

rnerstone

May 2021

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

From the Rector

Some Jazz

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15: 13.)

Allow me to float a theological proposition. If the Holy Spirit had a favorite music, it would be Jazz. There are many reasons why I think this can be safely asserted. There is the matter of speaking in tongues or singing in the Spirit. Despite Episcopal discomfort with this phenomenon, any who have heard such a gift of the Spirit would say it is often pretty Jazzy. There is no question that this spiritual gift permeated the Early Church. We know from St. Paul's writings that it was not without difficulties, but there is no question that it was perceived as a true gift. While not my gift, I have heard it on occasion in quite beautiful ways. It can be very musical at times. It reminds me a little of Coltrane in the sweet spot. Perhaps a little Miles Davis thrown in as well.

In any case, not to get too far off course here, I want you to think of Jazz and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can riff quite well. When we rightly hear the parish melody line emerge, it will be the work of the Holy Spirit. Often the music will seem unfamiliar to our ear, but undeniably sublime. The Holy Spirit has a special knack for getting us singing together, but not in a way that loses any individual voice. Often the tune is well advanced before we know where we are all going -- much like Jazz improvisation at times. No worry. We just need to trust the process.

When I was in college, there were always the Jazz buffs. They seemed so sophisticated as the rest of us consumed our rock 'n' roll. It was a strange world they inhabited. Frankly, most of us didn't get it. Yet sometimes some Jazz would leak out from under the dorm room doors. We knew that we were missing something which, while challenging, was more grown up and important. But rock 'n' roll was oddly comforting in its predictable ways. Bear with me. I do have a point here.

Parishes tend to want to plod on in 4/4 beat. A church can be tempted to reach for the easiest beat to keep us all moving along. But when the Spirit really comes, it's like Coltrane showing up at our gig. We can only follow the master while our jaw drops to the ground in wonder. Your Senior Warden has an important letter inside this Newsletter. It lets the parish know the formal process of the search for your next rector. Jim has done a great job in conveying the plan on behalf of your Vestry. You are in good hands. What I would like to add is a simple but essential point. The Holy Spirit is in this. Trust the Spirit. You're in for some Jazz, but I promise the melody and timing will emerge in a way that will settle in and prove sublime.

The only time that Jazz doesn't work is when some members of the group fight the flow. Now is the time to listen together -- to catch the melody of the Spirit. You need every voice. The Spirit likes to hear and use each note in the Body. True, on one level, this is sophisticated stuff. But the Holy Spirit has this -- has you. The Holy Spirit will make this big thing small a note at a time. Hang in. Jesus is Lord! Pentecost blessings, Fr. Hartt+

I pray this letter finds you and your family well. There is no question the COVID pandemic has affected each one of us in some way or another. With all the mandates and precautions that were put in place, our "normal" church life has been interrupted and in some cases, put on hold. Throughout this period of time apart from one another, we are fortunate to have had our clergy keep us together through social media. Many have taken time during the pandemic to reflect on family lives, careers, as well as faith and have made changes for the betterment of themselves and their loved ones.

With thought and prayer, Father Hartt found it was time in his journey to take early retirement and spend more time with his family. Father Hartt has been dedicated and ministered to all of us at St. Peter's for the past 16 years. His love for St. Peter's and our church family has been unquestionable and we will miss him and Jeffrey very much.

When first learning of Father's plans to retire, there was much to process. Though continuing to honor Father's tenure with us until June, the vestry would need to come to terms with his departure and then begin to move forward in the search for a new Rector.

Many parishioners reached out when they learned of Father's retirement with questions regarding the search for our next rector. Father assured the vestry that he would lead us in the direction needed to undertake this new task and offered his assistance wherever needed. He wanted us all to know that he wants to make sure St. Peter's is in good hands after he departs.

Though the charge of locating a new Rector can be heavy and taxing in many ways, he suggested we first contact Mother Elizabeth Papazoglakis at the Albany Episcopal Diocese's Deployment Office for some guidance. I have been in conversation with Mother Elizabeth a few times and the vestry has met with her to answer any preliminary questions we had and to explain the process we will need to follow moving forward.

The Rector Transition Principles given to the vestry by Mother Elizabeth state that the vestry is charged to function as the search committee for the new Rector. The Diocese will help us find supply ministers to perform Sunday Services until we are able to find a more long-term interim Rector to be with us during the search for our new Rector.

There are many pieces and procedures that we need to follow along this process, and we are all becoming aware of the work that lies ahead, but please be assured you have a very solid, loving vestry that wants St. Peter's to succeed in finding our next Rector just as many of you wish the same. St. Peter's means everything to us all and we will do everything in our power to make sure we succeed. I, as well as other vestry members, have received notes from individuals and groups within the parish stating some of their thoughts and suggestions. We will keep all the information given under consideration as we move forward.

In the meantime, we must focus on the health of our congregation. This time more than ever, we need unity and prayers. This process could stretch out for some time and we need to remind ourselves WE are the Body of the Church, each and every one of us. We need to begin to show up and support each other on Sundays. We have been able to be open for Sunday services each week for one service at 10:30am as restrictions have eased up and vaccinations are now being administered.

There is clearly a shortage of clergy everywhere, no matter the denomination, and many vacancies for spiritual leaders to fill, so we will all need to be patient. We are confident the Diocese will make sure we have supply ministers to lead us during Sunday Services until we find an interim rector. Most importantly we all must do our best to support our church by being there for each other during this search. Everyone will have an opportunity to weigh in on the search process at a given time. The calling of a new Rector is not a decision made lightly or by one, it is with everyone's consideration at hand, and finally with the vestry making the ultimate decision.

At this time, it is important that we make sure all of our church committees have what they need to move forward as we continue to reopen the church. These committees are the heart and soul of how we worship and continue our deep rooted traditions and services. Also, we hope in the near future our choir can return to the choir stalls, but in the meantime, Neil and members of the choir have done an exceptional job each Sunday with small groups and individuals from the choir performing some of our familiar Anglican music. I also want to thank those who have offered valuable suggestions and help, if needed in any way, through this transitional period.

Finally, we want to honor Father Hartt for his ministry at St. Peter's with a service of celebration on Sunday, May 23rd at the 10:30am service. We hope everyone will be able to attend the service as well as gather afterwards at Martel's for a light luncheon. Details follow regarding the luncheon and how to RSVP.

Please pray for St. Peter's, your vestry, Father Hartt, his family and one another. I firmly believe in my heart that our faith in Christ will lead us through this process and with God's grace He will continue his work with us until he calls us home.

Thank you Father Hartt.

Jim



From the Archives



Father Paul Hartt Rector St. Peter's Church, Albany

Father Paul J. Hartt became the 23rd Rector of Saint Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church in Albany on All Saints' Sunday, 2004. He came with an impressive background. He held a B.A. degree from New York University with a concentration in Philosophy. At St John's College in Annapolis, Maryland he received his M.A. degree from the *Great Books Program*.

After discerning a call to the priesthood, he went on to earn his Master of Divinity degree from the Berkeley Divinity School at Yale. He was a Curate at St Mark's Episcopal Church in Mystic, Connecticut and then Rector of St John's in Delhi and Priest in Charge at St. Peter's in Hobart. He also has served as President of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Albany. He has been married to his wife Jeffrey for 27 years. They have one son, Samuel, born in New Haven.

At St Peter's, Fr. Hartt has led our services of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost. He has supported church members through pastoral care and church programs. He has been helpful to the poor in the community, especially those with health and financial needs. In partnership with the City Mission, Fr. Hartt has opened up the church during the cold months of December through March so that the homeless may find a warm place to sleep. During this pandemic he has recorded services online so that parishioners are able to hear and participate in these services from home. He has encouraged Christian education by providing Bible studies, Church history and Prayer Book courses as well as Alpha. Alpha is a series of video talks and discussions on Christianity especially designed for newcomers to the Faith.

We look forward to the coming of the 24th Rector, but we will miss all that Father Hartt has done for us.

Connie Powell, Archivist

Scheduled Services and Meetings

Vestry Meeting

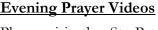
The May Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 11th at 5:15PM. The meeting will be held upstairs in the Auditorium, in order to social distance.

Wednesday Noon Services

Wednesday Noon Services with Holy Communion will be offered through the month of May. Social distancing and Masks are required.

Ascension Day Evensong Video

Please visit the St. Peter's Facebook page for the Ascension Day Choral Evensong video with Fr. Hartt, on Thursday evening, May 13th. You can also access this service through the St. Peter's Church website's home page.



Please visit the St. Peter's Facebook page for 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 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 Face-book 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.





Virtual Coffee Hour

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

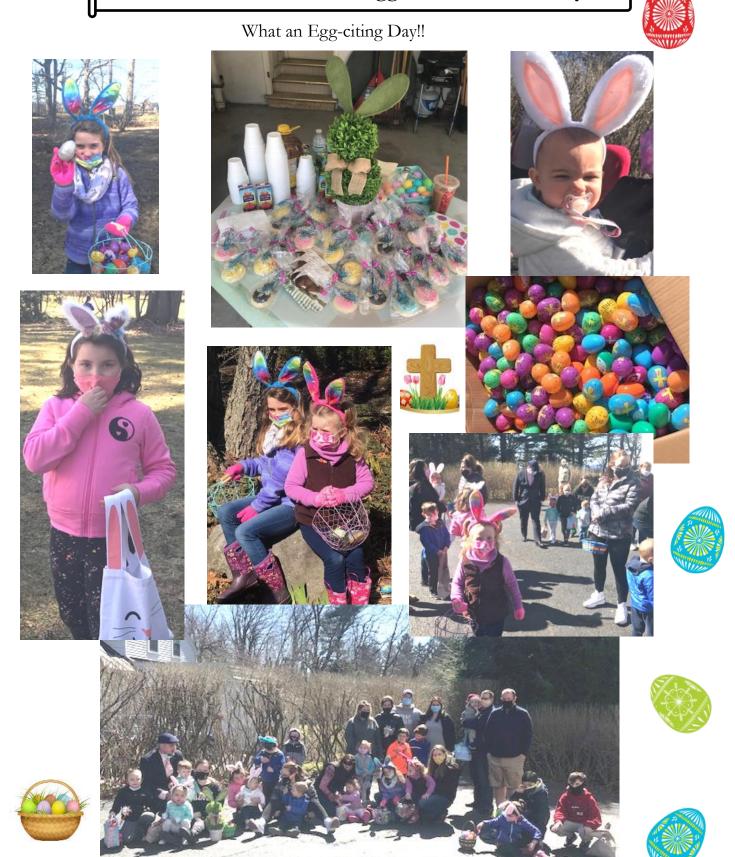
ATTENTION 2021 GRADUATES

We would like to acknowledge all graduates for the 2020-2021 school year. If you, your child, or even your grandchild will be graduating from high school or college or has already graduated anytime during this past school year, please complete the form on page 13, and return it to the church office. The deadline is Thursday, May 20th if you would like it to be included in the June Newsletter.

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.

Annual St. Peter's Easter Egg Hunt at the Rectory



Thank you all for coming!

What a heartwarming day to see everyone again!

Thank you! Fr. Hartt for opening your home for a day of family fun!

Easter at St. Peter's Church



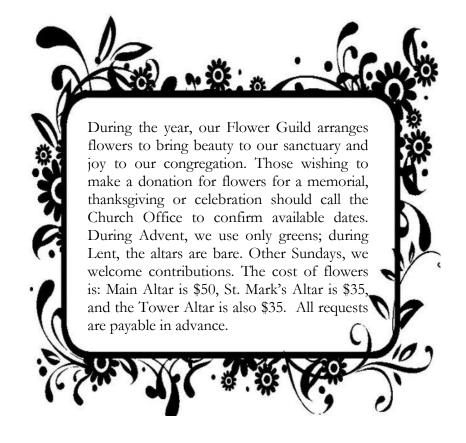


Chapel

The Altar



Paschal Candle



May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed
2 The Fifth Sunday of Easter	3	4	5
10:30 am - Holy Communion Holy Baptism of Hadley Grace Gordon			12:05pm - Ho
9 The Sixth Sunday of Easter Mother's Day	10	11	12
10:30 am - Holy Communion Happy Mother's Day!		5:15 pm - Vestry Meeting	12:05pm - Ho
16 The Seventh Sunday of Easter	17	18	19
10:30 am - Holy Communion			12:05pm - Ho
23 The Day of Pentecost	24 Memorial Day Office Closed	25	26
10:30 am - Holy Communion 12:00 pm - Father Hartt's Retirement Celebration	PEYORIRI DAY		12:05pm - Ho
30 First Sunday after Pentecost / Trinity Sunday 10:30 am - Holy Communion	31 The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary		

nesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Saint Philip and Saint James, Apostles
ly Communion	6	7	8
ly Communion	13 Ascension Day	14	15 11:00 am - Angels in Training
y Communion	20	21	22
y Communion	27	28	29

St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen & Community Outreach

St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen Saturday, May 15th ~ 11:00am to 1:00pm

On the 3rd Saturday of every month we get together to help feed and cloth our downtown community, and would like to take this opportunity to thank all the behind the scenes volunteers of St. Francis soup kitchen, and to all that donated to the South End Children's Café. With your help, I have been allowed to take empty cabinets and turn them into feeding stations for families in this community, and we are forever grateful for your service.

Thank you and blessings, Laura















A Mother's love can not be measured. It's a brilliant gem to be treasured.

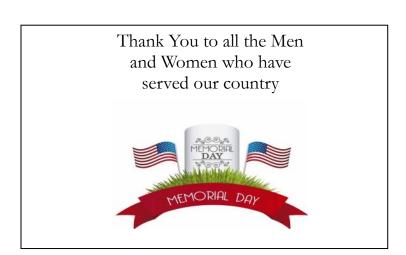
Happy Mother's Day to all the Moms

You all are a true blessing from God.

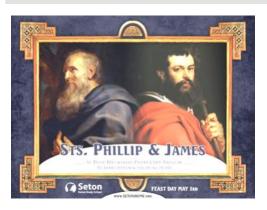


If you are a New Parishioner or are looking to update our church records, or would like to be removed from receiving the Newsletter by mail, please fill out the section below and drop in the offering plate or mail to the Church Office.

PARISH	HIONER REGISTRATION / UPDATE
NAME	
STREET_	
CITY	
ZIP	
НОМЕ	
PHONE_	
CELL	
PHONE_	
EMAIL	
BUSINESS	
EMAIL	
Please Che	ck:
New R	legistration
Chang	e of Address / Phone Number
Remov	ve from Mailing List
Remov	ve from receiving the Newsletter by Mail
Need I	Envelopes
Name	Change



Saint of the Month Club



The two apostles commemorated on this day are among those about whom little is known, except for their mention in the Gospels. James the Less is so called to distinguish him from James the son of Zebedee and from James "the brother of the Lord," or perhaps to indicate youth or lack of stature. He is known to us from the list of the Twelve, where he is called James the son of Alpheus. He may also be the person referred to in Mark's Gospel as James the younger, who, with his mother Mary and the other women, watched the crucifixion from a distance. Philip figures in several important incidents in Jesus' ministry as reported in John's Gospel. There we read that Jesus called Philip,

soon after calling Andrew and Peter. Philip, in turn, found his friend Nathanael, and convinced him to come and see Jesus, the Messiah. Later, when Jesus saw the hungry crowd, he asked Philip, "How are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" (John 6:5). Philip's practical response, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little" (John 6:7), was the prelude to the feeding of the multitude with the loaves and fishes. In a later incident in John's Gospel, some Greeks came to Philip asking to see Jesus. At the Last Supper, Philip's request, "Lord, show us the Father, and we shall be satisfied," evokes the response, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you do not know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:8,9).

Collect::

Almighty God, who didst give to thine apostles Philip and James grace and strength to bear witness to the truth: Grant that we, being mindful of their victory of faith, may glorify in life and death the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Up Coming Event



Beaver Cross Camp Registration Open

Your Beaver Cross Ministries team is excited to announce that camp registration is OPEN! We are so looking forward to offering in-person camp this summer.

Everything that we know and love about Beaver Cross will remain the same this summer. Our focus is still to build community in Christ, foster friendships and help each child have new experiences and a summer filled with fun. There will be a few changes to allow us to do this safely in our current health climate. Information regarding health & safety precautions can be found on our website: https://www.beavercrossministries.org/covid-19-information.html

Registration is located on our website and is open to campers of all ages!

To register online for camp: www.beavercrossministries.org/camp-registration.html

ATTENTION 2020-2021 GRADUATES

We would like to acknowledge all graduates for the 2020-2021 school year. If you, your child, or even your grandchild will be graduating from high school or college or **has already graduated anytime during this past year**, please complete the form below and return it to the church office by Thursday, May 20th so that it can be included in the June Newsletter. You may also email your information to: office@stpeterschurchalbany.org

1.	NAME OF GRADUATE:				
	GRADUATING FROM:				
	(Name of High School or College)				
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
	WHAT KIND OF				
	DIPLOMA OR DEGREE:				
		(i.e. Regents Diploma, Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts)			
	NAME OF COLLEGE				
	THE STIE WILL BE ATTENDING.				
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2.	NAME OF GRADUATE:				
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		(Name of High School or College)			
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	DIPLOMA OR DEGREE:				
		(i.e. Regents Diploma, Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts)			
	NAME OF COLLEGE				
	HE/SHE WILL BE ATTENDING:				
	PURSUING WHAT COLLEGE MAJ	OR:			

MINUTES FOR THE VESTRY MEETING ST. PETER'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH March 9th, 2021

Present: Fr. Hartt, J. Chenot, D. Spath, A. Closson, N. Creagan, C. Gordon, F. Hershey, M. Holden, M. Lundberg, M. Moran, J. Russom, G. Scala

Absent: None

Opening Prayer Led by Father Hartt

Approval of the Vestry Meeting Minutes, February 9th, 2021

The February 9th, 2021 minutes were approved on a motion by J. Russom and seconded by M. Lundberg. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

Sr. Warden's Report -J. Chenot

Jim thanked everyone who was able to attend the last meeting via zoom. This evenings meeting we are conducting an in person meeting socially distancing in the Parish Hall. This is the first meeting we have gathered together since our last meeting in March of last year. As mentioned at the last vestry meeting, we began to open the church on Sundays for one 10:30 service each week and will do so moving forward. We would like to thank those who have been attending the Sunday services in person and hope to see more parishioners' to follow as we try to move forward with some normality in our church life and family.

The vestry would again like to thank Father Hartt and Neil Keen for all the effort they put in each week on the virtual Sunday Services. Also, during lent they have streamed Friday Evensong services and Father Hartt continues to post evening prayer each night.

At the end of our last vestry meeting, Father Hartt addressed the vestry on his intentions to retire on June 1st of this year. Father Hartt followed up with a letter to the congregation which was sent out shortly thereafter. Father has served and led us in worship for the past sixteen year. There are not enough words to express the love and gratitude he has extended to all of us during his tenure and wish him and his family the best during the next chapter in their lives. God bless you and your family.

On February 23rd the vestry received an email from Mother Sue Troiano giving us notice of resignation. Mother Sue's last service with us will be Easter Sunday and final date with St. Peter's will be April 11th. Mother Sue will be taking some vacation time due from last year, but will be returning March 17th to continue pastoral care. We wish Mother Sue and her family the best as they begin a new chapter in their spiritual and personal lives.

On March 3rd the vestry met to discuss the process moving forward for our search for a new Rector. Jim indicated that he had been in touch with the Albany diocese deployment office and has received valuable information regarding the process. He also expressed his relief to the vestry to find with much reassurance, the diocese will be working very closely with us to locate a few Interim Rectors to interview filling the void while we begin our search for new rector. We will send a letter out to the congregation when more information becomes available to the search process as well as locating supply ministers and possible interim rector.

We will soon be entering Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter in the next few weeks. With the pandemic showing some signs of slowing down, some restrictions on social gathering may be adjusted or lifted. We pray that during this Holy time in our calendar year we can connect in some way with our church life and family. There will be services on line for those who are still not comfortable coming out and gathering in person with others, but we do hope to see more people begin to start returning to church in person. This time more than ever is so important for us to come together in the best way we can as we move forward into a new chapter in the life of St. Peter's.

<u>Sunday Attendance</u> – The Average Sunday Attendance is 93.9.

Rector's Report - Father Hartt

Fr. Hartt began by expressing his appreciation for the kind words from parishioners on learning of his retirement. The parish has been gracious as always. Fr. Hartt spoke of Mtr. Troiano's decision also to step down as Associate Rector following Easter Sunday. Fr. Hartt related the many gifts of her ministry among us and the blessing of her counsel over the past 13 years. We wish Mtr. Sue the very best as she explores new ministries in the Diocese. Fr. Hartt has been in touch with the Diocesan Deployment Officer about his departure. Contact has been made by the Vestry to begin the search process for new clergy and supply clergy after June. As presently defined by the Diocese, the Vestry and "search committee" are the same body. The reason concerns the authority to represent the parish and enter agreements on behalf of the church. The vestry will welcome all input from the parish and is appreciative of the parish survey results.

Fr. Hartt reported on the 3 narrative questions on the Parochial Report: 1.) The primary change in worship during the pandemic would be the introduction of recorded Services. These Services have included all Sundays, Daily Offices, and Christmas, Holy Week, and Easter. The challenge has been the need to pre-record most of these Services. There have been some issues related to new technology, music and preaching and liturgical preparation in a new cycle of due dates. Zoom has been used for Coffee Hour and Vestry. We have found that many parishioners like the recorded Services. However, some parishioners are frustrated by the limitations on regular "in-person" worship. This is especially true of the curtailing of our music program for safety reasons. There has been a good bit of clergy frustration at both the Diocese and State authorities in making timely decisions about limitations and closures. Parish-wide communication is difficult with untimely notices from authorities. More lead time was often needed.

2.) Regathering of parishioners and the rate of return to "normal" will both present challenges. Questions remain about the role of recorded Services and their possible impact on communal life. 3.) The introduction of online worship in general. The much appreciated online offering of Daily Offices to sustain the congregation. Outreach needs have now extended beyond the surrounding community and more fully into the congregation itself.

On March 5th, Ian Mike told Fr. Hartt that he will be stepping down as our assistant sexton. Ian has found a new opportunity. We wish him every blessing.

Fr. Hartt spoke of Holy Week and Easter. The videos will continue until his departure. In-person worship is being planned now on the understanding that attendance is limited to 50% capacity per NYS. These totals may change as the pandemic continues. The infection numbers continue to decline, at present 2%. We are grateful to God for this mercy and the vaccines. We will continue to our part to be good citizens.

The Bishop held his final Service on February 27th. The initial Service needed to be postponed due to the Bishop contracting Covid-19. He has been recovering well. The farewell Service, which was live-streamed on YouTube was deeply moving. Bishop Love has not announced his retirement plans yet.

Fr. Hartt again encouraged us to be confident of good things to come as new clergy are called to serve this beloved congregation.

Fr. Hartt prayed for us a Holy Lent and blessed Holy Week. We will next gather after Easter.

<u>Finance</u> – G. Scala - Treasurer's Report

Offerings for the month of February were \$9,448. Year-to-date offerings are \$17,025. This compares to \$33,520 at this time in February 2020.

Investment accounts were both up for the month, Merrill Lynch was up +2.74% and Key was up 1.28%. Year-to-date Merrill Lynch is up +2.61% and Key is up +0.50%. The attorney we engaged on the Key Bank issue has not heard back from anyone from Key and has been out on a Covid quarantine. This continues to make a case for possible change in managers. George has been contacting them as well to no avail. Expenses are \$33,976 under budget through February.

To date we have received 33 pledges for a total pledge amount \$74,044.

Respectfully Submitted,

George Scala

Property -

Ian Mike has stepped down as Church Sexton. We would like to thank him for the work he has done around the church, including all the extra sanitary precautions and cleaning that has had to be done since reopening the church during this pandemic.

Outreach - None

Old Business - None

New Business -

The vestry reviewed the results from the Strategic Growth Committee survey that was given to the parish last Winter and Spring. The responses will be a useful tool in the search for our next Rector. Discussion will continue in the next vestry meetings as we converse with the Albany Episcopal Diocese as to what steps need to be taken for our Rector search. As soon as we have a clearer path of what the process will look like, it will be communicated to the Parish.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by C. Gordon and seconded by F. Hershey, 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		
Neil K. Keen, F.A.G.O	Organist & Choirmaster		
Laura Rulison	Director of Christian Education		
James P. Shortall	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, Malcolm Moran, Jeff Russom

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 107 State St. Albany, New York 12207



How to Contact Us

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 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

Wednesday

Holy Communion 12:05 p.m.