



# Cornerstone

## November 2023

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

**Worship in Beauty. Practice Mercy. Hope in Jesus Christ.**

Beloved of God,

*What is God calling us to do?*

We've been working for more than a year to answer that question. After months listening to St. Peter's stories and the stories of our neighbors, your Vestry and I have tried to find a brief way of saying what St. Peter's is all about through this Mission Statement:

**Worship in Beauty. Practice Mercy. Hope in Jesus Christ.**

This church – for its entire history – has lived this mission. We've always offered transcendent worship to God, and we've always reached out a hand to the poor and hurting. Both things point to our true goal – inviting the people of Albany to find hope in Jesus Christ as we have.

Remembering who we are is vital to understanding how we are to share our faith in the months and years to come. To help in this, we've made a list of five things that describe the character of our church. When we do these five things, we feel like ourselves. Here they are:

**Confess Jesus as Christ** through our worship, our works of service, and our friendships, walking in the footsteps of St. Peter and many others who share our faith.

**Beautiful Worship** in the Anglican tradition that includes choral music, traditional liturgy, and engaging Biblical teaching in our historic church building.

**Friendly Community** that welcomes people of all backgrounds and perspectives into a united place of belonging.

**Spiritual Foundation** for children and adults to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ through study, prayer, service, and play.

**Do Justice and Works of Mercy** among our neighbors in Albany through our mission partners and other churches.

Sound familiar? Perhaps one or more of these core values is especially important to you in your life or walk of faith.

It's not just you. We're living these five core values as a church, right now:

On November 5, we'll celebrate multiple baptisms and first communions of our children who are growing in their lives of confessing Jesus as Christ.

Our worship in the Anglican choral tradition – anchored by our skilled and hardworking choir – is being led by our new organist and choirmaster, Daniel Romero, and by our newly appointed assistant music director, Malcolm Moran.

We are continuing to deepen friendships and build spiritual foundations through our Sunday School, our Fall Family Disciple group, the St. Peter's Prayer School, the service work in our wonderful Guilds, and sharing food at our parish gatherings.

The men's winter overflow homeless shelter re-opened at the beginning of this month at St. Peter's, just one of the ways we seek to do justice and works of mercy, sharing Christ's love in our city.

In the coming new year, you can expect to hear more about ways we will enter more deeply – as a united parish – into our shared mission. We have the holy seasons of Advent and Christmastide rapidly approaching first, and I'm eager to share these mysterious and joyful seasons with you.

A closing thought: at our Vision 2112 and Taste of History Potluck gathering in October, I asked those attending if they could think of a change or project that St. Peter's could do in the next two years to live more deeply into one of our 5 Core Values. Do you have an idea like that? If so, I'd love to hear it, either in person or by email at [priest@stpeterschurchalbany.org](mailto:priest@stpeterschurchalbany.org).

We're just getting to the fun stuff, beloved. Looking forward to what the year ahead will bring.

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus,

Mtr. Christina+

# Thanksgiving

## Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Peter's

Saturday, November 11th

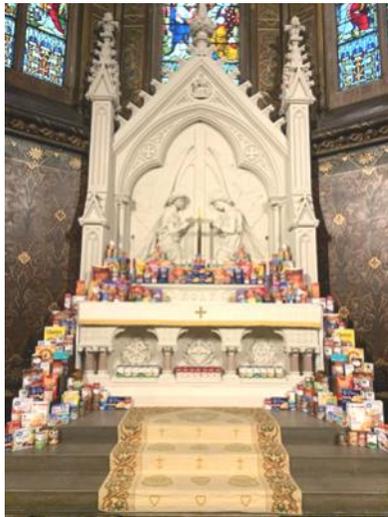
Beginning at 5:00pm

Dinner Served at 5:30pm



Please join us for our Annual Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner as we celebrate the holiday together. St. Peter's will again supply the turkeys and we are looking for volunteers who are interested in cooking a turkey and bringing it already sliced to the dinner. For those who cannot help with the turkeys we ask you to please sign-up to bring one of the other many Thanksgiving side dishes or desserts. There are two sign-up sheets located in the Pumpelly Room: one sheet is to let us know what side dish or dessert you will be bringing and the other sheet is to let us know how many of you are coming. You may also call Janice Chenot at (518)786-1070 to be added to the list. We ask you to please bring a donated food item (canned goods, rice, cereal, etc.) to be included in our traditional Thanksgiving Altar display. These items will then be donated to our local food pantries for distribution. For more information or to help with the dinner (cooking or clean-up), please contact Janice Chenot at (518)786-1070 or [jechenot@hotmail.com](mailto:jechenot@hotmail.com).

## Thanksgiving Altar Donations



2022

Again this year for Thanksgiving, we will decorate the Altars with a bounteous display of food – cans, boxes, jars or packages (No fresh foods that can spoil, please). These food donations will be distributed to the following destinations: The South End Children's Café Cabinets, Albany Mission Overflow Shelter (here at St. Peter's church) and Riverview Missionary Baptist Church. We are asking for contributions from the whole parish family so that our altars may truly reflect our dedication to community outreach. Your food donations may be brought to: the Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner on Saturday, November 11th, the Church on Sunday morning or Monday - Friday between 12:00pm - 2:00pm when the Church is open. There will be an area in the back of the Church for the food donations. If you need to make different arrangements for drop off, please call Ruth in the office at 518-434-3502 ext.2. All donations must be received **before** Saturday morning, **November 18th**, when the Flower Guild will be decorating the altars with the donated food. The Thanksgiving altars are given in memory of Jan D'Agostino, beloved leader of the St. Peter's Flower Guild, whose idea for this decoration has become a fine tradition.

Thanksgiving Eve Service - On Thanksgiving Eve Wednesday, November 22nd there will be a Noonday Prayer service at 12:05PM

## South End Children's Café Thanksgiving Outreach

Again this year, we will be filling Thanksgiving Bags, containing all of the fixings for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for the families of the South End Children's Café. Laura Saffares and several volunteers will be grocery shopping and making up these bags. If you would like to make a monetary donation to support this cause, please send your check to St. Peter's Church as soon as possible. On the memo line please write: Children's Café. We thank you for your continued support.

For more information about the Children's Café, please visit: <http://www.southendchildrenscafe.com>

# St. Peter's News

**All Saints' Day Service:** On Wednesday, November 1st at 12:05pm, there will be an All Saints' Day celebration of the Holy Eucharist to commemorate all the saints of the church. The said Holy Communion service will be held at the St. Mark's Chapel. All are welcome to attend.

## Vestry Meeting

The November Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 14th at 5:15pm.

**Wednesday Noon Worship:** On the first Wednesday of each month, St. Peter's offers a said Holy Communion service at 12:05pm in St. Mark's Chapel. On the other Wednesdays of each month at 12:05pm, a short service of Noonday Prayer will be said in St. Mark's Chapel. All are welcome!

**Wednesday Lectionary Lunches:** Bring a bag lunch and join Mtr. Christina in the Pumpelly Room after Noonday Prayer at 12:30pm. 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.

**Learn to Pray – St. Peter's Prayer School:** This adult education course, meeting monthly on the second Wednesday of the month at 12:30pm in the Pumpelly Room, offers practical instruction on trying a different form of prayer each month. You can join any class that interests you. This month's class is: "Intercession and Imagination".

**Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed:** Enjoy St. Peter's coffee hour? Then why not volunteer for hosting one or several this fall. Volunteers are still needed. There is a sign-up sheet in the kitchen as well as basic instructions and there is always a helping hand available. Please reach out to Michele Vennard at [mlvennard@gmail.com](mailto:mlvennard@gmail.com), (518)274-4989 (home), (518)858-0525 (cell). Thank you.

## Carly's Cards

As we begin a new holiday season, perhaps you may be interested in volunteering for Carly's Cards in 2024. If anyone is interested in assisting please contact Susan Smith at (518) 505-6051 or email: [Gpleasant49@gmail.com](mailto:Gpleasant49@gmail.com). A sincere thank you to all who volunteered in 2023!



## Daylight Savings Ends

We "fall back" on Sunday, November 5th so don't forget to set your clocks back 1 hour Saturday night before you go to bed.

**ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY**  
November 5th  
at the 10:30 am Service

### Holy Baptism

Camille Chenot, Renée Chenot and Noah Gordon

### First Holy Communion

Henry Crisafulli, Nathan Gordon, Bailey LaPlante,  
Teagan LaPlante, Chelsea Pautler, Matthew Saffares

**Congratulations !**

## CREATIVE CRAFTERS

At St. Peter's Church, the Julia Chapter of the Daughters of King pledge themselves to the Rule of Order and Service which includes Evangelism. The DOK has agreed to one way of spreading God's Word by beginning a new initiative. As part of our Motto of the Order which states:

*"I am but one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something."*

Therefore, we believe that in the current environment, women should take the time and meet to share conversations, experiences in daily life and watch what God has us to do. It is a wonderful way to share God's word within our church and beyond the walls of St. Peter's. Come and enjoy comradery within the crafting arena with the "Creative Crafters."

We will be meeting at St. Peter's weekly. The initial meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, November 8th at 10:00am. We will meet in the 2nd floor meeting room, of the parish hall. It is FREE to join other women for a few hours of creating crafts which include individuals who wish to crochet, sew (bring your sewing machine), or various types of crafting. Since it is so close to the Advent season, perhaps we could agree on something to create for Advent. I would appreciate your suggestions. I look forward to seeing as many women as possible to join this new proposal. Contact Susan Smith at (518) 505-6051 or ([Gpleasant49@gmail.com](mailto:Gpleasant49@gmail.com)) with any questions or concerns.

# Outreach

## St. Francis Mission Saturday, November 11th and November 18th~ 11am to 1pm

On every second and third Saturday of every month, Laura, Director of Christian Education and outreach, along with other volunteers, all get together to help serve the families of our community in the Southend of Albany. You are welcome to come and witness this amazing outreach program anytime you can, we are there from 11am-1pm. For information or to let Laura know you are coming please call her at (518) 368-4284. I want to thank all the families that came to volunteer at the St. Francis Mission in October! I am so blessed for the continued support with serving our community. So many of the people said that they loved seeing the children helping with handing out socks, diapers and personal care products. God bless you all, Laura



**Winter Clothing Collection:** Keep a look out for the green barrels! Once again St. Peter's will be collecting gently used or new coats for children and adults in need at the St. Francis Mission. Please drop off your donations in the green barrels located in the Pumpelly Room or at the back of the church and upstairs in the Sunday School Room. You may also call the church office to schedule a time for drop off. Sizes needed are: Children: 2t - 5, Women: Medium - 2XX, Men: Large - 2XX. We are also collecting hats and gloves/mittens for children and adults. We will be doing this for the whole month of November and maybe into December if needed. As always, thank you for your support.

It is such an honor to serve our downtown community and Sister Church. I am blessed to have this honor to deliver the holiday cheer. This is all because of YOU! We have such a giving and caring congregation. Thank you with all my heart for whatever you can give this year. This all means so much to so many in need. Blessings to all, Laura



**South End Children's Café:** The outdoor food cabinets are now open! We are looking for canned or dried goods to put in cabinets to supplement the food supplies of many families with children. The list is at the front of the church, on the box for your donation. Every can of soup, vegetables or beans make a huge difference to the meal on the dinner table.

The outreach committee met during October. We are planning on doing several community service projects. There is a tremendous need this year for so many basic items for everyday living. We take for granted the everyday simple aspects of life that many in our community do not have access to. Please consider participating in some of the ways St. Peter's can help our community. Thank you in advance, Laura



# Youth Formation & Sunday School

## SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENTS!!

**November 12:** Making pumpkin baked goods during Sunday School. We are changing it up this year. Please make sure the children are in old clothes so they can enjoy this baking experience. The baked goods will be blessed by Mother Christina on **November 19th**. Please come and take some home to share with your family on Thanksgiving day.

**November 26:** Making Advent Wreaths during Sunday School.

**December 3:** Advent Wreaths and candles available in Pumpelly room.

**Mark your calendars:** The Christmas Pageant will be held on **Sunday, December 10th**. If your child/children are interested in reading or taking a non-speaking part, please let me know. All are Welcome to join us on **Sunday, December 3rd** to get parts and costumes, and to practice! If anyone is interested or has any questions or comments, please drop me a text or give me a call at (518)368-4284. Blessings, Laura Saffares

\* Please keep an eye out for information in the bulletin and December newsletter for upcoming news, and how to help the families of our community during the Christmas Season.

## More to come in December

We will be having a Gift Giving Tree once again for the children of the Café.....

We will also be distributing board games or puzzles to those at the St. Francis Mission.....

We will again be serving Christmas Day dinner at the Damien Center in Albany. If you would like to make a pan of your favorite holiday dish to be served that day, please reach out to me or Sharon Debonis. I believe the dinner will be served at noon on Christmas day. Any volunteers will be greatly accepted to help serve this Christmas meal.

## Overflow Homeless Shelter

*Could you consider giving up one evening this winter to offer the gift of hospitality and show another the love and mercy of God?*

The St. Peter's Overflow Homeless Shelter begins Wednesday, November 1st to augment the ministry of the Capital City Rescue Mission to Albany's homeless. This year, we will be housing up to 15 men each evening through March 2024. The Overflow Shelter Training was done in October, due to the early opening. But if you are interested in volunteering please contact Ruth Manss in the office

We are currently receiving donations of food items and financial support. Food items needed include: coffee, tea, sugar, popcorn and snacks, peanut butter, bread, fresh fruit and juice, along with fresh baked items. These can be dropped off at the church office any weekday, or brought to church on Sundays and given to Wayne or Pat. Thank you in advance for your continued prayers and support.

# November 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p><i>Give Thanks to the Lord, for He is good. Psalms 107:1</i></p> 			<p>1 All Saints' Day</p> <p>12:05pm - Holy Communion</p>
<p>5 <b>Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>All Saints' Sunday</b></p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion with Baptism and First Communion</p>	6	7	8
<p>12 <b>Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost</b></p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer</p> <p>Sunday School Baking Pumpkin Bread</p>	13	14	15
<p>19 <b>Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost</b></p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion Blessing of the Pumpkin Bread</p>	20	21	22
<p>26 <b>Last Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>Christ the King Sunday</b></p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer 12:00pm - St. Peter's Prayer School (Intercession and Imagination)</p>	27	28	29



# Count Your Blessings



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All Saints' Day  Daily Communion	2  5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	3	4  4:00pm - Fall Family Disciple (play)
Monday Prayer St. Peter's Prayer School (Faith and Imagination)	9  5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	10 <b>Veteran's Day</b> <i>(observed)</i>  <b>Office Closed</b>	11  11:00am - Angels in Training 5:00pm - Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner
Monday Prayer Receptionary Lunch	16  5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	17	18  9:30am - Harvest Altar Decorating 11:00am - Angels in Training
Monday Prayer Receptionary Lunch	23 <b>Thanksgiving Day</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>  	24  <b>Office Closed</b>	25
Monday Prayer Receptionary Lunch	30 <b>St. Andrew the Apostle</b>  5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir		

# St. Peter's Choir

## CHOIR

Choir rehearsals are on the following schedule:

Thursdays: 5:30pm - 7:00pm Adult choristers  
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.



Dear Friends,

Thank you all for the kind welcome that you have given me over the past few weeks. I'm very happy to be here with you at St. Peter's! I look forward to meeting more of you as time goes on. But more importantly, I look forward to making beautiful music with all of you as a fitting offering of praise to the greater glory of God.

We have some wonderful musical offerings coming up. Please join us for our annual concert of Handel's Messiah on Sunday, December 3, at 3:00pm. On December 17, we will have A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at the 10:30am service. On Christmas Eve, we will offer two festive choral communion services at 4:30pm, and 10:00pm, which will be preceded by a musical prelude at 9:30pm. I hope to see you all at these beautiful musical offerings where we proclaim the incarnation of Christ. =



## MESSIAH

A SACRED ORATORIO by George Frideric Handel

The Choir and Soloists of  
ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
with Chamber Orchestra and Organ

Directed by Mr. Daniel Romero

**Sunday December 3rd  
at 3:00pm**

St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
107 State Street, Albany, NY  
Free Admission  
Donations Received  
[www.stpeterschurchalbany.org](http://www.stpeterschurchalbany.org)



# The Big Picture with St. Peter's Money

Dear parish,

OK, it's time. Let's talk money.

We figured it was only fair – since we're asking you to consider an annual pledge to St. Peter's – that we give you an updated sense of 1. What the money situation at church is and 2. What our plans are going forward.

Here goes!

## The money situation now:

The short answer is, St. Peter's Church has a steady financial foothold right now, and we're in a good position to make some changes to put ourselves into an even stronger place of stability in the future.

Here's the deal: our church has one of the larger budgets in our Diocese. We have costs associated with our music program, our staffing levels, and upkeep of our buildings that some other churches don't have.

But, we're ahead of a lot of other parishes in one respect: the St. Peter's parishioners who built our church had the foresight to know that we'd need funds to maintain our property, and so they created an endowment – a pot of money that we use to make stock market investments and generate income to bolster our budget.

So, here's how the money situation works: our parishioners give – through tithes, offerings, and pledges – and that money pays part of our expenses (staff salaries/benefits, building repair/maintenance, utilities, office supplies, Christian education materials, -- you get it).

(And before I go any further, I want to say thank you to all of you who give to our church. It's been a rough couple of years, and you've all been so faithful. You've given more this year than last year, and the financial picture in our world hasn't exactly been rosy. Thank you, truly. And may God see your generosity and bless you for it.)

So, your giving pays some of our budget. The rest of our expenses are paid through money that our endowment pot of money makes on the stock market. And, when there's a shortfall if there's a bad year in the market (2022 comes to mind), we withdraw money from our endowment to pay our bills. As you might imagine, we don't like taking money out of our endowment because that decreases our market income.

That's basically how the money works here.

Before I go on, there's one more thing that's important to mention (and that can be a source of confusion): how is it that we've made costly and beautiful building improvements in the past year (like new choir stalls) but haven't had the cash flow to pay our everyday bills? The answer is, our interior improvements are being paid for by a combination of the last of the money raised from the interior restoration capital campaign in the past, and through very generous donations of an anonymous donor. These pots of money are designated for these projects, and we're very grateful to have them.

## What is the overall money plan going forward?

For the last year, a team of your leaders have been working on different aspects of St. Peter's finances. Here's the game plan for now.

**Cut spending enough to stop dipping into the endowment.** This is a big priority. We're in the process of looking carefully at our expenditures to see where we can make smart cuts. This includes big things (like downsizing to a less fancy -- but still adequate -- health insurance plan for staff) and small things (like my canceling subscriptions to a few church magazines). This work is ongoing.

**Increase giving.** This item is important, but I hope you know it's not aimed at anyone who is giving what they can (because I know many of you are). Sure, some of us could probably give more, and others could become first time givers. But this item also includes:

Ways to invite one-time tourists to make donations for building preservation.

A developing plan to reach out to friends of the choir, past and present, to invite them to contribute to expanding and strengthening the program.

Running a capital campaign to do some exterior restoration work to the church and potentially to our bells.

Applying for grants

Fundraisers

**Build the Endowment through Legacy Giving.** As I said, our endowment is a huge blessing to St. Peter's, and it would be strategically wise to work at bulking it up in the coming years. This has often been done in the past through parishioners who have left a bequest to St. Peter's in their wills, but we're exploring other options as well.

I hope this rundown has clarified where we are and where we're headed. If you have questions about our finances, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or to a member of the Vestry.

Grace and peace, Mtr. Christina+

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

September 12th, 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, August 8th, 2023**

The vestry minutes from the August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting were approved on a motion by M. Moran, seconded by S. Debonis, then unanimously approved by the vestry.

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

**Rector stuff:**

Concluded the Wednesday lunch in the garden and summer open mic series in August.

Led “Bishops 101” class on Sunday, August 27, with nine in attendance.

Attended the Diocesan Special Convention to elect our bishop with our lay delegates on September 9. Fr. Jeremiah Williamson, currently serving Grace and St. Stephen’s in Colorado, is our bishop elect.

Did one nursing home visit and one home visit.

Laura Saffares and I are continuing to complete staff training for Safe Church for this year (the staff is partially trained, and we may have new hires soon).

Helped lead the first session of “Fall Family Disciple” on September 10. We had 17 participants for the “Learn” segment, and we’re looking forward to our next gathering in October.

Am launching “St. Peter’s Prayer School” tomorrow, September 13. May offer a second session later this month because of interested parishioners.

Have re-started Wednesday Noon worship. (Eucharist the first Wednesday of each month and Noonday Prayer the other days).

Have started “Lectionary Lunch” on the Wednesdays when we don’t have the Prayer School.

Planning a “Pet-Bless-A-Palooza” on October 3-4 where I’ll visit parishioner’s homes, on request, to bless their pets and will read pet’s names at the noon Eucharist on St. Francis Day (the 4<sup>th</sup>).

Enjoyed a week vacation in the Adirondacks with my family in August.

Have begun a yearlong class that meets monthly at Christ the King Center on “Life in Christ” for my continuing ed this year (along with ongoing work on a book project with theological themes).

**Interim stuff:**

**Big Picture Update:**

Our work together in the past year has led us to the question “What is God calling us to do?” That’s part of what we’ll reflect on at our Vestry retreat.

We’ll have another parish-wide event to reflect on this question on Sunday, October 22.

The ramped up Christian Education offerings, along with an effort to strengthen the choir program, are also part of us leaning into our calling to proclaim Christ through beauty and mercy.

**Administrative Update:** Have continued to meet with various task forces.

Met with my interim ministry mentor, Bill Thomas, on August 31.

Met with my spiritual director on August 11.

**SAVE THE DATE:**

Vestry Retreat Day -- Saturday, Sept. 23: 9 am to 1 pm at Christ the King Center, Greenwich.

Parish Picnic – Saturday, Sept. 24

“What is God Calling us to Do?” Gathering – Oct. 22

Baptisms/1<sup>st</sup> Communion – Nov. 5

Submitted by The Rev. Christina Hunter

**Sr. Warden’s Report – J. Chenot**

Jim welcomed everyone back from the vestry’s summer break and expressed his eagerness to get back to the fall season. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend the summer vestry meeting in August but was elated to hear Mother Christina was able to announce the calling of our new organist and choir director, Daniel Romero. Daniel will be starting with us in the beginning of October and will be residing at St. Peter’s in our 4<sup>th</sup> floor apartment. The choir is so excited to get back working on our beautiful choral music and getting to work with Daniel. We hope that in the next upcoming months we will be able to recruit new members to the choir as we begin this new musical journey together.

On that “note”, I want to thank Mtr. Christina as well as others who worked closely with her in this search. Mtr. Christina picked up on the importance of the Anglican choral music we perform here at St. Peter’s early on and clearly wanted to make sure we had someone to help carry on the musical traditions that we have all held close to our hearts. Mary Bon, our interim choir director, kicked off our first Sunday back, last Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> and she will have our first full choir rehearsal this upcoming Thursday. Mary Bon will be leaving us at the end of September and will be working with other churches locally in need of an organist. There is not enough time to thank Mary for all she has done for all of us in the past few years making sure we continued to perform the music we all studied and performed under her husband Neil.

This past Sunday was also the Sunday School Registration including those involved baking prayer pretzels for all to enjoy after the 10:30 service. The Sunday School also will be collecting school supplies for children in need this upcoming year. Backpacks with supplies will be delivered to the St. Francis Mission on September 16<sup>th</sup>. The vestry would like to thank Laura Saffares for her continuing support who heads up a very important ministry.

Our current financial picture has been very stable this year, and we will all get a better look at it in the upcoming finance committee report. Fortunately, our treasurer George Scala with the help of our payroll service was able to work locating monetary compensation due considering staying open during the Covid epidemic. This compensation will return to the day-to-day operations account avoiding withdrawals to our endowment, which we heavily rely on. Though we are very fortunate to have an endowment, as mentioned, we rely on the investments of our endowment from month to month to cover more than fifty percent of our budget. We need to build our endowment up as well as weekly contributions to be able to continue the services we offer to all our parishioners. We will shortly put together our annual stewardship campaign during the fall. We need to get the message out to those who have not pledged in the past, to do so, and others that may be able to find they may be able to contribute more, so that we will not be so dependent on the endowment.

As we move into our new church season, the need to get the word out that new volunteers are needed on committees such as the Flower, Altar, and Ushers is so important for the future life at St. Peter's. We have been very fortunate to have many dedicated members volunteer a considerable amount of time on many of these committees and would love to see new members get involved in these important ministries. If anyone is interested in any of these committees, please reach out to one of our ushers or the church office so they can direct you to the appropriate committee leader.

Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, the election of our 10<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Albany took place. Father Jeremiah Williamson was elected and called to serve last Saturday. Our prayers are with our new Bishop William and our Diocese moving forward. Many thanks to Mother Christina, Maria Holden, and Dr. Davis, our delegates, for all their time and efforts put forth during the search for our new Bishop.

Finally, we hope everyone will be able to attend the annual picnic this coming Sunday at the Rectory. This annual function is a great way for all of us to reconnect, enjoy everyone's company and enjoy great food.

Jim

**Sunday Attendance** – The Average Sunday Attendance is 77.4 (as of October 5<sup>th</sup>)

**Finance – G. Scala** - Treasurer's Report Highlights/Summary – August 2023

	AUGUST	YEAR-TO-DATE
OFFERINGS	\$28,076	\$151,866
EXPENSES	(\$60,719)	(\$397,209)
GAIN/(LOSS)	(\$32,643)	(\$245,343)
WITHDRAWALS FROM ENDOWMENT TO FUND SHORTFALL	\$38,687	\$251,646

Endowment Return (Merrill Lynch)  
 Aug: -2.10%  
 Index Calculated Return: -2.46%

Updated 2023 Pledges:  
 32 for a total of \$116,880  
 YTD Offerings through Aug '23 are \$33,972 higher than '22

**Property –**

The Rectory – Since taking care of the mold issue in the basement, a dehumidifier has been purchased to prevent this from recurring in the future. A project to correct and update some electric issues throughout the house has begun. The Rectory has a chimney inspection scheduled.

The Guild House – The repairs to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor apartment have been completed and is ready for the new Choirmaster/Organist to arrive and move in. Mother Christina's office repairs have been completed. The plaster repair in the vestibule between the Church and the Guild House have been started. There was a leak into the Choir Director's office which has been since fixed.

The Church – The repair of the slate roof is planned to be completed before the winter. New electric conduits will be installed to fix the outside lighting of the church.

**Outreach – S. Debonis**

As of the August vestry meeting, no events were scheduled at the Damien Center. However, the Director of the Center asked us the next day if we could do something for Labor Day, and the friends of the Center immediately said yes. Maria Holden and Sharon DeBonis co-chaired the event, with Maria doing most of the heavy lifting. Jeff Russom was grill master, with Maria Holden at his side. It was a very hot day and the grill kept catching fire. Laura Grill, and Debby Spath brought in side dishes, and served in the kitchen with Laura Saffares. Cathy Schunk dropped off a side dish, and Lidiah Scholtes-DeBonis and Mollie Flannery baked an assortment of desserts. Diana Martin brought in a side dish and manned the dessert table. The event was very well attended, with neighbors, friends and families enjoying the cookout along with the members of the Center.

Laura Saffares continues her work at the St. Francis Mission and the South End Children's Café, including collecting food donations for both. She will be holding a backpack drive for children at both agencies this month. Soon she will be looking for donations of warm clothing.

**Old Business –**

Daniel Romero has accepted the position of Choirmaster and Organist. He will start on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business –**

The Vestry discussed the need to have an AED on site in the church. All agreed this is a great safety precaution for our parishioners and will be looking into the next step as far as purchasing versus renting the medical equipment.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by C. Gordon and seconded by D. Spath, 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  
Daniel Romero.....Organist & Choirmaster  
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.

### **Wednesday**

Holy Communion 12:05 p.m.

1st Wednesday of the month - HC

All Other Wednesdays - Noonday Prayer

## ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

