the COVID pandemic and low attendance in church services, we have decided to change-up our Back-to-School request for the children of Grace and Holy Innocents (St. Francis Soup Kitchen). Instead of requesting backpacks (empty or filled) and supplies we are requesting donations of \$10 gift cards to Walmart, Target, Walgreen's or CVS. This will enable the families to purchase their own "contamination-free" supplies. Please mail the gift card(s) to the church or drop off to Ruth in the church office. These gift cards will be given out to the children at Grace and Holy Innocents on Saturday, September 19th. Thank you for your support, your donations are greatly appreciated.

Sunday School

Hello to all our children and families, that we miss so much! Starting in September we are going to feature a Sunday School lesson via video each Sunday for you to watch from home. It will be sent to you via Constant Contact. Blessings until we can be together again at the Church. If you have any questions, please call Laura @ 518-368-4284



St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen Saturday, September 19th ~ 11AM to 1PM

On the 3rd Saturday of every month St. Peter's Church is committed to preparing take out meals and goodies bags to the people at the St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen, (formerly known as Grace and Holy Innocents) located at 498 Clinton Avenue, Albany, NY 12206. We hit an all time record of feeding 160 take out meals in August. The need is getting bigger each week. We invite you to join Laura, 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.

Laura is also picking up donations of clothes and house wares, just give her a call.

Thank You! To all that came to help out with the St. Francis Soup Kitchen. Thank you also for your donations of clothes, your time and of course the love you share when you are there. **God Bless You** all for helping me continue the ministry of feeding and clothing our community. ~ Laura



September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		1	2
<p>6 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>10:30am - Holy Communion</p> <p>See Website for Video on You Tube</p>	<p>7 Labor Day</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	8	<p>9</p> <p>12:05pm - Holy Communion In the Church (weather permitting)</p>
<p>13 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>10:30am - Holy Communion</p> <p>See Website for Video on You Tube</p>	<p>14 Holy Cross Day</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:15pm - Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>16</p> <p>12:05pm - Holy Communion In the Church (weather permitting)</p>
<p>20 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>10:30am - Holy Communion</p> <p>11:30am - D.O. K. meeting</p> <p>See Website for Video on You Tube</p>	<p>21 St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist</p>	22	<p>23</p> <p>12:05pm - Holy Communion In the Church (weather permitting)</p>
<p>27 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>10:30am - Holy Communion</p> <p>See Website for Video on You Tube</p>	28	<p>29 St. Michael and All Angels</p>	<p>30</p> <p>12:05pm - Holy Communion In the Church (weather permitting)</p>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	3	4	5
Communion (Church Garden permitting)	10	11	12
Communion (Church Garden permitting)	17	18	19 11:00am - Angels in Training
Communion (Church Garden permitting)	24	25	26
Communion (Church Garden permitting)			

Other Upcoming Events

The Cathedral of All Saints

**A Retreat With the POETRY of GEORGE HERBERT
and Sister Katherine Hanley, CSJ, PhD**

Sunday, September 20, 2020 at 2:30pm—4:00pm

\$15 per seat.

[REGISTER](#)

**THIS IS A RESCHEDULED EVENT— IF YOU PAID IN MARCH YOU ARE ALREADY REGISTERED.
EMAIL ARTS@CATHEDRALOFFALLSAINTS.ORG WITH QUESTIONS.**

George Herbert, English priest and poet (1593-1633), left us a record of his spiritual life or, as he put it, “a picture of the many spiritual conflicts that have passed betwixt God and my soul. . . in whose service I have now found perfect freedom.” Shaped by Scripture and liturgy, Herbert’s poetry has moved Christians since its posthumous publication. Some poems are set to music; others stand alone in their transparent humility.

We will look at this man and the climate which nurtured his ministry and then, with time for reflection, we will explore and pray a selection of the poems.

The Very Rev. Dr. Leander S. Harding, Dean of The Cathedral of All Saints, will also offer insight into Herbert’s vision.

Capital City Rescue Mission

Our 2020 Annual Banquet & Silent Auction is going online!

Due to the inability to have large gatherings, we will be hosting a virtual live-stream event in place of our Annual Fall Banquet. Our *RESTORING HOPE* fundraiser will take place on **October 13th at 7:00 PM**, then the online auction will open for bidding. *More details will be available in the coming weeks.*

All are encouraged to “attend” to help support the programs and services here at Capital City Rescue Mission. There will be exciting updates from all around the Mission as well as heartwarming testimonies and encouraging developments from residents and staff. *RSVP (coming soon) to receive reminders and updates.*

Would your church or small group be interested in donating a product, basket or basket items to our online silent auction?

Some Basket Ideas Are:

- *Time to Unwind* - pampering basket
- *Movie Time* - movie tickets, popcorn, etc.
- *Kitchen Must-Haves*
- *Outdoor Activities for Kids*
- *Gardener's Delight* - kneeling pad, seeds, etc.
- *Game-a-Palooza* - lawn darts, dominos, uno, etc.
- *Devotion Time* - study

These are just ideas, please feel free to be as creative as you wish, maybe a theme from your local favorite store to help support a small local business?

Donations may be dropped off **before October 1st** at:

*Capital City Rescue Mission
259 S. Pearl St, Albany
ATTN: Shelly - Auction*

Thank you for your compassion for the poor in our community!
Sincerely, Shelly Wood

Silent Auction Coordinator bible, journal, mug, etc.

Questions? Contact Shelly: 518-462-0459 x227 or swood@albanymission.com

Online Silent Auction...

SNEAK PREVIEW: Mon, Oct 12 – 7:45 PM
BIDDING BEGINS: Tue, Oct 13 – 7:45 PM
BIDDING ENDS: Fri, Oct 16 – 7:45 PM

Keep checking back as more information becomes available.

The logo for Restoring HOPE features the word "Restoring" in a black, cursive script font. Below it, the word "HOPE" is written in a bold, sans-serif font where each letter is a different color: H (blue), O (orange), P (purple), and E (green).

SEPTEMBER 21: SAINT MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST



Matthew, one of Jesus' disciples, is probably to be identified with Levi, a tax collector ("publican") mentioned by Mark and Luke. In the Gospel according to Matthew, it is said that Matthew was seated in the custom-house when Jesus bade him, "Follow me." When Jesus called him, he at once left everything, followed the Master, and later gave a dinner for him. Mark and Luke also note that Levi was a tax collector. In all three accounts, Jesus is severely criticized for eating at the same table with tax collectors and other disreputable persons. Tax collectors were viewed as collaborators with the Roman State, extortioners who took money from their own people to further the cause of Rome and to line their own pockets. They were spurned as traitors and outcasts. The Jews so abhorred them that pious Pharisees refused to marry into a family that had a publican as a member. Clearly, Matthew was hardly the type of man that a devout Jew would have had among his closest associates. Yet Jesus noted that it was the publican rather than the proud Pharisee who prayed the acceptable prayer, "Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner." There are several favorable references to publicans in the sayings of Jesus in the Gospel according to Matthew. Matthew was called early in Jesus' ministry, but whether he wrote the Gospel that bears his name is seriously doubted by scholars. It is, however, more generally accepted that his "logia" or "sayings of Jesus" have probably been included in that Gospel. It may be that the author of the First Gospel took from Matthew's work some of the numerous parables and comments that make that Gospel so popular a source for homilies and teaching.

Through this Gospel, especially, Jesus speaks not only of faith and eternal life, but of duties toward one's neighbors, family, and even enemies. Tradition has it that Matthew, having converted many persons to Christianity in Judea, traveled to the East; but there is no certain evidence for this. He has been venerated as a martyr, but the time and circumstances of his death are unknown.

Collect:

We thank thee, heavenly Father, for the witness of thine apostle and evangelist Matthew to the Gospel of thy Son our Savior; and we pray that, after his example, we may with ready wills and hearts obey the calling of our Lord to follow him; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Lessons and Psalm Proverbs 3:1–6 Psalm 119:33–40 2 Timothy 3:14–17 Matthew 9:9–13

MINUTES FOR THE VESTRY MEETING
ST. PETER'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
February 11, 2020

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

Absent: A. Closson

Opening Prayer Led by Father Hartt

Approval of the Minutes of Vestry Meeting, January 14, 2020

The January 14, 2020 minutes were approved on a motion by T. Murphy and seconded by J. Russom. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

Warden Report –J. Chenot

We had a very well-attended annual meeting on January 26th. Also, we are very grateful to those in the congregation who made the effort to stay after the 10:30 Sunday service attending the annual meeting. We also are thankful to George Scala for helping compile the committee reports for the PowerPoint presentation. Elections to the vestry were also held and we would like to congratulate those elected; James Chenot, beginning his 1st two year term as Sr. Warden. Christie Gordon and George Scala were elected to run for their 2nd three year term and Fred Hershey was elected for his first three year term on the vestry. The vestry also resolved to appoint Deborah Spath as Junior Warden, filling Jim Chenot's remaining one year seat as Junior Warden.

Thank you to those who prepared reports on their guilds. Sharing their works and ministries this past year in their guilds is a blessing to all of us and we are thankful for their dedication to the life of St. Peter's. Finally, we would like to thank Janice and Ruth who compiled and printed all the reports with the information sent in from all the guilds and committees. A copy of the annual report was sent out in the February's newsletter for those who were unable to attend to review the reports.

We would like to thank all those who filled out their pledge card for 2020. It is so helpful to the vestry and finance committee with this information ahead of time to plan ahead as we try and meet our budget needs. For those who have not sent a pledge card for 2020, it is still not too late to do so. If you do not have a pledge card to fill out, please contact the office and we will put one in the mail or after Sunday services, please ask one of the ushers if they can give one to you.

Phase two of the interior restoration has begun and we are on track to have it completed by Easter. There has been many decisions needed to be made through this process and we would like to thank Maria Holden, Fred Hershey and Jim Chenot for their guidance during this second phase working with Egan Restoration. Our Lenten season begins with our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner Tuesday, February 25th from 5pm to 7pm, followed by services on Ash Wednesday February 26th. We will continue our ritual Evensong services at 5:45pm each Friday during Lent.

Sunday Attendance – The Average Sunday attendance is 101.9.

Rector's Report - Father Hartt

Fr. Hartt began by reflecting on the Annual Meeting. Fr. Hartt congratulated Maria Holden, Fred Hershey, and Tim Murphy on their re-election to Vestry. Fr. Hartt also congratulated Jimmy Chenot for his election to the position of Sr. Warden and shared about the good work Debby Spath has done in that role over the past two years. Fr. Hartt is delighted that the Vestry has chosen to have Deb fill out the remainder of Jim's Jr. Warden term. Deb will be running for that position at the next annual meeting.

Fr. Hartt heard from parish members that the content of the Annual Meeting was both informative and uplifting. Combining these reports with the work of the Strategic Growth Committee should give us much reason for encouragement. Fr. Hartt still remains concerned about frequency of attendance. However, he is pleased that we have a plan and a sound set of expectations going forward. We know that the prayers of the congregation are with us in our undertaking. All our efforts need their point of departure to be humble faithfulness and promptings of the Holy Spirit.

Fr. Hartt thanked Maria Holden for her announcement at church about the upcoming survey. The 14th will be the launch. We need to hear from our people, one and all. Sometimes the parish's leadership can miss things that the faithful see more clearly. It is time to give everyone a voice as we sail on the changing seas of our times.

Fr. Hartt thanked Fred, Maria, Ashley, Jeffrey and Deb for the work being done to restore the Pumpelly Room. Likewise, Phase Two of our interior restorations in the church is going well. This phase concerns the stonework and some further painting. Fr. Hartt is proud of the parish's level of support for this work from the very beginning. The results are our best advocate!

Fr. Hartt asked Jim Chenot about the status of our Columbarium. We are keeping a keen eye on available slots. It is Fr. Hartt's hope that we are able to develop the Memorial Chapel area further as need arises.

Fr. Hartt will be joining with 5 other clergy to present on Alpha at the upcoming Parish Leadership Conferences in March. There will be three PLC locations: Oneonta, Malone, and Greenwich.

Fr. Hartt encouraged the Vestry to watch a video on the Sisters of St. Mary. It is called "A Hidden Life" and can be found on YouTube. The Sisters in Greenwich have an awe-inspiring history. You will be blessed to learn the history in "A Hidden Life."

Fr. Hartt said that the Bible Study on Philippians is going well. He has about 15 participants. This Bible study is often used as a follow-up to Alpha. It is clear the reason because Philippians deals in very concrete ways with living the Christian life. Fr. Hartt remains deeply committed to Alpha as a part of our parish vision going forward. It is part of the plan of the PLC that parishes coordinate their running of Alpha. This will allow parishes to combine for the Holy Spirit Weekend at the SLC.

Fr. Hartt reminded the Vestry of the upcoming Lenten schedule. Ash Wednesday will have 3 Services -- 8:30AM, Noon and 5:30PM. Friday Lenten Evensongs will continue to take place at 5:45PM. The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is in need of kitchen volunteers. However, we always manage to make things work.

Fr. Hartt reminded the parish to be mindful of email scams. The issue of churches being used by scammers has reached the notice of the Federal Government. An agency recently put out an alert on this kind of consumer fraud. When in doubt, don't. Always check with the alleged sender directly. Do not use the numbers or email addresses provided in the email. Please use the parish directory. The clergy are not going to send such emails.

Fr. Hartt is encouraged that there is an increase in regular attendees at the Wednesday Holy Communion Service.

Fr. Hartt prayed for us a holy Lent.

Finance – G. Scala - Treasurer's Report

George reviewed the Treasurer's Report for January. Offerings for January were \$11,375. This is short of the budgeted number of \$19,388 as well as January of 2019 which was at \$18,120.

The investment/endowment accounts both were basically flat for January. Merrill Lynch showed a return of -0.01% and the Key accounts showed a return of +0.01% for the month. This leaves us with a negative budget variance in this area of (\$10,291). Both accounts performed favorably versus market indexes. Expenses for January were \$5,013 under budget.

Pledges for 2020 continue to come in. We have received 41 pledges to date for a total amount of \$124,242.

Property –

Phase 2 of the Interior Restoration Project will be completed by Easter. We are also planning on having time to buff the floors again before Easter as well.

The fans in the kitchen above the stoves will be repaired in time for the pancake supper. This should hold us over until we can get the stoves completely replaced.

Outreach – Mother Sue

The Overflow Homeless Shelter opened December 1st for the 11th year. We had volunteers (7) nights during December, with none in January nor yet this month. Volunteers are sought for either hospitality (until 11pm) or overnight hours in February and March.

A representative from Food for the Poor will visit the church and preach at both services on Sunday March 22, 2020. We hope you will consider donating to the worldwide work this organization does in support of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (NOTE: Re-scheduled because of snowstorm)

The annual Soup Sampler will be on Sunday 2/23 following the 10:30am service; it will benefit the Capital City Rescue Mission overflow homeless shelter that operates here at St. Peter's Church.

Old Business –

The St. Peter's Strategic Growth Committee reported that they will be ready to send out their survey to parishioners on Friday February 14th. This will go out through a Constant Contact email and there will also be paper copies available in the rear of the church. A paper copy will also be sent out in the March

Newsletter. Any paper surveys can be completed and returned to the church office. The deadline for all survey submissions is March 27th.

New Business –

Due to J. Chenot being elected to the Sr. Warden position at the annual meeting, the Jr. Warden position was vacated. In this instance, the vestry nominates someone to fill the open Jr. Warden spot. The vestry elected D. Spath to complete the remaining 1 year left in the term as Jr. Warden on a motion by C. Gordon, seconded by J. Russom, and then unanimously approved by the vestry.

The yearly Parochial Report was reviewed by the vestry and approved on a motion by F. Hershey and seconded by N. Creagan then unanimously approved by the vestry. It was signed by Fr. Hartt, the treasurer G. Scala and the secretary C. Gordon.

The committee formed to update the Pumpelly Room had a meeting and has begun some of the first steps in the renovation. There is a portrait which hangs by the snack and coffee table which has a large tear in it. We would like to thank Dely Everrett's daughter who has agreed to restore it for us. Repairs to the plaster ceiling will be repaired at the beginning of March. It was also noted that there is a need for more electrical outlets in this room so we will have an electrician come evaluate at a later date.

Associate Rector's Report – Mother Sue

I thought this year's Annual Meeting was well attended and the presentation was engaging and informative and, like other leaders of church, hope the congregation grows in excitement around the work of the St. Peter's Initiative Growth Group.

On February 9th I led worship and preached at 2 services at Church of the Redeemer in Rensselaer due to the medical need of a clergy spouse which prevented the priest from leading worship services that day. It was a blessing to bring the Gospel message to the folks across the River in Rensselaer.

This month I will complete a six-month course I participated in as part of a D-Min project for a clergy colleague. Through the coursework and meetings, I have learned much about Adaptive Challenge problem solving and look forward to implementing the principles in my ministry here at St. Peter's. Our final retreat day is February 24, 2020.

I continue to Chair the Commission on Ministry for the Diocese of Albany. I am currently working with 36 individuals who are in some stage of the discernment/ordination process in our Diocese (both deacons and priests). This continues to be an encouraging ministry as we witness God call people to ordained ministry in our Diocese.

The Daughters of the King continue with their study in the Spiritual Formation Guide. I am thankful that Chapter President, Julie Hotmer Drao provides excellent leadership with meetings and this study. I continue to act as Chaplain to the chapter.

I am planning a Lenten Day for the parish to be held on Sunday March 8th from noon to 3pm with lunch provided. In this Lenten Day, we will explore many prayer forms, including learning about them and practicing some of them. Fr. Hartt will end our Day by leading Stations of the Cross in the sanctuary.

In the Spring I will offer a class on Sunday afternoons (following services) on Practicing Christianity. As a follow-up to the Alpha program, which offers foundational teachings on the Christian faith, this course will help people further cultivate their faith in their lives.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by T. Murphy and seconded by M. Lundberg, then was approved unanimously by the vestry.

Compline

Fr. Hartt led Compline.

Respectfully Submitted, Christie J. Gordon

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Paul J. Hartt.....Rector
The Rev. Susan Troiano.....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..... Office Manager
Janice Chenot.....Office Volunteer
E. Constance Powell.....Historian & Archivist

Vestry

James Chenot.....Senior Warden
Deborah Spath.....Junior Warden
George Scala..... Treasurer

Ashley Closson, Nancy Creagan, Christie Gordon,
Fred Hershey, Maria Holden, Mark Lundberg,
Tim Murphy, Jeff Russom

How to Contact Us

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www.stpeterschurchalbany.org

Services

Sunday

Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

See Website for Video
on You Tube

Wednesday

Holy Communion 12:05 p.m.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Albany, New York 12207

