



# THE Cornerstone

## September 2023

Newsletter of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church

107 State Street, Albany, New York

### The Reverend Christina Hunter

Beloved of God,

Have you ever been haunted by a Bible verse?

You know what I mean? It's suddenly on the radio or in your daily devotional app or read on Sunday or printed in swirly letters on decorative signs in Hobby Lobby when you just stopped in to buy a hot glue gun.

I want to tell you about the verses that haunted me when I was called to St. Peter's. I think they were for me, but I think they're for all of you, too. The verses are entire (short) Psalm, number 127:

"Unless the LORD builds the house, their labor is in vain who build it. Unless the LORD watches over the city, in vain the watchman keeps his vigil. It is in vain that you rise so early and go to bed so late; vain, too, to eat the bread of toil, for he gives to his beloved sleep. Children are a heritage from the LORD, and the fruit of the womb is a gift. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them! He shall not be put to shame when he contends with his enemies in the gate."

I've prayed that Psalm so many times since coming here that I have it memorized. I want to tell you what it's saying to me (and what, I think, it could be saying to all of us). Two things:

#### **Listen before Working (And don't be a workaholic).**

The Psalm begins by rolling its eyes at our hard work (when it's done without God). Building something? It won't stand. Keeping guard? The enemy will find a way in. Sacrificing sleep to get in a little more work? Guilty as charged.

This blunt dismissal of our hard work is – in fact – a gift. Because when we take time to listen to the voice of the LORD, our efforts are multiplied like 5 loaves of bread becoming 5,000. Our strength doesn't matter much, but the LORD's strength is everything.

As a parish, we've been trying to listen for a full year now. We've been listening to stories of our history. We've been listening to faith stories of one another. We've been listening to the stories of our neighbors. And it's all been to hear the voice of the LORD – the Holy Spirit who still speaks – to tell us who we are, who are neighbors are, and what God wants us to do going into the future.

That work of listening – as an entire parish – is ongoing this fall. Your Vestry is going on a retreat later this month to continue listening. You'll be invited to a parish-wide "Vision Sunday" gathering on October 22 to enjoy food and imagine the future of God's work here (and finally, to step into action). But, it's not just about listening. We do have work the Psalm gives us to do now.

#### **Delight in Children (Literal and spiritual kids count).**

When I succumb to temptations of busyness, my kids are the first ones who suffer. When I don't put down my phone to let them sit on my lap or tell me a story, I'm losing out as much as they are.

Psalm 127 understands what a gift children are. Every human life is a unique creation of God, and this Psalm encourages us to pour our energy into delighting in others. St. Peter's is a church that's blessed with babies and children and youth, and it's a parish that loves them.

But I'm also talking to those of you who are single or who aren't around children right now. Because you're also called to delight in children – the spiritual family God has given you. I know that, especially in the first 30 years of my life as a single person, spiritual family was a lifeline for me. I had many "fathers" and "mothers" (and sisters and brothers) in Christ whose wisdom still guides me today. Can you think of one person – young or old -- who God may be calling you to care for as spiritual family? If the answer is yes, you are blessed.

We're on a good road together, friends, this road of following Jesus where he leads us. And if we listen to his voice and delight in our children, as the Psalm says, we'll prevail when we "contend with (our) enemies in the gate." This is the work of the church, and as our Lord Jesus told Peter, "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus,

Mtr. Christina+



**New Choirmaster/Organist:**

We are delighted to announce that Mr. Daniel Romero, CAGO, has been accepted a call to become the new choirmaster and organist here at St. Peter's Church. He will join us the week of October 10.

Daniel is a Denver, CO native and most recently served as Director of Music at Grace Church in Newark, NJ, and Professor of Organ at Manhattanville College in Purchase, NY. He holds a Master of Music degree from the University of Denver, where he was a student of Dr. Joseph Galema, and his undergraduate studies were with Dr. Joyce Shupe Kull, FAGO, at Metropolitan State University of Denver. Daniel previously served at Church of the Ascension in Denver, and St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Barnstable, MA. He also served for ten years at Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Denver. Daniel was a featured recitalist at the 2017 Convention of the American Institute of Organ Builders in Fort Collins, CO, the 2015 Organ Historical Society Convention in Western Massachusetts, and the 2005 POE held in Denver. He has presented workshops at conventions of the American Guild of Organists and the American Institute of Organ Builders. He is currently writing a history of the pipe organ in Colorado and documenting all pipe organs in the state. Daniel's other interests include playing the theater pipe organ, organ building, running, cooking, travel, and history.

**Wednesday Lectionary Lunches**

Bring a bag lunch and join Mtr. Christina in the Pumpelly Room after Noonday Prayer (at 12:30 pm) for Lectionary Lunch. During this informal gathering, we'll chat about any questions or observations you have regarding the day's Bible readings (but no Biblical/spiritual topic is off limits!). Need the readings? Visit: <https://prayer.forwardmovement.org> and click "Daily Readings." Drinks will be provided.

**St. Peter's Prayer School - Beginning September 13th**

The St. Peter's Prayer School will run from September 2023 through June 2024. Each month, we offer how-to instruction and the history of different forms of prayer. The class meets the second Wednesday of each month at 12:30 pm in the Pumpelly Room. Students who complete all 10 sessions will earn a certificate at the end of the year, but anyone is welcome to attend any session.

If there is enough interest, Mtr. Christina may offer a second monthly session at a different day and time.

Session 1 (Sept. 13): Prayer 101, Journaling and Collects

Session 2 (Oct. 11): Anglican Prayer Beads Workshop – making and using them.

Session 3 (Nov. 8): Intercession and Imagination

Session 4 (Dec. 13): Candles and Contemplation

Session 5 (Jan. 10): Illuminated Letters – prayer through art

Session 6 (Feb. 14 -- following Ash Wednesday noon liturgy): Examen and Confession

Session 7 (March 13): Lectio Divina – praying God's word.

Session 8 (April 10): Healing prayer

Session 9 (May 8): Prayer Walking

Session 10 (June 12): Liturgy/Riches of the Prayer Book



# St. Peter's News

## Vestry Meeting

The September Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 12th at 5:15pm., in the second floor meeting room.

## Wednesday Noon Worship Returns

Beginning on Wednesday, Sept. 6, St. Peter's will offer a said Holy Communion service at 12:05 pm in St. Mark's Chapel. Communion will be offered on the first Wednesday of each month only. On the other Wednesdays of each month at 12:05 pm, a short service of Noonday Prayer will be said in St. Mark's Chapel. All are welcome!

## Prayer Pretzels/Sunday School Registration

On Sunday, September 10th Sunday School registration will take place and the children will be busy making prayer pretzels. Please take a moment to stop upstairs to complete a registration card for your child(ren).



## Blessing of the Backpacks

We invite the youth of St. Peter's to bring their backpacks to church to be blessed for the new school year. This will happen on Sunday, September 10th, during the 10:30am church service.



## Backpacks & Supplies for Back-to-School

Every year the Sunday School collects backpacks (new or lightly used) and back-to-school supplies to be donated to the children at the St. Francis Mission. Please pick up an extra backpack, notebook, pack of pencils or pens, loose leaf paper, or markers and place the items in the bushel baskets located in the back of the church and upstairs near the Sunday School rooms. These supplies and backpacks will be delivered to St. Francis Mission on Saturday, September 16th. Thank you all for your support, your donations are greatly appreciated!



## Annual Parish Picnic September 24th!

Please join us for the St. Peter's Church Annual Parish Picnic on Sunday, September 24th immediately following the 10:30AM service at the Rectory, 8 Loudon Heights South, Loudonville, NY 12211. Chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass for the meal or a dessert. You may sign-up on the board located at the back of the church. Driving directions to the Rectory will be available in the front of the church.

## St. Peter's Coffee Hour - Begins on September 10th.

- A great place to extend our time together! We are looking for volunteers to host coffee hour events after the 10:30 service. It's a great opportunity for casual conversations, information sharing and just plain enjoyment of others in the St. Peter's family. It's fun and fairly easy. Don't feel like baking or buying goodies? The kitchen freezer is always well stocked! Think you might need a bit of help? There are detailed instructions in the kitchen and helpers are always there too. An updated schedule has been posted in the kitchen - take a look and give it a try this fall. It's a rewarding stewardship that makes participants happy! Please contact Michele Vennard at [mlvennard@gmail.com](mailto:mlvennard@gmail.com), 518-858-0525(c), 518-274-4989(h)



**DOK Discernment Classes:** The Daughters of the King would like to announce Discernment Classes to begin in September. Discern means to understand, distinguish or differentiate something. This is what the preparation period is all about, helping Christian women understand what it means to be a member of our beloved Order and then finding out if God is calling them to make this commitment. It is an opportunity for growth and commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ and an awareness of how essential prayer, service and evangelism is important to St. Peter's and His Kingdom. If any women of St. Peter's are interested in the Daughters of the King, please contact the DOK President, Susan J Smith at (518)505-6051 or [Gpleasant49@gmail.com](mailto:Gpleasant49@gmail.com) or any Daughter within our parish.

## Carly's Cards

I would like to personally thank all of those who have previously assembled **Carly's Cards** for mailing. I have an urgent need for parishioners to assist with preparing the cards for the next several months. The enthusiasm is refreshing and I believe it reinforces our commitment as Christians as to how devoted we are to the members of St. Peter's Episcopal Church. For anyone who is interested in volunteering for a month or may have questions regarding the procedure, all are welcome to contact me, Susan Smith at (518) 505-6051 or [Gpleasant@gmail.com](mailto:Gpleasant@gmail.com). Thank you in advance.

# St. Peter's Music

## CHOIR START-UP

Choir will resume September 10th with a pick-up choir  
(Rehearsal at 9:30AM).

**The full choir** will resume rehearsals the week of September 10th  
on the following schedule:

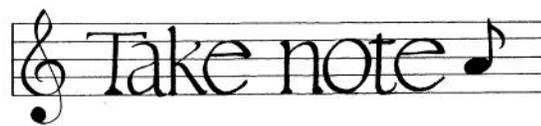
Mondays: 5:00PM - 6:15PM ~ Treble supplementary rehearsal time

Thursdays: 5:00PM - 6:30PM ~ Trebles

5:30PM - 7:00PM ~ SATB

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. We also welcome singers of high school  
age and above. Please contact Mary Bon at (518) 339-5460 for further  
information. Let's start the fall with a bang to welcome our Incoming  
choir director, Mr. Daniel Romero, the week of October 10th.



**A BIG THANK YOU** all our singers who have  
been singing in the SUMMER CHOIR. It's been  
great to have you. The last Sunday to sing in the  
Summer Choir is September 3rd. Come join us.



## ST. PETER'S CHOIR

Boys and Girls

Age 8 to grade 8

Join us in 2023

- Musical and Vocal training
- Monthly Salary
- An opportunity for piano lessons
- No experience required.

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



**There are also openings in other voice parts.**

Please contact Mary Bon with any questions about the program  
(518)339-5460 or [maryeb.music@gmail.com](mailto:maryeb.music@gmail.com)

(\* Google "benefits of choral singing." you may be surprised.)

## From the Archives



### A NEW BISHOP FOR ALBANY

We are in the process of finding a new bishop for Albany. A look into our history is appropriate.

It was in 1708 that Thomas Barclay was appointed Garrison Chaplain at Fort Frederick. He was preceded by a chaplain also assigned to the garrison. This garrison was to assure the residents of Albany of the British control of the original Dutch settlement. An English speaking congregation was formed in 1709 meeting in the local Lutheran Chapel. The first Anglican church was erected in the Mohawk Valley in 1711. A patent for the land for building the first St. Peter's Church in Albany was granted by the Crown in 1714 and the first St. Peter's church was built in 1715. It was a simple structure without a tower built at the side of the uphill road. In 1763 St. George's Church was built in Schenectady. In 1765 St. John's parish was established in Johnstown. During the Revolutionary War the English church remained leaderless and disorganized. It was not until 1785 with the formation of the Episcopal Diocese of New York that the church began to reorganize. By 1810 there were 14 priests serving 25 parishes in buildings provided for from grants from Trinity Parish, New York City.

In 1868 nineteen counties in northeastern New York were organized into the Diocese of Albany. The first bishop was selected in 1869 from St. Peter's Church. He was William Crosswell Doane. Doane organized the Diocese into the Cathedral See. In addition to the Cathedral the following buildings were also built: St. Agnes School, the Child's Hospital, a women's religious organization and St. Margaret's House and Hospital for Babies. Doane lived a long and useful life. He was followed by Bishops Richard H. Nelson, G. Ashton Oldham, Frederick L. Barry, Allen W. Brown, Wilbur E. Hogg, David S. Ball, Daniel W. Herzog and William H. Love. Although Bishop Herzog renounced his ordained ministry in favor of the Roman Catholic faith because of the 2003 affirmation of the election of the non-celibate gay bishop, Gene Robinson in the diocese of New Hampshire, Herzog was restored later to the ministry of the Episcopal Church. He has recently died. He was followed by Bishop William H. Love. Love opposed the *Marriage Equality Act* and would not allow same-sex unions to be blessed by clergy within the Albany Diocese. Love's retired on February 1, 2021. Currently Michael G. Smith (former bishop of North Dakota) is Assisting Bishop.

At this time the Albany Diocese is in the process of selecting a new bishop. New candidates for Bishop of Albany are Frs Geoffrey Ward of River Hills, Wisconsin; Scott Garno, of St. Stephen's in Delmar; Jeremiah Williamson of Grace and St. Stephen's Church in Colorado Springs, and Neil Longe of St. Ann's, Amsterdam. For more information on these candidates and the process of bishop selection please see the *Albany Episcopalian* for August 2023 Selection of the new bishop will take place on September 9th.

# September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p>3     <b>Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b></p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion</p>	<p>4     <b>Labor Day</b></p> <p>Office Closed</p>	5	<p>6</p> <p>12:05pm - Holy C</p>
<p>10    <b>Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b></p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer           w/ Backpack Blessing Sunday School Registration           and Prayer Pretzel Baking 4:00pm - Fall Family Disciple           (Learn)</p>	11	<p>12</p> <p>5:15pm - Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>12:05pm - Noon 12:30pm - St. Pe Scho</p>
<p>17    <b>Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b></p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion</p>	18	19	<p>20</p> <p>12:05pm - Noon 12:30pm - Lectio</p>
<p>24    <b>Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost</b></p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer</p> <p><b>Church Picnic @ The Rectory</b> following the 10:30 Service</p>	25	26	<p>27</p> <p>12:05pm - Noon 12:30pm - Lectio</p>



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2
Communion	7	8	9 10:30am - Election of the 10th Bishop of Albany 11:00am - Angels in Training
Monday Prayer Tuesday's Prayer School	14 <b>Holy Cross Day</b>	15	16 11:00am - Angels in Training
Monday Prayer Tuesday Lunch	21 <b>St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist</b>	22	23 9:00am - Vestry Retreat
Monday Prayer Tuesday Lunch	28	29 <b>St. Michael and All Angels</b>	30



**Judith MacNutt Conference: Hope and Healing in the Name of Jesus**

Thursday, September 14 - Saturday, September 16, 2023

**The LORD Heals, The LORD Saves, The LORD Delivers**

Join keynote speaker Judith MacNutt, President and Co-founder of Christian Healing Ministries, for this very special 3-day conference. Dive deeply into the love of Jesus and experience His healing, salvation and deliverance; and become equipped to bring that hope and healing to our world.

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."  
~ Matthew 1:21, NIV

At an "Emerging Leaders in Healing" Conference at Christ The King Center in July of 2005, Francis MacNutt explained in one of his talks that names in the Hebrew culture have deep meaning, reflecting the calling, character, and very essence of a person. He elaborated that the name Jesus means "God is Salvation," or "The Lord Saves." The word translated "save" in the above passage from the Gospel of Matthew is *sozo*, the Greek verb that can be translated to heal, to save, and/or to deliver. Thus the Name of Jesus literally means "The Lord Heals", "The Lord Saves", "The Lord Delivers!" That is who He is! That is what He does! [1]

This conference will explore Hope and Healing in the Name of Jesus, and unpack the wholeness Jesus desires for each of us in these main areas of Healing, Salvation and Deliverance.

Worship music provided by John and Corinne DuBois

Check out full details and register at: [www.ctkcenter.org/events](http://www.ctkcenter.org/events)

# BC: FALL EDITION

All the fun of a week of camp – crammed into one awesome weekend retreat! This is BC: Fall Edition. Come visit Beaver Cross in the fall for some great camp games, worship, messages, and fellowship.

REGISTER HERE

PACKING LIST

### 2023 Information

WHEN: October 6-9, 2023

DROP OFF: Friday 6:30 p.m.

PICK UP: Monday 2:30 p.m.

WHO:

- Jr. Fall Edition: 3rd - 7th Grade
- Sr. Fall Edition: 8th - 12th Grade

PRICE: \$180/ per person



For more information or to register please visit: <https://www.beavercrossministries.org/bcfalledition.html>



## Coming Soon!



**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**  
**Sunday, OCT 1 at 3 PM**

**PET PORTRAITS**  
**starting at 2 PM**

THE CATHEDRAL OF ALL SAINTS †

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

**June 13th, 2023**

**Present:** Mtr. Christina, J. Chenot, D. Spath, P. Benson, A. Closson, S. Debonis, C. Gordon, S. Hartt, F. Hershey, M. Holden, M. Lundberg, M. Moran, J. Russom, G. Scala

**Absent:** None

Opening Prayer Led by Mtr. Christina.

**Approval of the Vestry Meeting Minutes, May 9th, 2023**

The vestry minutes from the May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting were approved on a motion by D. Spath, seconded by J. Russom, then unanimously approved by the vestry.

**Priest in Charge Report – Mtr. Christina**

**Rector stuff:**

Officiated at the marriage of Trisha Roohan and Tyler Hull on May 27.

Officiated at the marriage of Katherine Brillat and Samuel Haynes on June 1.

Began weekly phone meetings with Jennifer McCarville, our marketing intern. More on that under “old business.”

Continuing work on the organist/choirmaster search. More on that under “old business.”

Preparing Vivian Panzironi to receive first Holy Communion on Father’s Day/Awards Sunday.

Officiated at a noon Ascension Day Eucharist on Thursday, May 18.

Did a home communion visit and two hospital visits.

Met a few times with Anders Larsen, who has studied Bible/ministry at Nyack. I’ve known Anders for about a decade, and I’ve asked him to help with some discipling work we’re going to be doing in the fall – he’s a gifted teacher. Anders has already begun regularly worshipping at St. Peter’s so people can get to know him.

Attended Diocesan Convention online on June 10 with our delegates, Maria Holden and Mark Lundberg. The special Convention to elect the next bishop is scheduled for Saturday, September 9.

Met with Don Young, our IT guy, to work out some bugs in my emails and to brainstorm ways to make our online systems more accessible and cost effective.

My vacation for July has been moved to August 11-18. Dr. John Davis will lead Morning Prayer on Sunday, August 13, and Dcn. Helene Patterson will still lead services on Sunday, July 23 – I will be at my husband’s parish in Cobleskill that Sunday to celebrate his appointment as priest in charge there and to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

My summer office hours will be slightly different than during the rest of the year. On Wednesdays, I’ll have my kids with me since they’re out of school, and I may not be in the office every week those days (Wednesdays are the weekday that my husband will be at his parish).

**Interim stuff:**

Big Picture Update:

Concluded this phase of “Who is our Neighbor?” reflection with the end of the Eastertide speaker series on Pentecost (May 28) and with the June newsletter article that summarized the “Holy Brainstorming” sessions.

Beginning planning for how to lead the parish through group reflection on the question “What is God calling us to do?” in the fall.

Met with both my spiritual director and my interim ministry mentor in May.

**Upcoming Initiatives:**

Preparing to preach through the gospel of Matthew in “Ordinary time,” starting in June and carrying us through All Saints’ Day. Matthew’s depiction of Jesus as teacher, prophet, and King will fit well with the themes of discipleship that we’ll be exploring this summer and fall.

Preparing to launch “Fall Disciple” for families this September. Will report more on this in July.

Preparing a class on prayer for the fall.

**Sr. Warden’s Report – J. Chenot**

Last month in May, we continued to observe the Easter season, followed by celebrating Pentecost on May 28<sup>th</sup> and then Trinity Sunday on June 4<sup>th</sup>. We also celebrated Mother’s Day, May 14<sup>th</sup> with the Sunday school children planting small mums in planters to give to all the moms and others after the 10:30 service. It is a great way for the children to celebrate with all the dedicated moms out there. Many thanks to those in the Sunday school who helped Laura Saffares coordinate this meaningful event.

This upcoming Sunday we will be celebrating the last Sunday for the choir and Sunday school before summer break, presenting awards as well as acknowledging milestones and accomplishments. Thanks to our interim Choir Director Mary Bon, our Choir Mom Diana Martin, and Laura Rulison, our Sunday school director for their guidance and leadership in their important ministries they tend to at St. Peter’s. Following the 10:30 service this Sunday, the Sunday school will host their annual Ice Cream Sundae Social at coffee hour.

The choir and Sunday school will pick up their regular schedule in September. During the summer months we will continue combing over resumes for the search of our next choir director. We hope and pray we will have an announcement calling out next choir director by early fall. The choir will also have a choir picnic hosted later in the month at the Chenot’s residence. Our choir will continue to sing regularly during the summer. Any parishioners that would like to join in and help out are more than welcome. Those who would like to join in should arrive at 9:45 to rehearse the music designated for that Sunday’s service.

Just a year ago in at our June vestry meeting, we were getting ready and excited to welcome Mother Christina and Father Paul Hunter, including their two children to St. Peter’s and our congregation. Mother Christina, our priest in charge, has truly been a God set calling to all of us. With so many obstacle’s we, as a whole all were facing, covid, absence of a minister, health issues and loved ones loss for many, we were able to come together with Mtr. Christina’s guidance. A year later we have a very loving congregation willing to work together, new members coming through our doors and a minister everyone adores. Father Paul, their daughter Martha and son Jonathan have settled in as well and so happy to have them as part of our family as well.

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

**Sunday Attendance** – The Average Sunday Attendance is 81.7 (as of August 4)

	MAY	YEAR-TO-DATE
OFFERINGS	\$10,700	\$70,964
EXPENSES	(\$45,814)	(\$229,963)
GAIN/(LOSS)	(\$35,114)	(\$158,999)
WITHDRAWALS FROM ENDOW- MENT TO FUND SHORTFALL	\$38,137	\$165,088

Endowment Return (Merrill Lynch)

May: -0.25%

Index Calculated Return: -1.01%

Updated 2023 Pledges:

32 for a total of \$116,880

YTD Offerings through May '23 are (\$7,225) less than '22

**Property –**

The mold and radon issues in the basement of the rectory have been irradiated. Now with the new gutters installed at the rectory, we have begun to look at fixing the façade as well as the slate roof.

At the church, the garden between the church and guild house has been cleaned up nicely and the picnic tables have been brought out in an effort to open the garden on certain days to the public to stop and enjoy their lunch.

Inside of the church, we are looking to improve safety for our parishioners, specifically our readers. We are looking at options for a railing leading up to the lectern to help assist the readers up and down the stairs.

**Outreach – S. Debonis**

We continue to be well represented in our three ongoing ministries: Loaves and Fishes, the South End Children’s Cafe, and the Albany Damien Center. Laura Saffares, the chair of the Outreach Committee, continues her tireless work, with other volunteers from St. Peter’s, at the soup kitchen run by Loaves and Fishes at the St. Francis Mission on Clinton Avenue. She is there on the second and third Saturday of every month, serving meals and giving out clothing and household items. On the last Saturday in May the soup kitchen served 323 meals, and the need is neverending. This year St. Peter’s parishioners provided men’s socks, playing cards, and Dunkin gift cards for Father’s Day gift bags, for the sometimes overlooked fathers who visit the soup kitchen.

Laura also volunteers regularly at the South End Children’s Café, which provides academic tutoring, opportunities for physical exercise and cultural enrichment, and last but not least, meals to the children of the South End of Albany and their families. As with the soup kitchen, additional volunteers are always welcome. St. Peter’s parishioners have been faithfully supporting the meals program with donations of food. Laura also attended the Café’s annual fundraiser on June 6. She reports that the children showed off their performing skills, that many supporters were thanked, and that a good time was had by all.

Since the Committee has started publicly asking for help from our parishioners for our various events at the Damien Center, our ability to host those events has increased immensely. As you know, we hosted Christmas dinner and Easter dinner, and on May 27, with help from other people who have been participating for years, our parishioners, including several members of the Vestry, hosted the annual Memorial Day weekend cookout. It was a great success; we had really good side dishes and desserts, and a lot of help with prep and serving this year. We got many, many compliments from the members and from the staff. There are pictures on page 8 of the June newsletter.

The Outreach Committee met on May 21 to review ongoing projects and go over the plans for the then upcoming Damien Center cookout. Laura Grill, Sharon Vardabash, Laura Saffares, and Sharon DeBonis were present. Laura Saffares presented a funding opportunity for the Church and the Committee voted to recommend it to the Vestry. The request from the Church of the Holy Innocents in Highland Falls, NY, is for \$500 to be used for their ministry to the cadets at West Point. The Rector of Holy Innocents is the Episcopal chaplain to the Military Academy, and the campus ministry serves everyone, of any or no denomination, who is interested in the services offered. A detailed description of those services is available. Gordon Lattey had supported this ministry with regular gifts and the Committee would like St. Peter’s to continue his work, although this is a little outside our geographic jurisdiction.

Last week the Committee became aware of an opportunity to sponsor a child for the summer program at the South End Café. This program continues the services offered all year, with the exception of help with homework, and includes lunch, snacks, and dinner. It also offers field trips and other special activities. With the Lincoln Park pool closed this summer the need for safe and temperature-controlled things to do is greater than ever. (The Center does not have air conditioning.) We request \$500 for this purpose.

And this brings me to my final comment: It has been pointed out to me that, when I say St. Peter’s has supported or sponsored or provided something, it understandably creates the impression that the Church is paying for it. That is not the case. With the exception of the checks, totaling \$1,000, mentioned, everything the Committee does is funded by the generous donations of parishioners, including several in this room. Individual parishioners, again including several in this room, have also contributed significant goods and labor to our outreach efforts. That is how we’ve been doing things, and we don’t object to continuing our work on that basis, but in the future I will be clearer about how our work is being supported.

**Old Business –**

As mentioned in the property report, we are looking to open the garden on Wednesdays for lunchtime as a place for our downtown community to come relax and enjoy their lunch. We have also discussed trying an Open Mic during this lunch hour once a month. This is a way we are hoping to open our doors a little more to our neighbors.

The Organist/Choirmaster search is ongoing. By the deadline for applications, we had received around 30 applicants. The Search Committee has been working diligently to narrow this pool down for zoom interviews.

**New Business –**

We will hold a Vestry meeting in August to get a head start on planning for the Fall.

The Vestry discussed cleaning out church surplus items. This entails things that are around the church and guild house that may just be laying around and no longer serve a purpose as well as looking at possibly organizing and cleaning out the basement of the church. There will be future updates on how the vestry would like to proceed with this task.

**Adjournment -**

A motion to adjourn was made by F. Hershey and seconded by A. Closson, then was approved unanimously by the vestry.

Compline was led by Mtr. Christina.

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Christie J. Gordon

## *Clergy & Staff*

The Rev. Christina Hunter.....Priest-in-Charge  
Mary E. Bon, M. Mus., CAGO, ARCM.....Organist & Choir Director  
Malcolm Moran.....Assistant Music Director  
Laura Saffares.....Director of Christian Education  
Ruth Manss..... Office Manager  
James P. Shortall.....Sexton  
Wayne Hill.....Sexton  
Janice Chenot.....Office Volunteer  
E. Constance Powell.....Historian & Archivist

## *Vestry*

James Chenot ..... Senior Warden  
Deborah Spath.....Junior Warden  
George Scala .....Treasurer  
Christie Gordon.....Clerk

Pete Benson, Ashley Closson, Sharon DeBonis, Samuel Hartt,  
Fred Hershey, Maria Holden, Mark Lundberg, Malcom Moran, Jeff Russom

## *How to Contact Us*

### **Office Hours:**

Monday -Friday

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

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[www.stpeterschurchalbany.org](http://www.stpeterschurchalbany.org)

## *Services*

### **Sunday**

Holy Communion 8:30 a.m.

Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

(1st & 3rd Sundays)

Morning Prayer 10:30 a.m.

(2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**107 State St.**

**Albany, New York 12207**

