



Cornerstone

December 2018

Newsletter of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church

107 State Street, Albany, New York

From the Rector

Advent Charity

For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9)

Saint Peter's has a wonderful Advent spirit. As we wait for the birth of Christ, there are signs about us that seem to follow the progression of the candles of our Advent Wreath. As we light one more candle each Sunday, so there is a growing light of another kind. It is the light of charity.

December 1st marks the start of our overflow shelter. We will be housing women again this year. The women of our parish assemble "blessing bags" to welcome the incoming women. Siena College students take our shelter on as a community project and provide Christmas gifts. Many in our parish bake for the women and provide other acts of hospitality. One member knits the most lovely hats. These acts give dignity and love. We remember that there was no room at the inn for Mary and Joseph. Advent marks our start of responding to homelessness in our city. As the women arrive through our doors, I think of the Blessed Virgin Mary often.

It will be yet a little longer before the Wise Men bring gifts to the Holy Family. But the gifts for the Burmese refugee families will grow week by week. As you take tags from the "Advent Tree," you envision the child or adult and the gift that he or she desires. Much like other last minute Christmas shopping, a lot of gifts come in close to the wire. They come beautifully wrapped and are loaded into Deacon Sandy's car to be taken to the Saint Francis Mission. The car packed to the brim feels a bit like the Christian version of Santa's sled. It is important to remember that Saint Nicholas was in fact just that – a saint who gave to those in need.

Even our youngest children are in on the act. They assemble Advent wreaths for us and sometimes make Christmas cards for the clergy to bring to shut-ins. There are many private acts of charity. These acts take place in and out of our doors. They are too many to count. Usually, I only hear about them secondhand. It lifts my heart.

Of course, Christian charity is not seasonal. It should be ongoing and thankfully at St. Peter's it is so. Still, there are times when Christian charity comes into focus. Advent is such a time. The focus is on the gift in Mary's womb yet to be delivered.

Jesus taught us to give generously to the poor. We give because we have received. As John writes *"From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace."* (John 1:16.) Charity is infused into Christian life from above. Advent brings us before the cradle of the ultimate grace and ultimate generosity. It is grace in Mary, who bears Jesus for the world. It is the grace reflected in Joseph who is not afraid to take Mary as his wife. Most of all, it is in the one act of Divine humility from which all else stems: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14.)

From the wood of the cradle to the wood of the cross, it is our Lord who emptied Himself for the poor human race. We can only give in relation to what has been given, received from the grace upon grace. We can but bend the knee before it all. Saint Paul quotes to the Church from an early Christian hymn. It could well be a Christmas carol in our time. Paul reminds them:

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

(Philippians 2: 5-11)

From the Associate Rector



Recently, a downtown neighbor took this picture of our church and posted it on Facebook. One of my friends commented “Lately, I’ve been missing snow and wishing I could go to a church that looks like a church on Christmas Eve. This picture may be as close as I get.” Our church, St. Peter’s Church, is THE Christmas Church for certain. We see our numbers swell for Christmas services as many people return to St. Peter’s year after year to enjoy the fresh greens, watch the children build the creche, to sing carols with the choir and bask in the peace of *Silent Night* by candlelight. These traditions, and others, carry us through the year with steadiness and consistency. And especially when the world outside our doors is chaotic or full of strife and conflict, we need the surety and constancy found at St. Peter’s Church.

Sometimes we might feel as though the strife and conflict is creeping through our very doors. We hear mixed messages, we struggle with our conscience, we wonder what the right answer is to today’s many issues both inside our church and out. Our congregation has always been a “mixed bag”, both politically and religiously. But our congregation has also always stayed together through thick and thin. That’s what family does, and St. Peter’s is, at heart, a family. We are God’s family.

I like to imagine that God might be peering down at us with a bird’s eye view perhaps a bit similar as the picture above. What does God see when he looks at St. Peter’s Church? What does God see when he looks at our family? I imagine he looks past our magnificent architecture and even our wonderful Christmas greens and decorations. We all know, after all, that God is more concerned with our interior state. Yes, I believe that God looks right into our hearts and right into our souls. And if this is the case, what do we imagine God sees there?

I believe God sees family, and love, and care and concern for one another, and service to our friends and strangers alike, us welcoming both newcomers and lapsed members back among us, the laughing at coffee hour and crying at funerals and of course, our beaming at our children. And God sees our Joy and hears our Praise and knows our Love.

So yes, St. Peter’s is a great Christmas Church, but it is also a great Epiphany, Lent and Ordinary time Church. This is so because of St. Peter’s consistency and family-oriented life. We have stood on this hill for over 300 years through the forming of our nation, its bitter divides, worldwide conflicts and amazing discoveries. And, all through them, the family at St. Peter’s has gathered to sing, praise and worship God and love one another. And the great news to those visitors reading this is that we have room in our family for you. Come and visit or return home again and take part in our traditions and parish life. We will travel the road ahead together, all with God’s watchful eye watching over us.

As our calendar year draws to a close we thank God for bringing us to be a part of this family at St. Peter’s Church. We value our life together and our common witness to God’s love and mercy and we trust God with our future. We simply need to continue to gather, and pray, and love God and one another. That’s what family does.

A Blessed Christmastide, Mtr. Sue

Advent and Christmas at St. Peter's

Advent Wreaths, Calendars, and Candles

Available Sunday, December 2nd

Messiah Concert

Sunday, December 2nd

3:00pm

Service of Remembrance

Thursday, December 6th

7:00pm Service

Sunday School Pageant

Sunday, December 9th

10:30am Service

Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 16th

10:30am Service



Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 16th

12:00pm

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 23rd

8:30am Holy Communion

10:30am Morning Prayer

Christmas Eve Services

Monday, December 24th

4:30pm Family Service w/ Crèche

9:30pm Choral Prelude

10:00pm Choral Service

Christmas Day Service

Tuesday, December 25th

9:00am Holy Communion

Daughters of the King - Julia Chapter

The next DOK meeting will be held on Sunday, December 9th, at 11:45am in the vestry room. Women of the parish are invited to join us as we assemble Blessing Bags for the women of our Overflow Shelter.

Outreach Meeting

The next Outreach meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 11th at 4:30pm. Please join us to learn about Outreach ministries and hospitality events being planned!

Vestry Meeting

The December Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 11th at 5:15pm.

Hanging of the Greens

The annual Hanging of the Greens in which we decorate the church for Christmas with pine and balsam will take place immediately following the 10:30am service on Sunday, December 16th. The traditional ham luncheon will be served at 1pm. We ask you to please dress comfortably and bring a dish to share. We need cooks, servers, set-up and clean-up help. We hope that you will join us for this long-time festive tradition.

Christmas Giving Tree

St. Peter's Parish is partnering with St. David's Parish, East Greenbush, to provide Christmas gifts for all family members of recently arrived Burmese families. On Sunday, December 2nd, a Christmas Giving Tree will be located in the Pumpelly Room and will be decorated with paper ornaments indicating the recipient's age, gender, size and gift idea. We hope that you will consider taking one or more of the ornaments. The gift you select should be returned to St. Peter's wrapped (with gift tag attached) by Sunday, December 16th. Thank you for your generosity!



Christmas Poinsettia & Hanging of the Greens Donation

Your special gifts for poinsettias and greens to honor, show thanks, and to remember loved ones are crucial to this beautiful display and annual parish event. If you would like to be part of this floral tribute, please complete the enclosed Christmas Flower form and send it to the church office with your donation. The deadline is Sunday, December 16th. We urge you to be as generous as you can. Thank you for your support.

Annual Service of Remembrance

We will gather at St. Peter's on Thursday, December 6th at 7:00pm to remember our departed loved ones through prayer, candle lighting and presence. Scriptural readings and a homily will be part of this Ecumenical prayer service. Following the service will be a reception hosted by Judy Burns. Please join us to remember your departed loved one(s).

Outreach & Retreats

*For God alone my
soul in silence
waits*

Psalms 62:1

An Advent Retreat



Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 2018
Friday - Saturday

Advent Retreat

“Advent is the season of the secret, the secret of the growth of Christ, of Divine Love growing in silence.

It is the season of humility, silence and growth. For nine months Christ grew in His Mother’s body. By His own will she formed Him from herself, from the simplicity of her daily life. She had nothing to give Him but herself. He asked for nothing else.

She gave Him herself.” The Reed of God by Caryll Houselander

In this season of humility, silence and growth come away to give of yourself in prayer and contemplation in order to invite Christ to grow more fully in you.

November 30--December 1, 2018

Facilitators: Dcn. Lynne Crimi and Dcn. Lynne Curtis

Registration/Information at::

http://www.ctlcenter.org/retreat_registration_details

DOK: December and Discernment

For members of the DOK, discernment is the starting point for joining an international organization of women who are committed to prayer, service and evangelism. If you have an interest in joining the Saint Peter’s Chapter of the DOK, Discernment Classes will begin after the new year! They are an opportunity to reflect on your faith, to learn about the DOK and its mission, and to decide if the DOK is right for you.

Discernment: 1. the ability to judge well. 2. (in Christian contexts) perception in the absence of judgment with a view to obtaining spiritual direction and understanding.

Blessing Bag Donations

To assist and offer comfort for the women who stay in our overflow shelter the Daughters of the King will be assembling Blessing Bags on Sunday, **December 9th**. These are small (quart size) bags of good will and hospitality that are given to people who may need some cheer and comfort. Please consider bringing an offering of women's care products such as tooth paste, tooth brush, a comb, scented lotion, hair rubber bands, mints, candies, wipes, granola bars, travel deodorant, lip balms, band aids, cotton swabs, small cracker packets, Slim Jim snacks, feminine pads/wipes, small tissue packets, small note pads and pens can also be useful. Products that contain alcohol such as mouth wash and hand sanitizer should not be included (hand sanitizer wipes are ok). Please **bring in your donations by Sunday, December 9th**.

Overflow Homeless Shelter Opens December 1st !!

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 will open for its 10th season on Saturday, December 1st to augment the ministry of The Capital City Rescue Mission to Albany's homeless. Again this year, we will be housing up to 10 women each evening.

We are currently receiving donations of food items and are also scheduling volunteers (women volunteers only) to offer hospitality during the evening hours of 7pm until 11pm; or overnight from 7pm until 7am the next morning in the Parish Hall on the 2nd floor of the Guild House (next to the church). To sign up to volunteer, please call Judy Burns at (518)441-7538 or email the church at receptionist@stpeterschurchalbany.org. Food items needed include: coffee, tea, sugar, popcorn and snacks, cereal (hot and cold), peanut butter, bread, fresh fruit, milk and juice along with fresh baked items. These can be dropped off to the church office any weekday, or brought to church on Sundays and given to Ian or Pat. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Youth Formation & Sunday School



December 2nd - Rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant
Angels, shepherds, and more! We will be giving out parts and readers. Please bring the children up to get their costumes during Sunday School and perhaps an hour afterwards.

December 9th - The Christmas Pageant, 10:30am

Please have the children upstairs by **10:00am sharp**.

AFTER THE PAGEANT, I WILL TAKE THE CHILDREN UPSTAIRS TO MAKE GOODY BAGS FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE SOUP KITCHEN.

PLEASE JOIN US!

December 24th - The Christmas Eve Family Service, 4:30pm

All the children of St. Peter's are invited to join in the procession of the Crèche. Each child will carry a piece of the Manger to be put together before the service. Meet us in the Pumpelly Room for your piece.

Questions? Give Laura Rulison a call at (518)368-4284.

St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen

Saturday, December 15th ~ 11am to 1pm

On the 3rd Saturday of every month St. Peter's Church is committed to preparing and serving lunch to 100+ 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.



Thanksgiving Altar

Cathedral Lock-In

Survive the night!

As an unknown contaminate spreads and the world begins to spiral out of control, the Cathedral of All Saints is the last safe sanctuary in the north-east. A brave group of young people gather to work out what to do next. Will they discover a light in the darkness? Is it too late for the world and these young people? Will the barricades hold out all night? Join us to find out!

WHEN: December 7th & 8th, 2018

WHO: 7th-12th Graders

PRICE: \$30

DROP OFF: Friday 6 PM

PICK UP: Saturday 10 AM

LOCATION: Cathedral of All Saints, 62 South Swan Street, Albany, NY 12210

Dinner, snacks & breakfast provided

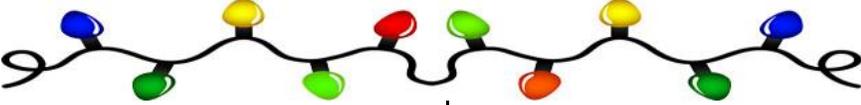
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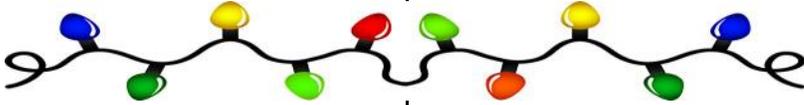
<https://www.beavercrossministries.org/cathedral-lock-in.html>



Pumpkin Bread Blessing on 11/18/18

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			
<p>2 First Sunday of Advent</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Healing Prayers</p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion 11:45am - Confirmation Class 3:00pm - Handel's Messiah</p>	<p>3</p> <p>5:00pm - Treble Make-up Rehearsal</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Ho 6:00pm - Alp</p>
<p>9 Second Sunday of Advent</p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer with Sunday School Pageant 11:45am - DOK Meeting / Assemble Blessing Bags 11:45am - Confirmation Class</p>	<p>10</p> <p>5:00pm - Treble Make-up Rehearsal</p>	<p>11</p> <p>4:30pm - Outreach Meeting 5:15pm - Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Ho 6:00pm - Alp</p>
<p>16 Third Sunday of Advent</p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Lessons and Carols 12:00pm - Hanging of the Greens with Luncheon at 1:00pm No Confirmation Class</p>	<p>17</p> <p>5:00pm - Treble Make-up Rehearsal</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Ho</p>
<p>23 Fourth Sunday of Advent</p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer No Confirmation Class</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve</p> <p>4:30pm - Holy Communion 9:30pm - Choral Prelude 10:00pm - Holy Communion</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day</p> <p>9:00am Holy Communion</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Office Closed</p>	<p>26 St. Andrew's</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Deacon's Office</p>
<p>30 The First Sunday after Christmas Day</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Youth Sunday</p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer 11:45am - Confirmation Class</p>	<p>31 New Year's Eve</p> <p>No Treble Make-up Rehearsal</p>		<p>6</p>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p>1</p> <p>9:30am - Messiah Rehearsal with the Orchestra</p>
<p>o of the Hill ly Communion pha Course</p>	<p>6</p> <p>5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm - Service of Remembrance</p>	<p>7</p> <p>12:30pm - Organ Concert</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>o of the Hill ly Communion pha Course</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>14</p> <p>12:30pm - Organ Concert</p>	<p>15</p> <p>11:00am - Angel's in Training</p>
<p>o of the Hill ly Communion</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5:30pm - 7:00pm Treble and Full Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>21 St. Thomas the Apostle</p> <p>12:30pm Organ Concert</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>Stephen, n & Martyr</p> <p>e Closed</p>	<p>27 Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist</p> <p>No Choir Rehearsals</p>	<p>28 The Holy Innocents</p> <p>No Organ Concert</p>	<p>29</p>

St. Peters Music

CHOIR

Choir rehearsals are on the following schedule:

Mondays: 5:00pm - 6:15pm Treble Make-up Rehearsal
Thursdays: 5:00pm - 6:30pm Trebles
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. Please contact Neil Keen at (518)339-0137 for further information. There are also openings for singers of high school age and above.



DECEMBER 2nd, 3:00pm

St. Peter's Choir will present a performance of Handel's Messiah, accompanied by a chamber orchestra. All are welcome to this performance. There is no charge for admission, but donations will be gratefully received.

FRIDAY NOONTIME ORGAN CONCERTS

Free half-hour recitals each Friday at 12:30pm

FESTIVAL SERVICE of LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, December 16th at 10:30 am

Saint of the Month Club

Nicholas

Bishop of Myra, c. 342

Very little is known about the life of Nicholas, except that he suffered torture and imprisonment during the persecution under the Emperor Diocletian. It is probable that he was one of the bishops attending the Council of Nicaea in 325. According to popular tradition, he famously lost his temper at the council and punched the heretic Arius, but this story dates to more than 1,000 years after his death and is almost certainly apocryphal. He was honored as a saint in Constantinople in the sixth century by the Emperor Justinian. His veneration also became immensely popular in the West after the supposed removal of his body to Bari, Italy, in the late eleventh century. In England, almost 400 churches were dedicated to him.

Nicholas is famed as the traditional patron of seafarers and sailors, and, more especially, of children. Many of the accounts of Nicholas' life recount his habit of secret gift-giving to those in need, a tradition that many Christians have felt inspired to continue in his honor. As a bearer of gifts to children, his name was brought to America by the Dutch colonists in New York, from whom he is popularly known as Santa Claus.

Collect:

Almighty God, who in thy love didst give to thy servant Nicholas of Myra a perpetual name for deeds of kindness both on land and sea: Grant, we pray thee, that thy church may never cease to work for the happiness of children, the safety of sailors, the relief of the poor, and the help of those tossed by tempests of doubt or grief; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, for ever and ever. Amen



From the Archives

George Augustus Viscount Lord Howe

There were three British brothers who were important in the conquests of early America: Brigadier General George Howe, Admiral Richard Howe, and General William Howe. The youngest was *George Howe* (c1725- 6 July 1758).



George Augustus Viscount Lord Howe, a career officer and Brigadier General in the British Army, was described by James Wolfe as the “best officer in the British Army”. Under his direction his army got rid of excessive uniforms and equipment and learned improved tactics. Improved tactics included learning to be rangers, i.e. fighting in the woods. He was killed on July 6th, 1758 at Ticonderoga during the French and Indian War. His funeral and burial was at St. Peter’s Church (First Edifice). He was reburied in the Second and Third Edifices of the Church. There are several plaques for George Howe in the Third Edifice of the Church. There is also a memorial statue located in Westminster Abbey in London dedicated to his memory.

Other News

Interior Restoration Fund Campaign

WE DID IT!!!

Through the generosity of 77 friends and members, the Arena Football Fundraiser, and the “Christmas in July” ornament sale, St. Peter’s Church met our goal of \$123,000 necessary to receive the \$100,000.00 challenge grant. Thanks to all who contributed as Phase I of the Restoration Plan is underway and will be completed by Christmas.

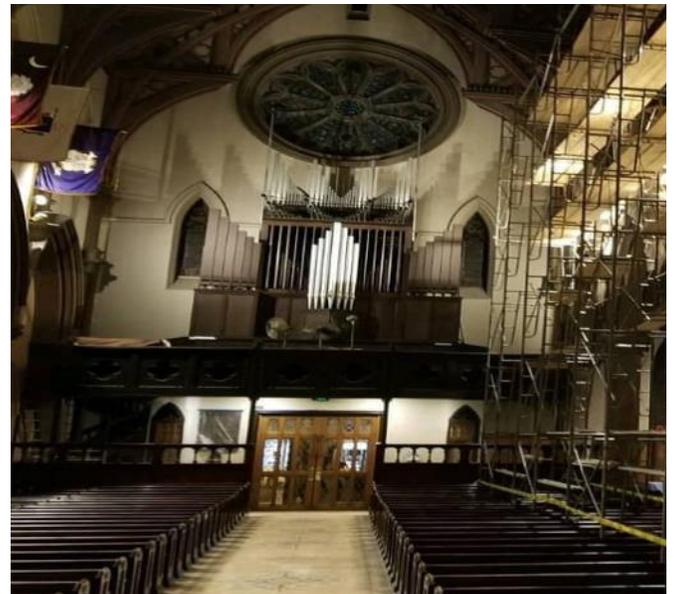
The good news is that not only did St. Peter’s meet our goal.....we exceeded it.....by \$29,000.00! That gives us a great step toward accomplishing Phase II of the Work Plan. Included in Phase II is the cleaning of the stone columns in the Nave and at the Chancel entry (\$48,000.00), as well as cleaning the Pulpit (\$6,800.00). Additional good news is that during the campaign we received a pledge from a group of members for the cleaning of the Pulpit. That means we only need to raise \$19,000.00 to complete Phase II. We look forward to meeting the challenge of raising that sum which will really complete the basic preservation of the church.

The generosity shown in our campaign has been overwhelming in meeting the financial goal. However, we are still short of our goal of every member participation. All of us are part of St. Peter’s Church. We are part of a 300 year old community which has preserved our Church building and passed it on for generations. It is now time for each of us to help preserve that legacy in order to pass it on.

As a part of St. Peter’s, please help us with a contribution to the Restoration Fund. Your gift, in any amount, will be greatly appreciated and can be mailed to: St. Peter’s Church Restoration Fund at 107 State Street, Albany, NY 12207. Thank you.

Pledge Cards

Pledge cards for 2019 have been mailed out to all parishioners. 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. You may also call the church office and we would be more than happy to complete a card for you. Thank you to those that have promptly completed and returned their pledge card.



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

October 10, 2018

Present: Fr. Hartt, D. Spath, J. Chenot, N. Creagan, C. Gordon, F. Hershey, M. Holden, T. Murphy, G. Scala, A. Spath

Absent: Mtr. Sue Waldron, S, Lencewicz

Opening Prayer Led by Father Paul Hartt

Approval of the Minutes of Vestry Meeting, September 11th, 2018.

The September 11th, 2018 minutes were approved on a motion by T. Murphy and seconded by C. Gordon. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

Warden Report - D. Spath

We would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who contributed and attended this year's annual picnic in September. Each year is such a great way to start off our new church calendar season. I would also like to thank Deb and Frank Spath for all the set up the morning of the picnic as well as many others that helped out including Pat Shortall, Assistant Sexton and Ian Mike, Sexton. We also need to thank Jordan Chenot and CJ Gordon for all their assistance cooking on the grill. Lastly, many thanks to those who brought a dish to pass and making the picnic run smoothly and successfully. The picnic is always a great time for all to enjoy great food and enjoy each other's company.

First communion and confirmation classes will begin next Sunday after each service and Bible study classes have already begun on Tuesday evenings. I would like to thank both Mother Sue and Father Hartt for all their time and effort, putting these programs into place for the betterment and further education to our congregation at large.

Third quarter statements have been sent out to our parishioners this week. The finance committee has begun working on this year's stewardship campaign. The finance committee will also start working on next year's budget so the vestry can begin reviewing it and revisit it at the next vestry meeting. It is so important that we continue to get the message out to the congregation the importance of stewardship, increasing the endowment which supplements approximately fifty percent of our annual budget. We need to work on getting parishioners information as to gifting to St. Peter's in their wills and estate planning. As November approaches, there are a few events that will be taking place to take note of. One to mention is our Pre-Thanksgiving dinner which will be held on November 10th. Each year we have an incredible turnout for this event and I hope those who have not been able to participate in the past to please mark this date on your calendar for a wonderful event. This event it is a great time to get the congregation together for great food and fellowship. Also, November we begin preparing steps needed to continue our efforts hosting the overflow homeless shelter beginning the first week in December. This year will be our tenth year and we will continue accommodating women looking for shelter during the cold winter nights. The Albany City Mission is still in the process of rehabbing an additional building in Albany dedicated to women which is sorely needed in downtown Albany and they have had a large calling for this important ministry helping these women in the local community every day. For those women in the congregation or others that may want to volunteer helping with City Mission coordinators welcoming these women and helping them get settled each night with light snacks and beverages. We will have two orientations beforehand the program begins in December at St. Peter's. The dates and times will be announced within the next few weeks and will be announced in the weekly leaflet. The congregation has been very generous in the past supporting this ministry with food and momentary donations and hope that this generosity will continue again this year for those who are in need for a safe and warm place to stay at night during the upcoming winter nights.

Finally, we would like to thank the Clergy, vestry, choir, Neil and those who volunteer on committees with all their work and support they put forth on the upcoming busy schedule of services and events. From the musical performances, to special services and events that will be coming up in the near future including preparation needed for the Advent season. None of this would be possible without the love and support from so many in the congregation. Also, we keep those in mind who are on committees that dedicate so much of their time and talents behind the scenes each week as well as those in the office; your hard work does not go unnoticed. We want to thank each and every one of you for all your help, love and support to St. Peter's.

Sunday Attendance - Fr. Hartt Average Attendance is 110.8

Rector's Report - Fr. Hartt

Father Hartt reported on the first Alpha session. 8 parishioners came to explore the program and consider the possibility of being team leaders for our launch of Alpha in the spring. The participants all spoke highly of the material. Fr. Hartt said that he felt encouraged by the focus on basic Christianity in the Alpha talks. Fr. Hartt has used the material in a prior parish and believes the recent updates to the talks make the material even more compelling. Fr. Hartt spoke of the need for material effective at basic instruction and evangelism. Many are coming or returning to the Church hungry for such basic teaching. Sometimes we can be overly geared towards seasoned church members in the programs that we run.

Fr. Hartt said that he is beginning First Holy Communion instruction with children whose parents feel that they are ready to receive the Sacrament. As our children come to the altar rail, the depth of their faith and desire to "be part of " through the Eucharist is seen on their faces. Fr. Hartt said it is quite moving to behold and reflects how our sense of belonging is grounded in the Lord's Supper.

The Diocesan Priest Retreat will take place November 7-10th. On the final day of the retreat, Bishop Love will give the clergy his pastoral letter on B012, the resolution of General Convention permitting same-sex marriage at the parish level regardless of the Diocesan Bishop's will on the matter. In September, Fr. Hartt spoke with several parishioners about their concerns. The effective date of B012 is December 2nd, the First Sunday of Advent. Fr. Hartt encouraged us to pray for parish unity and mutual forbearance in this difficult matter in which heartfelt convictions vary. Fr. Hartt will speak to us further after hearing from Bishop Love. The Bishop's Pastoral Letter is to be read in church.

Fr. Hartt was very pleased with the wonderful fund-raising brochure for our Interior Restoration campaign. Fr. Hartt thanked Jim Chenot, Fred Hersey, and Maria Holden for the extensive work that went into this fine promotional material. Fr. Hartt also commended all who have been working personally to promote the project. Our fund-raising goal is nearing its target for the first phase of the work.

Fr. Hartt said that he is encouraged by new member interest. He is, however, concerned about emerging attendance patterns among our core parishioners. We are presently down from last year. It seems that each year the "church year" begins later and ends earlier. Integrating and welcoming new members through our consistent presence is our common responsibility.

Mother Waldron is in Ireland with a delegation from the Diocese. Our companion Diocese is Down and Dromore. Fr. Hartt wanted to report on Mtr. Waldron's behalf that her class on the Lord's Prayer is going very well. Those in attendance are enjoying the Evelyn Underhill book on the Lord's Prayer and especially Mtr. Sue's deep dive into the original texts.

Fr. Hartt said that the Capital City Rescue Mission fundraiser yesterday was another powerful encounter with the Gospel's call to the poor and marginalized. Rev. Perry Jones does extraordinary work with the homeless in Albany. It is customary for the Mission to recognize members of the community who have strongly supported their work. Jim Chenot was so recognized at the fundraiser. Jim's commitment to the Mission and our overflow shelter at St. Peter's in many ways helped the Mission with its important work.

Lastly, Father Hartt spoke of plans for the "Pre-Thanksgiving Thanksgiving Dinner". It is on our calendar for November 10th. It has proven to be an important time of fellowship for new and old members alike.

Finance - G. Scala - Treasurer's Report

George reviewed the Treasurer's Report for September. Offerings for September were \$16,080. YTD offerings through September were \$147,521. This compares to a budgeted number of \$207,975. YTD Offerings through the same period in 2017 were \$162,871.

The investment/endowment accounts both showed small losses during September. Merrill Lynch had a return of -0.27% for the month and is at a +5.85% return YTD. The Key accounts showed a monthly return of -0.16% and is at +3.85% YTD. This leaves us with a positive variance in this area YTD of \$82,451. Both accounts performed favorably versus market indexes. Expenses YTD through September were \$8,456 under budget.

Pledges for 2018 remain at 42 pledging units for a total amount of \$119,720.

Givings and pledges for the restoration project are very positive and continue to come in. There was additional discussion concerning stewardship and budget which will be discussed again at the November meeting.

Property - There is a leak in the guild house roof that is leaking into the archives. This will be assessed and fixed promptly to avoid any damage to the archives.

Outreach -

Old Business - Phase 1 of the Interior Restoration Project which includes the painting of the walls of the church is set to begin on November 1st. This phase is planned to be complete in time for our Christmas Eve services.

New Business - None

Associate Rector's Report - Mother Sue

No report, as Mother Sue was absent and away in Ireland.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by F. Hershey and seconded by G. Scala, then was passed unanimously by the vestry.

Compline

Father Hartt led Compline.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christie J. Gordon

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Paul J. Hartt.....Rector
 The Rev. Susan Waldron.....Associate Rector
 Neil K. Keen, F.A.G.O.....Organist & Choirmaster
 Laura Rulison.....Director of Christian Education
 Ian Mike.....Sexton
 James P. Shortall.....Assistant Sexton
 Ruth Manss.....Administrative Assistant
 Janice Chenot.....Office Volunteer
 E. Constance Powell.....Historian & Archivist

Vestry

Deborah Spath Senior Warden
 James Chenot.....Junior Warden
 George Scala.....Treasurer
 Nancy Creagan, Christie Gordon, Fred Hershey, Maria Holden,
 Stephanie Lencewicz, Tim Murphy, Ashley Spath

How to Contact Us

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Monday -Friday

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Website:

www.stpeterschurhalbany.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.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207