



THE Cornerstone

April 2024

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

Beloved of God,

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

As you read this, we find ourselves on the other side of Holy Week, once again contemplating with wonder the empty tomb and defeat of death that Jesus has won for us.

We also find ourselves moving toward another celebration which I hope with all my heart will give glory to our Lord Jesus – the institution and induction of me as the 24th rector of St. Peter's Church on April 7, just a week after Easter Sunday.

I have never been a rector anywhere, so I've never gone through one of these lovely liturgies that are part of our Episcopal heritage. I did a little homework to learn what the history of this service is, and I wanted to share some of it with you.

The service has two parts: the "Institution" and "Induction." It's also sometimes called an "Installation," which I'll explain in a minute. It's helpful to remember that we use all these words still. We say that Jesus himself "instituted" Holy Communion the night of the Last Supper – in other words, he established it. Likewise, we "induct" people into societies or special groups like the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Our Prayer Book liturgy involving these two words goes back to the medieval period in England when priests – once a wealthy patron hired them for a parish – would swear loyalty to the bishop before witnesses (as an antidote to being in the pocket of wealthy English lords). The bishop would, in turn, give the priest a letter that "instituted" him as the leader of a parish. Once the priest had his letter, he would be "inducted" at the parish building itself during a ceremony, which included things like placing his hand on the key to the church, ringing the bell, and leading the Prayer Book service of the day. The "installation" of a priest occurred when the new minister was literally led to – and seated in – his leader's stall in the church.

Our American prayer book contains many of these same elements. On April 7, the liturgy will begin with our wardens (no longer feudal lords) presenting me to our bishop. A letter of Institution is still read, followed by my promising to be faithful to this ministry. You – as the congregation – will also promise to uphold me. The service then features special prayers, Scripture readings, and a sermon (we'll be celebrating the Eve of the Annunciation that afternoon).

Then, instead of saying the Creed, we proceed to the Induction. At it, members of our parish and wider diocese present objects that represent various aspects of ministry (such as water representing Baptism). At the end, I kneel and say a solemn prayer of self-dedication – to the Lord and to you – that was written by an Episcopal clergyman in 1799. After that, I am introduced as your rector, and we continue with a celebration of Holy Communion (and some terrific food and fellowship at a reception to follow).

I hope you enjoyed this short historical tour of Institutions/Inductions in our Prayer Book. I am praying every day that our Lord would prepare me in heart and soul to undertake – in a formal way – the great work of proclaiming the gospel in our beautiful city alongside all of you.

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus,

Mtr. Christina+



THE WARDENS, VESTRY, AND PEOPLE OF
SAINT PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

request the honor of your presence
at the Institution & Induction of

THE REVEREND CHRISTINA MARIE HUNTER

as their Twenty-Fourth Rector

By the Right Reverend Jeremiah D. Williamson
the Tenth Bishop of Albany

Sunday, April 7, 2024 at 3 o'clock in the afternoon
a reception will follow in the Pumpelly Room

107 State Street
Albany, NY 12207

Clergy: Cassock, Surplice, White Stole

St. Francis Mission

St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen Saturday, April 13th & 20th ~ 11:00am to 1:00pm

On the 2nd & 3rd Saturdays of every month, Laura Saffares, the Director of Christian Education and Chairperson of Outreach, along with other volunteers, all get together to help serve the families of our community in the South End of Albany. You are welcome to come and witness this amazing outreach program anytime you can, we are there from 9am -1pm. Thank you to all that come to volunteer. For information or to let Laura know you are coming please call Laura at: (518) 368-4284.

The Saint Francis Mission is in need of adult and children's socks. Therefore, will be collecting for the month of April, gently used or new will be greatly appreciated. Thank you all in advance.

Outreach



A big thank you to Susan Smith, Tanya, Nathan and Solomon for helping put together 20 Easter baskets for the Damian center.

Baskets will be delivered this week.

Thank you all so much!



St. Peter's Outreach was able to give the Southend Childrens Café over 100 egg dying kits from a generous donation from a close friend. Tracie was so overwhelmed and amazed at what we do for the kids of our community!



Sunday School

Easter Egg coloring



Happy Spring

Choral Matins, the Anglican Tradition, and Us

One of the Anglican tradition's greatest contribution to Christianity is the Daily Office. The Daily Office is Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, but also includes Noonday Prayer and Compline, as it is given to us in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. St. Peter's is no stranger to the Daily Office. In fact, we are one of the few parishes in the Episcopal Church to maintain Morning Prayer as a principal Sunday morning service. It's a tradition that we have kept now for over 300 years!

When Thomas Cramner created the first Book of Common Prayer in 1549, he took the old monastic offices and combined them into Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer. The vibrant English choral tradition, which flourished prior to the reformation, adapted to the new Book of Common Prayer and created glorious music to go with Daily Office as well as Holy Communion. The musical versions Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer became known as choral Matins and choral Evensong. The sung form for the Evening, choral evensong, has become the quintessential musical offering of Anglicanism worldwide.

In recent years, with most churches in Anglicanism celebrating Holy Communion (A.K.A. the Holy Eucharist, or the Mass) as the principal service on Sunday morning, choral matins has, unfortunately, fallen into obscurity in most places.

Given the history of St. Peter's offering Morning Prayer on Sunday mornings, and the rich Anglican choral tradition which is well established at St. Peter's, we are going to try singing some of the parts of Morning Prayer that are currently spoken in the service. This will include the opening responses being sung by Mtr. Christina and the choir, two choral versions of the canticles being sung by the choir (the Benedictus and the Jubilate,) the three collects being chanted by Mtr. Christina followed by Amens sung by the choir, and possibly having the choir and congregation sing the psalm together to familiar Anglican chants. We are only doing this for the season of Eastertide during the months of April and May.

Since this is a little bit different from our usual way of doing things, we would love to hear from all of you about whether you like this little bit of extra choral music for Morning Prayer or not. As always, all of us at St. Peter's strive to do liturgy and music as well as possible, not only to help us all worship, but to make an offering, holy and acceptable, to the greater glory of God.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Psalm 96: 9.

Daniel Romero

Coming this July! Choir Music Camp

St. Peter's Summer Music Adventure for Kids! A weeklong program where kids will learn about singing, musical instruments, play games, and have lots fun!

More details to follow.

Please contact Daniel Romero for more information.

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	1	2	3 12:05pm - Noon
7 The Second Sunday of Easter 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion 3:00pm - Mtr. Christina's Institution and Induction w/reception to follow	8 The Annunciation of our Lord	9 5:15pm - Vestry Meeting	10 12:05pm - Noon 12:30pm - St. Peter's School (Healing)
14 The Third Sunday of Easter 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer 12:00pm - St. Peter's Prayer School (Healing Prayer)	15	16	17 12:05pm - Noon 12:30pm - Lection
21 The Fourth Sunday of Easter 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion 12:00pm - Spring Family Discipleship "Learn" Scavenger Hunt and pizza	22	23	24 12:05pm - Noon 12:30pm - Lection
28 The Fifth Sunday of Easter 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer	29		

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ay Prayer	4 5:30pm - Full Choir Rehearsal	5 11:00am - Florence Bogdan Funeral	6
ay Prayer r's Prayer g Prayer)	11 No Choir Rehearsal	12	13 11:00am - Angels in Training
ay Prayer ary Lunch	18 5:30pm - Full Choir Rehearsal	19	20 11:00am - Angels in Training
ay Prayer ary Lunch	25 St. Mark the Evangelist 5:30pm - Full Choir Rehearsal	26	27

Learn. Serve. Play.

Spring Family Disciple 2024

A Threefold Way of Growing in Faith

Sign up now for Spring Family Disciple! Our theme for 2023-2024 is “Do Justice. Love Kindness. Walk with God.” We’ll be focusing on “Walk with God” this cycle.

LEARN: Sunday, April 21 at 12:15 pm

The Learn Gathering will feature an all-ages “Walk with God” scavenger hunt in the church, with clues for both children and youth/adults. We will begin our time with a pizza party and conclude the hunt with sweet treats.

SERVE: Sunday, May 5 at 1:30 pm

For the Serve Gathering, we’ll “Walk with God” by participating in the Albany CROP Hunger Walk, a yearly event that raises money to fight hunger in our community. The walk begins at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church at 21 Hackett Blvd.

PLAY: Saturday, June 8 at 10 am

Our Play Gathering will consist of a strawberry picking outing to a local farm. The picking location will be announced at a later date.

To sign up for the 3-session Spring Disciple program, send the names/ ages of your family members to Mtr. Christina at priest@stpeterschurchalbany.org. Signups are open until Friday, April 12 at noon.

Family Disciple will take a break for the summer. We hope to see you in the fall!



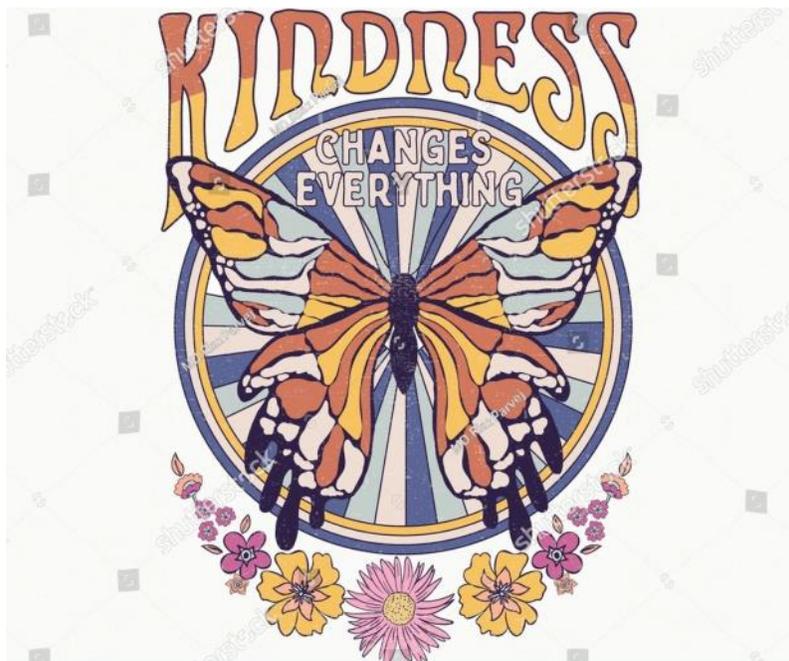
COMING SOON!!

Albany CROP Hunger Walk Is Sunday, May 5, 2024!

St. Peter's is participating yet again in the John U. Miller Memorial CROP Hunger Walk in Albany, to be held Sunday May 5, 2024. Albany's 2024 Walk will take place in person, departing at 1:30 PM from St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 21 Hackett Blvd. in Albany, with registration beginning at 12:30PM. Please contact Maria Holden at msholden1@aol.com if you would like to join the St. Peter's team of walkers. If you prefer, you may walk in your own neighborhood any time during the month of May. To contribute to Albany's CROP Walk and support our team, please visit our new team web page at:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/st-peters-episcopal-church-albany>

CROP Hunger Walks are community-based walk events held in cities and towns across the US to raise funds to respond to hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster around the globe. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised go to the host community to support local hunger fighting efforts. Hunger is one of the greatest injustices facing our world and our own community. Ending hunger is possible, and it is possible in our lifetime. Thank you for supporting the St. Peter's Team and CROP Walk 2024!



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

February 12th, 2024

Present: Mtr. Christina, J. Chenot, D. Spath, P. Benson, S. Debonis, C. Gordon, S. Hartt, M. Holden, M. Lundberg, W. Pettit, J. Russom, G. Scala

Absent: F. Hershey

Opening Prayer Led by Mtr. Christina.

Approval of the Vestry Meeting Minutes, January 9th, 2024

The vestry minutes from the January 9th, 2024 meeting were approved on a motion by S. Debonis, seconded by D. Spath, then unanimously approved by the vestry.

Priest in Charge Report – Mtr. Christina

Pastoral updates:

Would like to thank the Vestry for their input in this year's revamp of the Annual Meeting. The new format ran very smoothly, and the food that everyone organized and brought was delicious. Also, thanks to Daniel for leading music, to Laura for providing child care and to Michele for taking the lead on cleanup.

Celebrated Candlemas on Feb. 2 with a candlelit procession, communion, and dinner afterward with parishioners at The Skinny Pancake.

Thanks to John Davis for leading Noonday Prayer on Wednesdays in January and preaching a mini sermon series on passages from Genesis.

Led January sessions of St. Peter's Prayer School (Prayer through Art) on Wednesday, Jan. 10 and Sunday, Jan. 14.

Led the first February session of St. Peter's Prayer School (Confession and Examen) on Sunday, Feb. 11.

Participated in the "Serve" session of Winter Family Disciple on Feb. 11 by taking a Valentine's Party into the Damien Center. We're all learning a deeper Biblical understanding of "Love Kindness" this cycle.

Confirmation classes are ongoing with three candidates. They are scheduled to be confirmed at a regional Confirmation service at St. Peter's on Thursday, May 16.

Have begun premarital preparation with a couple planning to be married in May.

Did one home visit and two hospital visits.

Was the Healing Service speaker at Christ the King Center on Feb. 6.

Celebrated a Requiem Mass for a parishioner's father on Feb. 8.

Met with my ministry mentor, Fr. Bill Thomas, on Feb. 6.

I will be on vacation to visit Ohio family from Friday, Feb. 16 through Thursday, Feb. 22. Fr. John Scott will lead Sunday services on Feb. 18.

Big Picture and Mission/Vision work:

Lent Offerings: This year, we'll offer a number of opportunities for people to observe a Holy Lent, including special services (Ash Wednesday and Holy Week), Morning Prayer on Zoom (630 am Wed-Fri in Lent), Friday Choral Evensongs with option to go out for fish afterward (Feb. 23, March 8, and March 22), and a study of Lenten saints (Sundays after 10:30 am worship).

Mission/Vision Work: Excited about the work we'll be putting together through our task forces. Our mission work this calendar year will be focused on strengthening/building the choir and creating some visitor-friendly events that could potentially attract new members.

SAVE THE DATE:

Shrove Tuesday – Feb. 13, 2024

Ash Wednesday – Feb. 14, 2024

Submitted by The Rev. Christina Hunter

Sr. Warden's Report –J. Chenot

To begin, the Vestry and I would like to congratulate those elected at our annual meeting this past month, January 28th. Congratulations to Maria Holden, elected for her second three-year term, Christie Gorden, elected for her first three-year term and William Pettit, elected for his first three-year term. I was also re-elected to serve my third-year term as Senior Warden. Additionally, we would like to thank Deb Spath, our Junior Warden, George Scala, our treasurer and vestry members who continue to on the vestry, faithfully serving all of us here at St. Peter's in some capacity. Also, this year's annual meeting was made a bit more interesting and fun with Mother Christina's format mixing a little bit of organ and choral music into the meeting. We were able to have a small luncheon, sung some hymns between a few reports, and able to close the meeting by 12:30. Reports were also compiled by heads of committees and guilds who commit themselves their time and talents for the betterment of all of us here at St. Peter's. Thank you for all your dedicated time and service.

We are meeting this evening on Monday, in sight of tomorrow being Shrove Tuesday. That said, tomorrow evening we will have our annual Shrove Tuesday dinner with pancakes and sides served from 5:00 to 6:30pm. Thanks to Janice Chenot who heads up this wonderful event setting up, decorating and shopping, as well as those individuals who help in the kitchen with the cooking and finish cleaning up. We could not have these wonderful events without your support to these events as well as having wonderful volunteers. Many thanks to all.

Tomorrow, Ash Wednesday, we will have a noontime service with ashes and a 5:30 service with communion and ashes with choir. Moving forward in our Lenten season, and leading up to Holy Week and Easter, Mother Christina has put together a few study classes for those interested. Also, the choir will have three Evensong services during lent on Friday evening. All the information on all these additional services and classes is available in our February newsletter.

Sunday Attendance – The Average Sunday Attendance is 81.4. (As of March 8, 2024)

Finance – G. Scala - Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer’s Report Highlights/Summary – January 2024

	January	YEAR-TO-DATE
OFFERINGS	\$9,450	\$9,450
EXPENSES	(\$45,148)	(\$45,148)
GAIN/(LOSS)	(\$35,698)	(\$35,698)
WITHDRAWALS FROM ENDOW- MENT TO FUND SHORTFALL	\$12,078	\$12,078

Endowment Return (Merrill Lynch)

Jan: +0.79%

Index Calculated Return: -0.04%

Updated 2024 Pledges:

32 for a total of \$123,937

YTD Offerings through Jan ‘24 were \$24 higher than ‘23

Property – None

Outreach – S. Debonis

On February 10, the rector and a delegation from the Sunday school hosted a Valentine’s Day party at the Damien Center. There were chocolates and handmade valentines, as well as Valentine Bingo. On March 10, a small but enthusiastic group from St. Peter’s (Laura Grill, Katherine Grill and Sharon DeBonis) will participate in Bowling For PAWS, the annual fundraiser for the pet support program at the Damien Center, and on Easter our faithful cooks will provide, and Maria Holden and Sharon DeBonis will serve, Easter dinner at the Damien Center. Maria and Deb Spath have taken on the hams this year. Laura Saffares continues her constant hands-on support of the St Francis Mission and the Children’s Café, assisted as always by others in the parish. We are attempting to review the status of the annual grant to the girls’ school in Uganda that St. Peter’s has supported for many years and hope to report back with a recommendation soon.

Old Business – None

New Business –

Parishioners from the 8:30am Sunday service have requested the return of some organ music to the service. Currently, it is just a said service. Mother Christina has begun discussion with Daniel and Malcom to come up with a plan to add this to the weekly service.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by M. Lundberg and seconded by S. Hartt, then was approved unanimously by the vestry.

Compline was led by Mtr. Christina.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christie J. Gordon

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Christina Hunter.....Rector
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

Pete Benson, Sharon DeBonis, Christie Gordon, Samuel Hartt, Fred Hershey, Maria Holden, Mark Lundberg, William Pettit III, Jeff Russom

How to Contact Us

Office Hours: Monday - Friday
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Telephone: 518-434-3502
Fax: 518-462-4419

E-Mail:

Receptionist@stpeterschurchalbany.org

Website:

www.stpeterschurchalbany.org

Services

Sunday

Holy Communion 8:30 am
Holy Communion 10:30 am
(1st & 3rd Sundays)
Morning Prayer 10:30 am
(2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)
Sunday School 10:30 am

Wednesday

Holy Communion - 12:05pm
(1st Wednesday of the month)
Noonday Prayer - 12:05pm
(All other Wednesdays)

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

