



THE Cornerstone

February 2021

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

From the Rector

Lent in Lent

“For he says, ‘In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.’ Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” (2 Cor. 6:2.)

Perhaps you feel as I do. You probably feel that you have already been in Lent for almost a year. The feeling is justified. It was on Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week, that we began our video Services.

We also cannot escape the sense that a pandemic is a curious way to begin a season of penitence. Lent traditionally holds an emphasis on mortification of the flesh. We rightly sense that there has already been too much of it. The pandemic has indeed been an experience of deprivation -- physically, socially, economically, spiritually, and religiously. Yet Ash Wednesday still remains right around the corner. February 17th begins Lent 2021.

In fact, no matter how pre-mortified we may already feel, the truth is that this Lent is something of a bullseye in terms of Lent's historical dimensions. Lent has long been a time of *“...teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.”* (Psalm 90:12.) The words of the imposition of the ashes say it even more directly. *“Remember that thou art dust and unto dust shalt thou return.”* Most of us are unacquainted with the need to take such words so deeply into our heart. Yet the start of Lent is about such a great reorientation.

Again, we rightly feel that our reorientation has been ongoing this past year. We have been humbled as a Nation, as a Church, and as children too much tethered to the world. We have felt acutely the preciousness of life itself. We have understood more clearly the need to be right with God. We have been saying our prayers much more. We have been appreciative of small mercies too long taken for granted. We have seen the best and worst of ourselves as the stress has mounted and the calls to behave for the common good have made claim against our usual prioritizing of self. Lent is precisely for all these inward movements and awarenesses. We can give thanks to know ourselves more truly.

As we ponder this year's Ash Wednesday, we can see more clearly that the imposition of ashes is itself a kind of vaccine. A vaccine against unreality and the gift of knowing our Easter hope to be the true hope. There are times when the bottom falls out and we know afresh that there is only God to catch us. Again, we get to enter Lent this year already knowing what Lent is all about. We can give thanks that those 40 days are less about obtaining mortal clarity than already living it. For once, we are well prepared for Lent.

We will have two Services on Ash Wednesday, Noon and 5:30PM. We will pare them down to the essentials as spoken liturgies. I believe that we can safely impose ashes. More to the point, our hearts are ready. I give thanks to God for undertaking this Lent with you as my brothers and sisters in Christ.

Fr. Hartt+



From the Associate Rector

Preach the Gospel...

We are now in the beginning of our second year of this global pandemic. Perhaps some have settled into “a new normal”. Others have changed their lives dramatically (i.e. marriage, retirement, births, deaths). Collectively, our lives are certainly changed forever. But one thing remains the same: yesterday, today, tomorrow: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I'm writing a sermon currently on Preaching the Gospel. It was the primary thing that Jesus did. If we look at the work of the early disciples, and even the early Christian communities, it was the primary thing they did. And so, we might conclude it is the primary thing that we should be about also. Yesterday, today and tomorrow: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Preach the Gospel Always! And, as St. Francis would say, use words if necessary.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ heralds a new age of Good News. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is all about his coming, his purpose, and his work accomplished. The Gospel of Jesus Christ dawned a new era for our entire world, but especially for those who believe. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is God becoming man so that man can be with God; fully, completely, and forever. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is Salvation.

Although Christians often find themselves focused on good works: works of charity and helping others; it is important that we never lose our anchor to Preach the Gospel which is the primary work of the Christian. And so, the message of the Gospel, and the purpose of the Gospel, should infuse everything we are about, and especially our “good works” – our Christian charity and love shown others.

I remember when I was in seminary and I attended a conference for Episcopal Relief and Development, we collectively reviewed some new documentation the Organization was preparing for release. It was full of news of good works done by the church for anyone in need. But one thing was lacking – and it was a main thing –reference to the Gospel of Jesus Christ! There was no connection between the good works and the Gospel message – Salvation through Jesus Christ. It was quite the topic of conversation amongst us seminarians!

I remember this issue coming up again in an essay question on my Ordination Exam. I remember replying, Can't the church provide food for the body while also nourishing the soul through the Body of Jesus Christ? I hearken back to these memories so that we, too, can realize that we can become over-focused on good works and forget to incorporate the Gospel as our primary message. It is never the intent, of course, but it can happen. So, what do we do about it?

We should always remember that we are the Church first and primary. There are many social service organizations that provide relief for basic human needs. When the church chooses to do this, as we should, we do so in the name of Jesus Christ and assure that we are also providing relief for people's spiritual needs. Our time on earth is temporary and our needs here are temporary as well. Our time with the Lord is eternal and so our anchor, as Christians, should be bringing people to Him.

God bless you and your Service in His name,

Mother Sue Troiano



Happenings

Vestry Meeting

The February Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 9th at 5:15pm, via Zoom.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Please join us for Ash Wednesday services on Wednesday, February 17th. They are as follows: 12:00pm and 5:30pm all with imposition of ashes.

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 is: Main Altar is \$50, St. Mark's Altar is \$35, and the Tower Altar is also \$35. All requests are payable in advance.

Morning and Evening Prayer Videos

Please visit the St. Peter's Facebook page for a daily Morning Prayer video with Mtr. Sue and a daily Evening Prayer video with Fr. Hartt. You can also access these services through the St. Peter's Church website's home page.

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, which 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. 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. 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.

Readers for the YouTube Video's

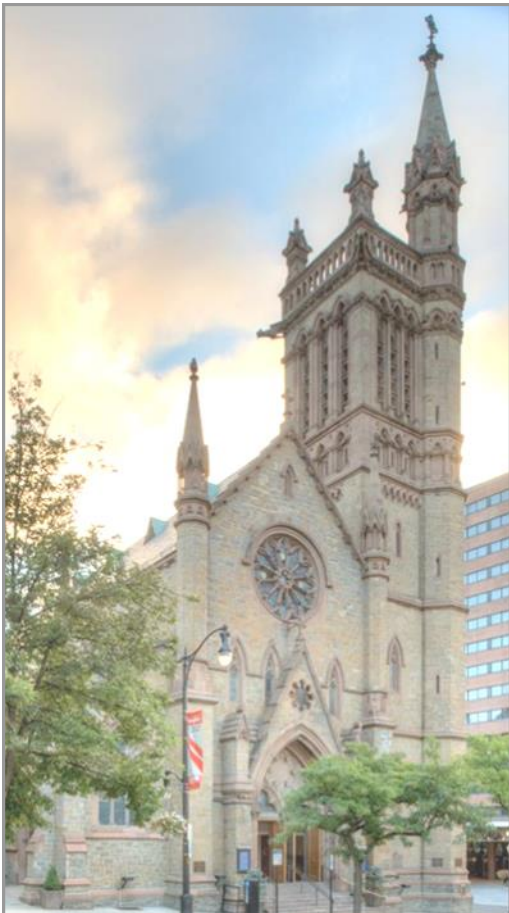
We are looking for members of St. Peter's, who would like to participate in the Taped Readings for our YouTube Church services. If you are interested please call the parish office at 518-434-3502 for more information.

Children's Videos

Every Sunday we feature a Sunday School Lesson video and a Children's Homily video for you to watch from home. The YouTube Video Links are emailed to you every Sunday along with the Sunday Service video. The videos are also available on the church website home page under the St. Peter's Church Facebook section.

Virtual Coffee Hour

Virtual Coffee hour is now available at 11:45am every Sunday Morning. Please let us know if you'd like the link for coffee hour emailed to you.



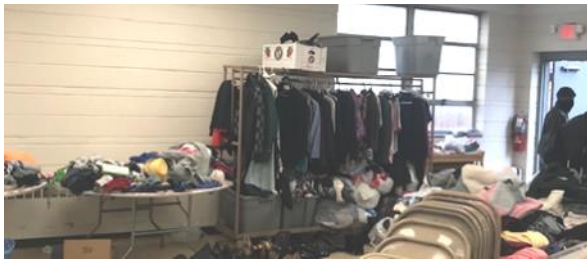
ST. PETER'S CHURCH

St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen & Community Outreach

St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen

Saturday, February 20th ~ 11:00am to 1:00pm

Hello to my family at St. Peter's. Hope the new year is keeping you well with God's blessings. The first picture below is the soup kitchen at our sister church St. Francis. Each month on the third Saturday we provide a healthy take out meal, clothes and a warm smile. We have enough clothes to keep people warm but we are in desperate need for socks. The cold wet winter is here and many walk the streets. I am asking if we could find it in our hearts to continue the \$10 gift cards until at least March to help purchase socks for men, women and children. I will purchase them for the Saturday we are scheduled and distribute them with love. On the giving theme please look at the second picture below. These are the outdoor cabinets at the South End Children's Café. The holidays of giving are over, but families are still hungry. Each week I stop down to drop off some canned goods and bread. I wanted to invite you all, if possible to help me with weekly donations. A small gift card of \$10 to Hannaford or Price Chopper would allow me to buy a couple cases of veggies to fill these cabinets. I do want to thank all of you who have helped with this community outreach. You have made such a big impact on so many families. You continue to amaze me with your generosity and giving hearts. I thank you! If you have any questions please give me a call. The gift cards can be mailed to: St Peter's Church, 107 State Street, Albany, NY 12207. Again, thank you and blessings. Laura



1



#2



Coming Soon



CROP Hunger Walk 2021!



St. Peter's is participating yet again in the John U. Miller Memorial CROP Hunger Walk in Albany, which will take place on May 2, 2021. CROP Hunger Walks are community-based walk events held in cities and towns across the US to raise funds to respond to hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster around the globe. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised are returned to the host community to support local hunger fighting efforts.

As last year, Albany's 2021 Walk will be a virtual event. Participants can walk in their own neighborhood on May 2 or any time during the month of May. Please contact Maria Holden (msholden1@aol.com) if you would like to join the St. Peter's team of walkers. And in the coming months, you can expect detailed information about how to contribute to the CROP Walk and support our team.

The Crop Project was organized in 1947 when American farmers were asked to donate food and seed crops to communities in post-World War II Europe and Asia. Since 1969, CROP Hunger Walk events have been held in hundreds of communities and raised millions of dollars to eradicate hunger and poverty.

Hunger is one of the greatest injustices facing our world and our own community. Ending hunger is possible, and it is possible in our lifetime. Please consider joining the St. Peter's Team and contributing to CROP Walk 2021 in the coming months.

Sunday Service Resumes For February

We will return to a single 10:30AM Sunday Service
of Holy Communion in February.

We will continue to monitor the infection rates
and may need to reconsider again in March.

While we give thanks that the infection numbers have begun
to reverse (currently 6.2%), we also know that new variants
have emerged that are considered more infectious.

Please be prudent in light of your own health circumstances
and that of your family.

God bless, Fr. Hartt





February 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	1	2 The Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple	3
7 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany 10:30am - Holy Communion See Website for Video on You Tube every Sunday	8	9 5:15pm - Vestry Meeting	10
14 The Last Sunday after the Epiphany ♥ Valentine's Day 10:30am - Holy Communion See Website for Video on You Tube every Sunday	15 President's Day Office Closed	16	17 Ash Wednesday 12:00pm - Ash W 5:30pm - Ash W 
21 First Sunday in Lent 10:30am - Holy Communion See Website for Video on You Tube every Sunday	22	23	24 St. Matthias
28 Second Sunday in Lent 10:30am - Holy Communion See Website for Video on You Tube every Sunday			



Lent

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	4	5	6
	11	12	13
<p>Wednesday Serice Wednesday Service</p> 	18	19	20 11:00am - Angels in Training
as the Apostle	25	26	27
			



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I near the end of my time as your Bishop, you are all very much on my heart and mind. While technically I am on sabbatical for the month of January, I find myself busily trying to tie up loose ends before I officially step down on February 1st.

One of those loose ends is to bring you up to date on the recent dean appointments in five of the eight deaneries of the Diocese. Some of these have already been reported, but for the sake of those who may not have heard, they include the following:

The Very Rev. Sonya Boyce -- St. Lawrence Deanery
The Very Rev. David Ousley – Northern Adirondack Deanery
The Very Rev. Jean DeVaty – Southern Adirondack Deanery
The Very Rev. Brad Jones – Metropolitan Deanery
The Very Rev. Tom Malionek – Hudson Deanery

I want to thank each of the new deans for their willingness to serve their deaneries and the Diocese in this new capacity at this time. I also want to say a special thank you to each of the outgoing deans for their faithful service over the last several years: Fr. Ed LaCombe, Mtr. Patricia Beauharnois, Fr. David Beulac, Fr. Nixon McMillan, and Fr. John Thompson. It has been an honor to serve with each of you. During the upcoming time of transition in the Diocese, each of the deans will be working closely with the Standing Committee to help minister to the clergy and people of the deaneries.

In other updates, I want thank all of you who have given so generously thus far in support of this year's **Friends of the King Appeal**. We have currently raised \$125,014 toward our \$200,000 goal. All the money raised helps support the ministry of Christ the King Center. Whatever you are able to give is most appreciated and needed, especially during this time of limited income resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic.

We live in very troubled times – times that none of us would ever have imagined just a year ago, and yet here we are. The COVID-19 Pandemic continues to wreak havoc with recent increases in new cases in many of our communities here in the Diocese as well as throughout the world. The approval and release of the new COVID Vaccine is a very positive development in the fight against this disease that has brought such heartache and devastation to so many people, to include many of us. While it will take time for the vaccine to be widely administered, we give thanks to God for these new developments.

In the meantime, I encourage each of us to remain vigilant in our personal and corporate efforts to protect ourselves and our loved ones by following appropriate sanitation and social distancing guidelines in our day to day lives as well as when we come together at Church. The Diocesan COVID-19 Guidelines put in place have proven to be very effective and need to continue to be followed. To the best of my knowledge, no one has contracted COVID while attending worship services here in the Diocese of Albany. While it is my hope and prayer that each of our parishes can remain open offering in-person worship services for those who are able to come, I understand that for various reasons, many of our parishioners do not yet feel comfortable returning to Church. It is important that each of you do what you believe is best for your particular situation or circumstances. A regular weekly Holy Communion service continues to be offered virtually by the Diocese and many of the parishes for those who are not able to attend Church in person.

As mentioned above, it is my hope and prayer that each of our parishes will be able to remain open for public worship services, but if the clergy and Vestry of a parish decides it needs to suspend in-person services temporarily during spikes of COVID cases in their local communities, they have the authority to do so. If that option is taken, I encourage the parish leadership to resume public services as soon as possible. Extended or repeated closures can be devastating to a parish. May the Lord guide and lead you as you discern how best to remain faithful to Him and exercise the various ministries entrusted to you, in such a way that honors and glorifies God and blesses His people. In Proverbs 3:5-6 we are told: ***“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”***

Moving now to other concerns, to say that the current racial, social and political unrest in our country is troubling, would be the understatement of the year. Like many of you, my heart is breaking over the growing tension and division within the United States -- such that hasn't been seen since the American Civil War. We all know the pain and devastation that caused. For the sake of this country and the world, the United States cannot afford to go down that path again. No doubt there is plenty of blame on both sides of the political aisle (Democrat and Republican / liberal and conservative), that has contributed to the growing nightmare we find ourselves in. Physical violence and destruction of property is not the answer, nor is silencing the voice of those you don't agree with.

It is essential that we come together as a “united” people regardless of political persuasions, to work to bring peace and order back to our communities and country. “We the People” and our local, state and national leaders must work together for the common good of “ALL” and not simply that of any given person or political party.

This nation was founded on Judeo-Christian values and beliefs. Many would argue that in recent years, we have lost our way and are drifting farther and farther away from that which has made this country great – God. If we are to turn this nation around and prevent further devastation among the people of this country, we must turn back to God. We cannot do it on our own. In II Chronicles 7:14, God said, ***“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”***

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we all need to fall on our knees in prayer, confessing that which we have done individually and as a community, state and nation to contribute to the division and brokenness within our country and the world. We need to ask for God's forgiveness and guidance in knowing how best to navigate these very dangerous and trying times, in order that we might help bring peace rather than further division. The Lord is calling us (the Church – the Body of Christ) to be in the world, but not of the world; to be a reflection of His light during these dark times; to be a channel of His love and mercy and healing grace in this broken and hurting world in which we live.

I invite and encourage each of us to be intentional about praying for our nation and local communities on a daily basis. While extemporaneous heartfelt prayers are always appropriate and loved by the Lord, if you are looking for some help or guidance, there are a number of wonderful prayers in the Book of Common Prayer that speak to all that is going on right now in our nation and the world. A list of prayers can be found beginning on page 810 of the BCP. I would like to conclude with the following prayer for our nation:

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do they will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into on united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be a justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth they praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen! (BCP 820)

Faithfully Your Brother in Christ,

+Bill

Rt. Rev. William H. Love
Bishop of Albany

MINUTES FOR THE VESTRY MEETING
ST. PETER'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
December 8, 2020

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

Absent: G. Scala

Opening Prayer Led by Father Hartt

Approval of the Vestry Meeting Minutes, November 10th, 2020

The November 10th, 2020 minutes were approved on a motion by T. Murphy and seconded by J. Russom. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

Sr. Warden's Report –J. Chenot

We have moved into with the Advent season with the covid pandemic dominating on how we will end up celebrating our Christmas season and services. The online services will still be produced for the Advent season including Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Unfortunately, we will not have our annual Hanging of the Greens beautifying the Church for Christmas, but we will decorate the Church on a smaller scale which will include the Poinsettias. We will continue to have the Christmas memorials as we have in the past and asking those to send in their forms as soon as they are able.

Overall, many in our parish have been staying connected “digitally” with the Sunday services broadcast each week online as well as the daily posts of Morning and Evening each day. Many of the viewers are parishioners we would normally see each Sunday, but we have also seen some members visit us online that we have not been in contact with, in some time which is very encouraging. My hope is that everyone is still trying to keep in touch with each other outside this digital world and checking on those who may be going through some difficult times by picking up the phone.

Our stewardship letter was sent out last month and the response has been very positive. We would like to thank those who have already returned their pledge cards for 2021. Your financial support during these unprecedented times, ensuring St. Peter's to weather this pandemic and to be able to return to a financially stable church when we are able to return in full capacity.

Thank you again Father Hartt, Mother Sue and Neil for all your work you have all put forth on all the prerecorded services, it has really helped many feel connected. Please look for updates on the St. Peter's website, regarding restrictions and in person services as we move forward during this pandemic.

Sunday Attendance – The Annual Sunday Attendance is 123.

Rector's Report - Father Hartt

Father Hartt began his report by expressing his great appreciation for the work of Laura Rulison and Janice Chenot in assembling the Thanksgiving baskets for needy families. The effort now underway by Laura to provide gift cards for these families associated with the outreach known as Children's Cafe will allow us all to participate in our usual Christmas outreach in a new way. The need to avoid the usual shopping trips with our Christmas baskets can be avoided. Laura has done a wonderful job in keeping us going in our several outreach efforts in light of the pandemic.

Father Hartt also thanked Mtr. Troiano for her coverage while he was in Florida. Fr. Hartt was able to observe there how another diocese is handling church attendance in these times. Their present practices are much more akin to the early days of our Diocesan response. Congregational numbers are quite limited with reservations and live streaming of services the norm.

Fr. Hartt also thanked Jim Chenot for the tree removal that needed to occur at the rectory after a recent storm. A tree had hit a cable line and brought it entangled to the ground. Jim's tree-removal vendor did a fabulous job in a tricky situation. The clean up was also first-rate.

Fr. Hartt thanked George Scala and Jim Chenot for their excellent work in managing our finances in this difficult time. Fr. Hartt encouraged us to keep up with our pledges as circumstances permit. Fr. Hartt also said that the parish has shown great generosity in support of outreach funds in this difficult time.

Father Hartt spoke of the plans for the Christmas video which will be quite elaborate. It will incorporate some video footage provided by parishioners from past Christmases and will rely on our music archives. Fr. Hartt thanked the vestry for being willing to order the needed greens and flowers to make the video lovely, even as it makes sense to cut back some on the greening this year.

Fr. Hartt next spoke of in-person Christmas Eve Services. He will be sending out a letter on December 15th with details.

In the last update, Albany's 7 day average infection rate was 5.1%. We need to enter Christmas Eve with our eyes wide open. Your rector cannot guarantee the parish a completely risk-free Christmas Eve. Nor do we know what restrictions are coming as Thanksgiving's numbers come in. We will do our very best to abide by all protocols. If we soon enter an orange zone, we will be limited to 25 parishioners at each service. This is a NYS mandate.

From the start, opinions have been divergent in how best to take this pandemic and how safe things can be in theory. It has been a stressful year for us and the rector understands that some are disappointed in his overall level of caution. Fr. Hartt has been working largely from what he sees in practice. It is relatively easy to make safe policies, but theory and actual behavior often differ from what is agreed upon as a matter of policy. Because our communications to the parish must be updated, it makes norms hard to establish and convey. Social distances are sometimes unwittingly challenged by individuals who simply feel safe with certain people. Parishioner masks can be of varying quality and worn with varying levels of compliance with best practices. People still gather in the aisle and chat despite being cautioned against it. It is cold now. The temptation to socialize indoors is even greater. We do not have the staff to stop it. We can only remind people. Fr. Hartt understands that the love of parishioners for one another has made this time especially hard. Social isolation is real. Our parish and our social lives have always converged. It is one of our greatest strengths. But it is also a vulnerability in times such as these.

This brings us to a very difficult matter. What are we to do about singing in the church? Christmas Eve carols and hymns are sung with gusto. It is hard not to let loose. It will put a good bit of aerosol into the air. There is no point in pretending otherwise. Fr. Hartt was especially mindful last Sunday that the loud talking that goes with preaching and leading liturgy is itself very problematic. Singing only takes that dynamic and multiplies it. We could say that risks are worth it. We could also say that we are months from a vaccine and we could simply count this year as almost over. Why risk things now? This is your rector's view. He knows that many are seeing other churches acting differently -- from singing (Cathedral) to closing (St. Andrew's). We also have parishioners and staff in high-risk groups. What is fair to them? What does Christian love dictate? Between now and the 15th, whatever mandates that may be coming will likely have come. Fr. Hartt will be praying with you hard in the meantime.

The Diocese of Albany has from the start been exceedingly generous in the latitude it has extended to parishes. The Dioceses of Western and Central NY are closed through the holidays. The Diocese of Rochester is suspended as of today --live streaming only. The New York Diocese has limited worship to 10 people, with possible pending full suspension. Diocese of Massachusetts website says -- “All churches are now urged in the strongest possible terms to suspend in-person, indoor worship.” Albany is simply an outlier. We can give thanks for that or worry about it. The Rector is more worried.

Fr. Hartt will need to decide the form of Christmas Eve Services by December 15th. It needs to be understood that those who feel unsafe as well as those of lesser concern need to be heard. The question is on what side does one come down in a situation that is inherently temporary. Our particular parish culture is both special and unique. What may make sense for us may not for others and vice versa. What is clear to your rector is that policy and practice simply diverge here. We have strong-willed parishioners and the rector must work from what he sees, not what is agreed upon in principle. The rector has one goal, which is to get all to the other side. In all things, my love for you each is the same, no matter your views. Let us continue to pray and take counsel together for the common good. Advent blessings, Fr. Hartt

Finance – In George’s absence, he offered the following to supplement the Treasurer’s Report:

Offerings for the month of November were \$15,539. Year to date we are at \$174,216 which compares to \$183,290 versus this time last year and our budgeted amount of \$213,263.

Investment accounts had a good month, Merrill was up 9.386% and is up 16.29% YTD. Key was up 7.78% and is up 12.07% YTD. I continue to wait to receive an update from the attorney we have engaged on the Key Bank issue. They have received the file from the previous law firm where the attorney worked when representing us previously, so I expect and hope to hear something soon. This issue continued to put stress on our Merrill Lynch accounts which are unrestricted. YTD our Key accounts have gains of \$221,371 yet we have only received withdrawals of \$43,603. This \$180,000 that we feel we are entitled to per the original bequests would greatly have reduced the amount we have needed to take out of our unrestricted accounts.

Expenses are \$28,161 under budget.

Jim’s Stewardship letter has gone out and our website is set up to receive 2021 pledges. To date we have received 9 pledges for 2021 for a total of \$23,564.

A draft budget remains unchanged with the unknowns that remain with the pandemic. We can be ready to distribute/vote on a budget at any time, but I will suggest that we vote to utilize the 2020 budget for 2021 until such time that we get clearer timelines in the near future when things may return to “normal” for our church, services, worship and attendance and amend the budget as needed at that time.

Property – None

Outreach – None

Old Business – None

New Business –

Due to the ongoing pandemic, we will not be able to hold the Annual Meeting, but we do feel it is important to go forward with new Vestry nominations and election. This is in order to keep term limits consistent for the future. The vestry will discuss nominations and will have our proposals announced in the January newsletter. We are deciding how to hold the election to make sure anyone who wishes to vote gets a chance to do so. This will also be decided on and published in the newsletter.

Associate Rector’s Report – Mother Sue

With the start of Advent, I have offered Advent Wreath Prayers daily on Facebook. I have continued with Wednesday and Sunday Holy Communion in-person services weekly. The church continues with video taped Morning Prayer service weekly as well, for distribution on Sunday via YouTube.

Advent services have been better attended than previously. People are enjoying the tradition of lighting the Advent wreath and also the quartet singers that have been added to the service. Thank you, Neil and singers, for your extraordinary contributions to our services, both in-person and on-line. We also need to thank the lay readers that are reading both for in-person services and also videotaping themselves for our online services. There are Advent wreaths, candles and devotionals available for parishioners in the rear of the sanctuary for home devotions.

Coffee hour continues to be offered virtually with a small, but hearty group joining weekly. This is another important point of contact for some of our members. Additional pastoral care is provided through phone calls, texting and card/letter writing.

There have been several serious pastoral situations among our parishioners. The Daughters of the King have responded mightily in prayer. I am very thankful for their prayer support to us and our members.

Thanksgiving: a personal emergency prevented me from offering the Thanksgiving Eve service in person. I did, however, post a Thanksgiving Day Prayer Service on facebook and the church website for individuals, including the Litany of Thanksgiving.

My work with the Commission on Ministry has been extremely full this month as we address all business that needs to be completed before Bishop Love’s departure. I ask your prayers and support as we continue to assist the Diocese with raising up godly men and women for ordained ministry.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by C. Gordon and seconded by M. Holden, 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

Office Hours:

Monday -Friday

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Telephone: 518-434-3502

Fax: 518-462-4419

E-Mail:

Receptionist@stpeterschurchalbany.org

Website:

www.stpeterschurchalbany.org

Services

Sunday

Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

See Website for Video
on You Tube

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

