



Cornerstone

February 2022

Newsletter of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church

107 State Street, Albany, New York

2021 Annual Reports

ST. PETER'S CHURCH SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

I would like to start out by wishing everyone a Happy New Year, and thank everyone on the Vestry and those who have supported and prayed for us through another difficult year. It has been heartwarming to see our congregation, church guilds, choir and staff step up to help, in any way needed, to support one another here at St. Peter's.

Our December and Advent season was a joyous time. The Sunday School Pageant, Lessons & Carols, Hanging of the Greens with a luncheon and two lovely Christmas Eve services were enjoyed by all who were able to attend.

So recently in the past few months, I have felt that the Holy Spirit has been mentioned quite often lately in recent sermons. Maybe in the past I had glazed over the presence of the Holy Spirit, but recently I think the Holy Spirit wants me to know its true presence in my life.

When Fr. Hartt retired in June of last year, the day to day responsibilities of running the Church, continuing the Sunday morning services and locating supply ministry each week during our search for a new Rector fell directly on the Vestry's shoulders. Very early on it was quite evident that finding supply ministry on a weekly basis would be sometimes stressful and time consuming. That said, we have been able to cover each Sunday service with wonderful supply ministers and deacons receiving many comments on how they love our Church wishing to return again. That's the Holy Spirit at work.

Over the course of this challenging year we dealt with the pandemic which continues to affect each and every one of us. It has touched all of us in some way or form: financially, mentally, issues with family members or loved ones, I could go on and on. While our physical health is obviously important, we must not forget our spiritual well-being and our spiritual family connection at St. Peter's which should be one of our top priorities.

So where can we see the Holy Spirit at work? Well, a few weeks ago we all found ourselves dealing with very treacherous, icy conditions on a Sunday morning. Dr. John Davis was preaching and Deacon Helene Patterson was officiating on that particular Sunday. I tend to take my position at the church a bit personal and, in this case, I feared for the worst. With Christmas being over and the icy weather conditions, my first thought was that the church attendance was going to be dismal and then I thought about all the time and effort everyone put forth for the Sunday service; Dr. John Davis' work preparing his sermon, phone calls locating supply ministry, all the work and coordination Ruth and Janice provided for the service, Pat and Wayne up early salting, as well as all the work the Ushers, the Altar Guild, and the Flower Guild had done, all for naught. In addition, Laura Rulison had prepared a Sunday School lesson and Neil Keen and Mary Bon who prepared the music for that Sunday were on their way down to church to accompany all of us in song. So much effort all for nothing. As I sat there frazzled and thinking the worst, the Holy Spirit came to me through someone nearby. Deacon Helene, who saw my concern from afar, mentioned to me that none of us are to worry – it is in God's hands. Well, the Holy Spirit showed up - some 80 or so faithful members showed up, which was so heartwarming to me. A moment like this helps reinforce my faith, and I pray it reinforces your faith as well, filling you with the Holy Spirit which works through all of us.

Just stop and think for a brief moment – has the Holy Spirit been pulling on your heartstrings lately? Have you lain in bed on a particular Sunday, exhausted, contemplating whether you need to rest or go to church? The fact that the church even crossed your mind---could that have been the Holy Spirit calling and hinting that you may want to go to church if you can? On that particular Sunday there may have been someone sitting alone in their pew looking for comfort in your smiling face, a face to assure them that they are truly not alone. There may also be family members in church that are going through some troubling times and praying that someone they trust-in will be there for comfort. The Holy Spirit truly has shown me none of us can do it alone – we need each other for our health and spiritual well-being.

I mentioned to the Vestry at our last meeting that my intention of this letter/report would give me the opportunity to acknowledge many of those who have been so instrumental in keeping St. Peter's open last year. Though there were some that remained cautious during this pandemic, there were many that were ready to return to in-person worship at church on Sundays. Everyone has been so helpful and it has been so wonderful to see everyone work together – the Holy Spirit again at work. When compiling a list of people to acknowledge, I felt I had been signaled by the Holy Spirit that it may not be in my best interest to try and acknowledge everyone, knowing I would most likely forget someone. But in my heart the Holy Spirit has acknowledged those who have indeed sacrificed their time, talents and gifts, and I pray their hearts will be touched by the Holy Spirit with blessings.

We have a new year ahead of us. As we continue to search for our next Rector, please pray for our Diocese and our Vestry/Search Committee that they may be blessed with God's grace as we continue to locate a new Rector. The process has been quite cumbersome at times, but after looking around during the Sunday services each week, I see that everyone has a hand, in some shape or form, bringing the Sunday services together. And that's when it really struck a chord! WE – yes WE – are the Church. Ministers and preachers will come and go, but WE must always trust in God's plan for us and the Holy Spirit will lead us there.

Our Treasurer, George Scala composed a wonderful stewardship letter that was recently sent out. Thank you to those who have already sent in your pledges for 2022. Sadly, Nancy Creagan's time on the Vestry has termed out, finishing her two three-year terms. Thank you, Nancy for your service, and we look forward to your dedicated work on the Flower Guild, as well as remaining on the Rector's Search Committee.

Phase III of the Interior Restoration Project has begun with all the scaffolding in place in the Chancel. We look forward to its completion by Easter. Additional work will also be done to replicate the choir stalls, as close as possible, to their original form. Egan Restoration was able to locate the fabricators of the stalls in England, who originally constructed our pews and choir stalls. Fortunately, they have a lot of photos to help with the accurate replication. This project will take a bit more time but we are hoping to see the choir stalls in place by this coming Christmas. This final work on Phase III, including the choir stalls, is being funded by the donor who contributed the initial matching grant to begin Phase I of the Interior Restoration Project. Additional donations to this project are always accepted.

As I have previously mentioned, we are all facing challenging times. Many of us are experiencing high levels of anxiety and fear that have caused some of us to question our faith, give up hope, and are in total despair. More than ever we need Church, God, friendship and healing - the Holy Spirit will do the rest.

And on that note, I leave you with this:

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)

Thank you again for all your love and support.

Jim

ST. PETER'S CHURCH PROPERTY AND RESTORATION REPORT

Again, it was quite tranquil as it was the prior year as far as property concerns arose. The St. Peter's Rectory has and continues to be maintained and looked after since the Hartt's departure. In June we had a cleaning service do a quick clean through before we hosted the Hunter family for 5 weeks. After their departure, we went through the entire interior and noted some things that should be addressed before the next Rector is called. Jim will be looking into this needed work and report back to the Vestry.

During this past summer we were able to begin the Pumpelly Room makeover spearheaded by Fred Hershey and his Planning Committee of Ashley Closson, Maria Holden and Jeff Russom. Plaster repair, new paint colors, new lighting, carpeting and new furniture were in order. Completed and ready for All Saints' Day, we now have a very beautiful, inviting area to host our Sunday Coffee Hour and other small events in the future. Thank you again Fred, the Planning Committee, and all others that helped in this project.

We also had Ruth Manss and Wayne Hill taking on a few additional projects throughout this year. Doing a thorough cleaning in the Parish Hall kitchen, then following up painting all the cabinets. The kitchen looks beautiful. Three other rooms also cleaned and painted., the coffee hour kitchen, one Sunday school room and the front second floor meeting room. Thank you both for all your hard work.

As mentioned in the Senior Warden report we have now begun work on Phase III of the Interior Restoration Project. Please know that everyone who has contributed to our Interior Restoration Project these past few years has made all this completed work possible. Though we currently have funds to cover the third and final phase, please keep in mind that in many cases when the intended work is being completed, the workers find damage or additional repairs that need to be addressed. These repairs require a change order for additional work needed such as plaster repair, extra gold leaf painting, etc. These change orders can be a bit costly but this extra work needs to be done to do the restoration correctly. This being said, there are many other restoration and repairs that we will be looking at in the near future and your contribution, large or small, is most welcome to offset these repairs that will make our church home a beautiful church in downtown Albany to visit and worship for years to come.

Jim

ST. PETER'S CHURCH ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild, in 2021, was on a Covid pause until the spring of 2021. Our church family was happy to celebrate Easter together in April. With Father Hartt's retirement we became active again with the responsibility of setting the altar for the various substitute clergy and deacons to come.

In June I was called away to be with my mother who had been diagnosed with terminal cancer. I am deeply thankful to Sharon DeBonis for stepping up as interim director in my absence. She served the Guild faithfully and knowledgably from June through November.

Under her direction the process of setting for our substitute clergy and deacons was worked out. She also reinstated our monthly sign-up sheets. She obtained replacements for many of our worn out linens. She was able to contact Gail Spicer, textile restorer, to begin work on restoration and renewal of our frontals and other altar pieces.

An Altar Guild meeting was held in October during which Sharon demonstrated the new set up procedure to our members and several LEM's. Our manual was updated with these procedures, and will be undergoing an entire update with help from the Vestry and Laura Grill.

I appreciate the efforts of all our members especially in this fluid time. I urge anyone who is interested in becoming a member of the Altar Guild to contact me (cathschunk@aol.com) or call the church office. Training will be provided to you.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Schunk, Director

ST. PETER'S CHURCH FLOWER GUILD

All things considered, the Flower Guild had a successful year. We are lucky to have very talented and dedicated members who have also been extremely accommodating and flexible during these times. Of course, we would not be able to operate without the generous support of the congregation, particularly with regard to funding the flowers and greenery at Christmastime and Easter. However, we look forward to 2022 and a more uneventful year.

As usual, the Guild provided weekly flower arrangements for the Main Altar, including arrangements of greens during the four Sundays of Advent, poinsettias during the Christmas season, palms and lilies for Palm Sunday and Easter, as well as our traditional Thanksgiving altars of donated food, which was then given to a local food pantry. The altars were left bare during the Sundays of Lent as is customary. We were especially grateful this year to be able to return to our traditional practice of working together to assemble the Thanksgiving altars and at the Hanging of the Greens.

Many thanks are due to those who made donations of memorial, thanksgiving and celebration flowers during 2021. It is a wonderful way to both bring beauty to our sanctuary and remember a loved one or celebrate an event. This past year we had contributions for 16 Sundays and hopefully will exceed that number this year. Those wishing to make a donation of flowers should call the Church Office to reserve a Sunday.

Of special note, we were very happy to welcome a new member this year, Maria Holden, who was ably mentored by Sally Jennings. We would encourage anyone who might be interested to consider participating in this ministry. We provide ample support and expert instruction! Finally, we would like to express our thanks to Ruth Manss, in the Church Office, whose willingness to help out has been much appreciated.

Nancy W. Creagan, Chair

ST. PETER'S CHURCH USHERS GUILD

We are most grateful to all the St. Peter's Church Ushers Guild members who served during the past year and those continuing to serve on the guild this year. Ushers are the first faces of welcome and hospitality that people coming to worship at St. Peter's Episcopal Church encounter. During the pandemic, our ushers have incredibly welcomed the congregation and visitors attending services at our historic downtown Church. Ushers meet, greet, and offer service bulletins to our congregation. They keep order, collect tithe and guide the congregation during services. They ensure that all services proceed and flow smoothly. Please join us in acknowledging the contributions of the following ushers:

Jeff Russom, Catherine Schunk, Sharon DeBonis, William Collins, Kevin Creagan, Mark Lundberg, Michele Lundberg, Robin LaPlante, Julie Hotmer Drao, Chris Grill and Moses Kamya.

The Usher Guild is an excellent way for parishioners to become active in the life of St Peter's. If you are interested or know someone interested, please contact Moses Kamya at 518-441-6910 mmkamya@aol.com or any member of the Ushers Guild for more information.

Respectfully submitted:

Moses M. Kamya, Head Usher

ST. PETER'S CHURCH MUSIC PROGRAM

The year 2021 hit the music department hard, just as it did every other facet of life at St. Peter's.

When the year started, we were making video services to post on YouTube. The clergy would video their parts of the series, assisted by Altar Guild and Flower Guild in setting up the chancel. Readers would send in videos of their readings. Then I would insert musical items and photographs to complete the service and post the services on YouTube. We were very fortunate to have a great deal of recorded hymns, organ music, and choral music to draw upon.

In the spring we began to have soloists, and later, small ensembles singing in the live service in the church. In the fall we resumed the regular adult rehearsal schedule. We rehearsed and sang following the Covid guidelines used in the local schools. This worked quite well, and we were able to provide fully choral music through Advent and Christmas, including Lessons and Carols and two Christmas Eve services.

During the summer I had some significant health problems and underwent major surgery. I am grateful to my choir family, who always looked out for my health, to the St. Peter's congregation for their prayers and support, and to my wife, Mary Bon, who was able to step in and lead the music when I was unable to - including some major services, with no advance warning, as I was being taken to the hospital. Thank you all!

Respectfully submitted
Neil Keen, Organist and Choirmaster

ST. PETER'S CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL

I want to begin my report by thanking James Chenot, Deb Spath, and the Vestry for their support with St. Peter's Sunday School. The only way to have a successful Sunday school is to have full support of the Church.

This has been an exciting year, being able to bring back our traditions here at St. Peter's. We enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt at the rectory, all the special Christmas services: the Sunday School Pageant, Christmas Eve service with the children and the Creche'. We made prayer pretzels and pumpkin bread for parishioners in church. We collected "Back to School Backpacks" and filled them with needed school supplies for children of Saint Francis Mission. Many thanks to the St. Peter's members for their help with donations.

I want to thank the parents and grandparents for bringing our little angels to church each Sunday. A big THANK YOU to some of the most fantastic Sunday School teachers; Ariana Saffares, Sharon Vardabash and Kelly Welch in the nursery, all bringing exciting lessons to our children every week. I would also like to thank Caitlin Cehowski for teaching the children Sunday school songs. Thank you also to Pat, Wayne, Ruth, and Janice Chenot for all the behind the scenes support that allows me to do my best to reach our children.

Thank you for letting me serve the children of our church. I am truly blessed.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura (Saffares) Rulison (518) 368-4284

ST. PETER'S CHURCH ARCHIVES

This past year I have written several articles for the Church Newsletter. I have filed the church documents in their boxes and kept track of the collections.

I have organized the Archives to make more room for the documents concerning church property and also to make room for the articles and papers of Dr. Laman Bruner.

The last half of the year I have been unable to continue my Archival duties, due to a leg injury.

I am now in the process of writing a guide on how to navigate through the Archival collections.

Submitted by Evelyn Constance Powell, Archivist

ST. PETER'S CHURCH DAUGHTERS OF THE KING JULIA CHAPTER

The Julia Chapter of the Daughter's of the King continued to remain active during COVID-19. The daughters have honored all of the prayer requests from St. Peter's Church parishioners, as well as the Albany Diocese.

Sadly, we lost one of our most devoted members in June 2021, Carly Crewel. Due to the loss of Carly, she has left "huge shoes to fill".

The daughters have met via zoom during the year to honor all prayer requests as well as to improve the spirituality within the Julia Chapter of the DOK. The Julia Chapter of the DOK is always looking for interested women parishioners who may wish to join our chapter. All members must be women communicants of the Episcopal Church and attend a Discernment Class provided by the Julia Chapter of the DOK at St. Peter's Church.

The President of our Julia Chapter, Julie Hotmer Drao, resigned in the fall of 2021. Again, this has left the Julia Chapter of the DOK missing two exceptional leaders. Due to now Julie's departure, the daughters will be holding elections for officers in February 2022.

We hope after elections to be offering a Spring DOK Discernment Class which will provide prerequisite course instruction adding new members to our chapter.

We are looking forward to the promise of 2022, in prayer for all DOK members across the country as well as the entire parish of St. Peter's Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Smith

WOMEN OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH

Currently Inactive

ST. PETER'S CHURCH OUTREACH PROGRAM

Outreach is beginning to grow again and thrive at St. Peter's Church, despite the challenges faced during Covid. Thank you to all who have contributed in so many different ways, to make this year special.

Here are some of our 2021 activities:

St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen- On the 3rd Saturday of every month Laura Rulison, together with other volunteers prepare and package meals-to-go, for well over 200 people, each month. Laura also collected donations of coats, clothing, and gift cards (purchased by St. Peter's members) to buy new socks and gloves to distribute.

West Bugunda- Outreach provided scholarships for five girls from West Bugunda to attend school.

Thanksgiving- A large collection of food donations adorns our altar at Thanksgiving. Thanks to Nancy Creagan and flower guild members for arranging this beautiful display. Some of the food was kept at the church to assist walk-in requests, however, most of it was donated to a local food pantry and the South End Children's Café.

Christmas- This year St. Peter's members donated cut out Christmas cookies for the children at the South End Children's Café, to decorate with Laura Rulison, our Sunday School director.

CROP Walk- Thanks, to Maria Holden for organizing the virtual CROP Walk and the parishioners who walked to raise money for hungry.

Carly's Cards - Thank you Susan Smith for creating this new out reach program, which started in September of this year after the passing of Carly. And thanks to all who have donated their time each month to send out cards out for various occasions, such as birthdays and anniversaries, to brighten ones day.

Daughters of the King- Thank you to the members of the DOK in St. Peters Church, who continue to stay active with all prayer requests from St. Peter's Church parishioners, as well as the Albany Diocese.

Beaver Cross- St. Peter's provided one Beaver Cross Scholarship.

Church & Office Staff Outreach- Ruth Manss continues to provide outreach and welcome the many daily "walk-ins" in need, during office hours on a daily basis. Thank you to all who made monetary donations, food and drinks to make this possible. We also want to thank Wayne and Pat for handling "walk-ins" that enter the church.

Backpacks- We collected "Back to School Backpacks" and filled them with needed school supplies for children of Saint Francis Mission. Many thanks to the St. Peter's members for their help with donations.

South End Children's Café - Laura Rulison collected gift cards (purchased by St. Peter's members) for food to fill the outdoor cabinets at the South End Children's Café. For Thanksgiving Laura and Janice Chenot together coordinated Thanksgiving Baskets, containing food for a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner. And at Christmas, Members of St. Peter's baked cut-out sugar cookies for the children, to be decorated with Laura.

We thank Laura for her generous heart and dedication to ministering to and serving our community.

Congratulations Laura!! For accepting the position of Chairperson of Outreach!

We continue to be thankful and truly amazed by the support and generosity of so many members of this parish to our many outreach programs. A special thanks to Jim Chenot and our Vestry, Laura Rulison, Ruth Manss and Janice Chenot, and for all they do to assist with our Outreach programs

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Treasurer's Report for Annual Meeting
January 30, 2022

Managing the finances of the church through the Covid Pandemic, combined with the vacancy in our clergy positions has not been without challenges. One thing that has been consistent is the commitment of our congregation in continuing to make offerings and satisfy pledged amounts. We are very grateful for that and thank everyone.

This year's annual Treasurer's report is presented in a different format, but contains all of the same information and indicators that have been presented in previous years.

OFFERINGS

Total offerings for 2021 were \$202,753. This compares to our 2020 offerings of \$201,703.

ENDOWMENT/INVESTMENTS

Our unrestricted Merrill Lynch accounts had a positive return in 2021 of 13.11%. Our restricted Key accounts also had a positive return of 13.35%.

Our year end balances compared to the end of 2020 are as follows:

	12/31/2021	12/31/2020
Merrill Lynch (Unrestricted)	\$2,187,031	\$2,113,919
Key (Restricted)	\$2,091,929	\$1,939,747

It should be noted that for our Key/Restricted accounts we do not have any access to principal but only the income that the accounts generate.

EXPENSES

Total expenses for 2021 were \$528,284. For 2020 our total expenses were \$677,946. The biggest reason for the decline was due to the clergy vacancies.

Our bottom line for 2021 was a gain of \$200,243. For 2020 we showed a gain of \$161,708. Primarily this was a result of the positive performances of our investments/endowments.

2022 BUDGET

The 2022 Budget with comparisons to 2021 actual and 2021 Budget follows.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - 2022 BUDGET

	2022 Budget	2021 Actual	2021 Budget
INCOME			
Offering Income/Pledged/Envelopes	\$ 170,000	\$ 176,433	\$ 205,000
Offering Income/Loose	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,472	\$ 4,500
Offering Income/Special Funds	\$ 23,650	\$ 24,848	\$ 23,150
TOTAL Offering Income:	\$ 195,150	\$ 202,753	\$ 232,650
Other Income (Columbarium, Interest, Misc.):	\$ 1,000	\$ 7,493	\$ 1,500
Investment Income			
Key Trust Return (Net of fees)	\$ 72,258	\$ 272,186	\$ 58,065
Merrill Lynch Return (Net of fees)	\$ 78,750	\$ 246,095	\$ 77,313
TOTAL Investment Income:	\$ 151,008	\$ 518,281	\$ 135,378
TOTAL INCOME:	\$ 347,158	\$ 728,527	\$ 369,528
=====			
EXPENSES			
Outreach - Total Outreach	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,012	\$ 15,000
Fellowship - Parish Events & Hospitality	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,568	\$ 3,500
Music/Choir	\$ 16,000	\$ 8,264	\$ 16,000
Pastoral Support			
Diocesan Conferences	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ 3,000
Travel	\$ 2,500	\$ 888	\$ 4,150
Discretionary - Rector/Assistant	\$ 3,400	\$ (1,159)	\$ 8,400
Visiting Clergy Stipends	\$ 10,000	\$ 11,210	\$ 1,000
Total Pastoral Support	\$ 18,900	\$ 10,939	\$ 16,550
Christian Education			
Sunday School Supplies	\$ 1,500	\$ 959	\$ 1,700
Adult Education	\$ 1,200	\$ -	\$ 1,200
Total Christian Education	\$ 2,700	\$ 959	\$ 2,900
Worship			
Altar Supplies	\$ 5,750	\$ 2,924	\$ 5,750
Altar Flowers	\$ 2,750	\$ 7,834	\$ 2,750
Total Worship	\$ 8,500	\$ 10,758	\$ 8,500
Administration/Salaries			
Salary: Lay, Clergy, Other	\$ 184,104	\$ 164,816	\$ 247,308
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 66,000	\$ 67,324	\$ 66,000
Total Administration	\$ 250,104	\$ 232,140	\$ 313,308
Operations			
Supplies, Equip Maint, Insurance, Office Exp.:	\$ 78,300	\$ 57,124	\$ 71,800
Total Operations	\$ 78,300	\$ 57,124	\$ 71,800
Payroll Related Expense/Benefits			
Payroll Taxes, benefits, etc.:	\$ 135,500	\$ 96,811	\$ 159,600
Total Payroll Related/Benefits	\$ 135,500	\$ 96,811	\$ 159,600
Plant Operations			
Utilities, Repairs, Property Maintenance:	\$ 109,000	\$ 90,709	\$ 83,500
Total Plant Operations	\$ 109,000	\$ 90,709	\$ 83,500
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$ 639,004	\$ 528,284	\$ 690,658
GAIN/(LOSS):	\$ (291,846)	\$ 200,243	\$ (321,130)

2021 VESTRY MEMBERS

SR. WARDEN: James Chenot
JR. WARDEN: Deborah Spath
TREASURER: George Scala
VESTRY MEMBERS: Ashley Closson
Nancy Creagan
Christie Gordon
Fred Hershey
Maria Holden
Mark Lundberg
Malcolm Moran
Jeff Russom

PAROCHIAL REPORT FIGURES

Baptisms	4
Confirmation/Reception	0
Weddings	0
Funerals/Committals	8
ASA 2021	82.8

2022 VESTRY ELECTION RESULTS

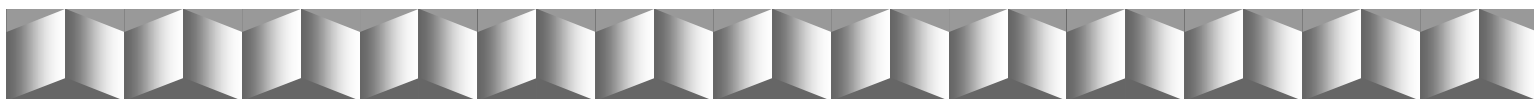
Jim Chenot was elected Senior Warden for his second two-year term.

Mark Lundberg was elected for his second three-year vestry term.

Jeff Russom was elected for his second three-year term.

Sharon DeBonis was elected for her first three-year vestry term.

Congratulations to all !



St. Peter's Happenings

Vestry Meeting

The February Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 8th at 5:15pm in the second floor Meeting Room.

Daughters of the King

The DOK will be having a luncheon on Sunday, February 13th, from 12:30pm - 3:30pm. The place is to be determined.

Office Closed

In observance of President's Day, the church office will be closed on Monday, February 21st.

Coffee Hour

Please join us for coffee hour after the 10:30 AM service. There is a sign up sheet in the kitchen near the Pumpelly room if you wish to volunteer on a Sunday.

Carly's Card

If anyone would like to secure a month, starting with April, to become part of this marvelous endeavor, please contact Susan Smith at Gpleasant49@gmail.com or (518) 505-6051.

Pledge Cards

Pledge cards for 2022 were mailed out January 4th. If you did not receive a pledge card please call the church office. It would be greatly appreciated if you could please take a minute to complete your card and return it to the church office, or place it in the offering plate during the service. Pledges can also be made on the St. Peter's website at www.stpeterschurchalbany.org by clicking on the "Get your pledge card" button. You may also call the church office and we would be more than happy to complete a card for you.

Anyone interested in volunteering for Coffee Hour, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Ushering or becoming a Lay Eucharistic Minister please call Ruth at the church office (518) 434-3502.

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Beyond the circumstance of how we began our involvement as a Lay Eucharistic Minister is the reality that we have been called by God to do so!

If at any time during your walk with Christ Jesus, were you questioning, "What Can I Do for God?" **This is the time!** Jesus' words to His first disciples apply to us as well:

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you!" (John 15:16)

By our obedience to that call, and by our active involvement in the ministry to which He has called us, we are sharing in the ministry of the Body of Christ, the Church.

As a Eucharistic Minister, one's first and primary ministry is to the Lord Himself. Lay Eucharistic Ministers are needed at St. Peter's Church. Are you interested in finding practical ways of communicating God's loving care? Then there is a place for you as a Lay Eucharistic Minister at St. Peter's.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers are trained and vested properly by the Church. In the beginning of your involvement, you will shadow others to understand and feel confident with your role as a LEM. An additional note for anyone questioning if they are qualified, your Love for God is the only qualification necessary. However, keep in mind that being a Lay Eucharistic Minister is tremendously gratifying.

Please contact Ruth in the church office at (518)434-3502, when you are prepared to serve Christ!

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.

We wish to thank all our volunteers for their service here at St. Peter's Church

St. Francis Mission

St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen

Saturday, February 19th ~ 11AM to 1PM

On the 3rd Saturday of every month St. Peter's Church is committed to preparing meals-to-go for 200+ people at the St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen (formerly known as Grace and Holy Innocents) located at 498 Clinton Avenue in Albany. We invite you, and the youth of our church (the Angels in Training) along with their friends, to join Laura Rulison (our Director of Christian Education) in helping with this outreach program that is in such desperate need of volunteers. For information or to let her know you are coming please call Laura at (518)368-4284.

St. Peter's Music

Choir

Choir rehearsals are on the following schedule:

Thursdays: 5:30pm - 7:00pm full choir rehearsal
Sundays: 9:30am rehearsal for the 10:30am service

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





February 2022



Sunday

Monday


Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

		1 Presentation of Jesus in the Temple	2 Top of the Hill 8:45am	3 Full Choir 5:30pm	4	5
6 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany Holy Communion 10:30am	7	8 Vestry Meeting 5:15pm	9 Top of the Hill 8:45am	10 Full Choir 5:30pm	11	12
13 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany Morning Prayer 10:30am	14 Valentine's Day 	15	16 Top of the Hill 8:45am	17 Full Choir 5:30pm	18	19 Angels in Training 11:00am
20 Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany Holy Communion 10:30am	21 President's Day Office Closed	22	23 Top of the Hill 8:45am	24 St. Matthias the Apostle Full Choir 5:30pm	25	26
27 Last Sunday after the Epiphany Morning Prayer 10:30am	28					



Happy Valentine's Day

MINUTES FOR THE VESTRY MEETING
ST. PETER'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
December 14, 2021

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

Absent: M. Moran

Opening Prayer Led by M. Lundberg.

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

The November 9th, 2021 minutes were approved on a motion by J. Russom and seconded by F. Hershey. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

Sr. Warden's Report –J. Chenot

Last month's vestry meeting I was able to report great news regarding the wonderful All Saints Day celebration we had in the beginning of November. We had over 120 that attended the service that day. Again, congratulations to the ones who received as well as to the families and friends.

Last month we also had a great turnout at our annual PRE-Thanksgiving dinner. Again, Thank you Janice for coordinating the event. The kitchen that has been worked on by Ruth and Wayne looked incredible. Thank you both. The Pumpelly room has now become complete with the new furniture delivered. Thank you again Fred Hershey. We also received many food donations to decorate our main Altar for Thanksgiving. The altar looked beautiful thanks to our flower guild and to all who donated food goods. Donations will be distributed to the local food pantries. In addition, we were able to donate twenty Thanksgiving Bags to the South End Children's Café in Albany. Within each bag there was a gift card for a turkey, all the fixings to prepare a Thanksgiving dinner for a family of four. Thank you to Laura Rulison and Janice Chenot for coordinating this important outreach to the local community.

Advent season is now upon us and we only have a week or so till Christmas. Fortunately, we have been able to secure ministers for both Christmas Eve Services. At the 4:30 service, the Rev. Katherine Along-Coons from Grace Church, Waterford will be our celebrant. At the 10:00 service, the Rev. Bradley Jones from Christ Church, Schenectady will be celebrating with us.

This coming Sunday, December 19th at the 10:30 service beginning with the Sunday School Pageant followed by service of 9 Lessons and Carols. When the service is finished we will begin the Hanging of the Greens, including a small luncheon upstairs. Thank you in advance to all who will be helping beautify the church for Christmas Eve Services.

The choir has been sounding wonderful and cannot wait to hear all the music Neil has prepared for us for the Advent season. Thank you to Neil and choir for all the hard work in the preparation beforehand, as well as to thank Mary Bon for helping out.

The Vestry would like to thank Dr. John Davis who visited us at our last month's meeting. His insight addressing the vestry on how to help the guilds increase memberships was very helpful and engaging. Thank you again.

Unfortunately, we received a letter on November 18th from Julie Hotmer- Drao informing us she would be stepping down from DOK as president and has decided to attend a new parish. We would like to thank you for all your work and service at St. Peter's and wish you and your family well in the coming year.

We have added the 8:30 service back during the Advent Season. We hope it will help us begin to slowly move back to some of what we have been missing since covid began, and eventually bringing it back permanently.

Our annual meeting will be on Sunday, January 30th. Nancy Creagan unfortunately has termed out on her vestry seat position and we will be looking for candidates to fill her seat. Nancy will stay on the vestry with a non-voting position, as she will continue to be involved in the search committee. The seat that will be filled is a Vestry seat only and will not have any involvement with the search.

St. Peter's has received an additional gift to begin and complete the third and final stage of the interior restoration in our chancel. There has also been extensive research done regarding the choir stalls. The ones that we have now are a mix and match from a few other churches, including chairs. I will have additional information in January in regards to what we were able to find out. In the meantime we will have scaffolding up and hope to have the chancel ready for Easter.

Thank you all for your prayers and support and wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

Jim

Sunday Attendance – The Average Sunday Attendance is 82.8 .

Finance –

George reviewed the November Treasurer's Report. Offerings for the month of November were \$12,736. Year-to-date offerings are \$169,502.

This compares to \$174,216 at this time in 2020.

Investment accounts saw decreases for the month. Merrill Lynch was down -2.01% for the month and Key was down -0.72%. Year-to-date Merrill Lynch is up +10.76% and Key is up +10.97%. Expenses are \$162,238 under budget through November, primarily due to the vacancies in our clergy positions.

To date we remain at 39 pledges for a total pledge amount \$108,094.

There was a discussion concerning the 2022 draft budget. There was one motion for a change after discussion and then the budget was approved.

The Stewardship letter is complete and the suggestion was to send out right after the first of the year.

Respectfully Submitted,

George Scala

Property – None

Outreach – None

Old Business – None

New Business – The budget for 2022 was presented to the vestry by G. Scala and was approved on a motion by M. Lundberg, seconded by M. Holden, then unanimously approved by the vestry.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by M. Lundberg and seconded by J. Russom, then was approved unanimously by the vestry.

Closing prayer was led by M. Lundberg.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christie J. Gordon

Clergy & Staff

Neil K. Keen, F.A.G.O.....Organist & Choirmaster
Laura Rulison..... Director of Christian Education
James P. Shortall.....Sexton
Wayne Hill.....Assisting Sexton
Kevin Goolsby.....Assisting 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, Sharon DeBonis, Christie Gordon,
Fred Hershey, Maria Holden, Mark Lundberg,
Malcom Moran, Jeff Russom

How to Contact Us

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Services

Sunday

Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

(1st & 3rd Sundays)

Morning Prayer 10:30 a.m.

(2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

