



THE Cornerstone

November 2015

Newsletter of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church

107 State Street, Albany, New York

All Saints Local Saint

"But I am among you as the one the who serves." (Luke 22:27.)

All Saints' Sunday is beloved by Episcopalians. There are countless reasons. The hymns are glorious, the mood upbeat and triumphant, and the theme of the day is often embedded in the stained glass windows. Yet the even greater truth about All Saints' is that it is embedded in our lives and the lives of those closest to us. Indeed, we of Saint Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church ought to be even more conscious of sainthood in the lives of "regular" Christians than our High Church brothers and sisters up the street.

The "protestant" view of sainthood strives to make the case found in scripture and well expressed in the hymn, *"I sing a Song of the Saints of God."* As the last line of that popular Anglican hymn goes, "They lived not only in ages past, there are hundreds of thousands still, the world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus' will. You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea, for the saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too." (Hymnal 1982, #293.)

Knowing that very spirit of sainthood is celebrated among us, let us give it some flesh and blood. "You can meet him in church, the Pumpelly Room, or the tower, at coffee hour, the sacristy, the gym, or saving flowers, for one saint of God is Pat Shortall, and we mean to honor him too."

If there is one saint of God at St. Peter's that I would want to see in the stained glass windows, it is Pat Shortall. Like the multiple places one can meet him, it is impossible to do justice to the multitude of duties that Pat undertakes for us. There is an old joke among clergy that the ordination of a deacon lists the various expected ministerial duties, but then ends "...and you are to carry out other duties assigned to you from time to time." I would say that phrase captures the life of a sexton!

Pat helps the elderly and shut-ins with needed tasks and errands, attends every church function to set up and close down – often without help. Pat knows Altar Guild like the back of his hand and saves us in a pinch. Pat alone knows the key for every door *and* can fix the lock. Pat is a part-time florist, plumber, electrician, painter, bulletin distributor, acolyte, fireman, and frugal parish shopper. Pat does amazing high-wire acts changing lightbulbs. Pat stays up late for deliveries or building access. Pat waxes, polishes, cleans, mops, and orders supplies. Pat has endured endless brutal winters of snow removal, rising at the frigid crack of dawn. Pat is parish historian of the fabled stories.

Pat gives rides to the homeless shelter or bus station with some of the clergy's hardest cases of need. Pat brings food and covers up the sleeping homeless man whom he stumbles on in our vestibule. Pat knows our names and loves our children. Pat often risks his life for us – and I kid you not. He is our security guard with some questionable characters and ventures far up into our tower. Indeed, one day we almost lost Pat through a hole in an upper floor of the tower as he rang the bells for a wedding. There are messes that Pat has cleaned that are unmentionable. All of these things, and the list has only just begun, speak to what we expect of Pat but often don't realize. When Judgment Day comes for this rector, I fear God will say to me, "Why were you not more like Pat?"

I would put Pat Shortall in the stained glass windows in a heartbeat. Indeed, he is the heartbeat of Saint Peter's at her very best -- a church that serves, that does not run from need, that undertakes her God-given mission with the gentle and wise spirit of Pat Shortall. We are blessed by him. He is one of our saints of God -- and we would do well to watch him closely to learn how to be even better Christians. Give our local saint Pat a thankful hug!

Blessed All Saints' Sunday,
Fr. Hartt+

From the Associate Rector:

The church, on a Mission...

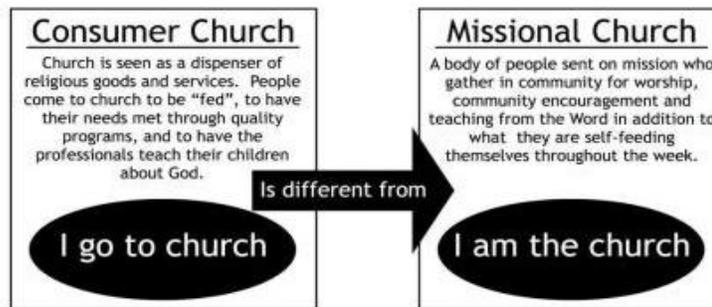
I'm remembering a childhood game. Locking fingers together, we'd recite: "This is the church, here is its steeple". Then turning our hands upside down, "Open the doors and see all the people!" as we waved our fingers about.

This childhood game reminds us what we *know* but don't always *remember*: the church is not the building or its ornaments, but rather the church IS the people. The church is the people who worship; the church is the people who sing; the church is the people who serve; the church is the people who give; the church is the people who pray.

Different people form our church from various backgrounds. This is part of what makes us great. However, collectively, we are one church; one church made up of many members. Paul writes much about this in his letters and even likens the church to one physical body with many parts; one person is the arm, one the leg and so on. The important thing is for the many parts to work together and form the whole – the Church. And because we form the Church, we, therefore, have one Mission together.

If you were to introduce St. Peter's Church to others, how would you describe it? Would you describe the building? Would you describe its ornaments? Would you describe its people? Would you describe its mission? I hope you answered yes, yes, yes, yes!

I found this graphic in my Facebook newsfeed recently. It compares "Consumer church" with "Missional church:



I think we can say that St. Peter's (of the past) is a Consumer Church. This model served us and many churches throughout America for many decades, even centuries. But this model of church may not serve us best for our future. There's many reasons for this, the biggest being there just aren't enough consumers today...when we open the doors, we don't see "all" of the people any longer. There are some members who have died, some have moved away, and others who find their schedules filled increasingly with other things on Sunday mornings. Further, it is difficult to add to or replace these members with new members as more and more people in our society drift further away from their Christian roots.

The Missional Church model, however, may serve us very well for our future because it is not solely dependant on "opening the doors and seeing all of the people". This is because the Missional Church exists as comfortably outside the doors as within them. The Missional Church doesn't rely on Sunday morning alone but rather a life of discipleship for Christian growth and formation. The Missional Church doesn't look inward at what is happening within our space but rather looks outward at being the church out in the world. The Missional Church doesn't rely on its current or known members alone but rather all people seeking Jesus Christ coming together to worship, to learn about and to serve God.

The question you might ask yourself is, 'Does this excite or frighten me?' I know we all love St. Peter's for all that it has been in the past. Could we love St. Peter's in light of this new model as well? Could we not only love it but be a part of it? You might even ask yourself, 'Will I go to church' or 'Will I BE the church'? Being the church is vital in the Missional Church model.

Being the church is the call of every Christian. Our Diocesan motto, Disciples making Disciples, implies being part of the Missional Church....growing, learning, serving and leading others in the faith. This is the call of not only the clergy but the lay members as well. Our baptismal covenant echos these thoughts with our promise to "proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ". In fact, that is a great definition of being church and being part of the Missional Church: proclaiming by word and example the Good News of God in Christ Jesus. This happens in the sanctuary, in the market, in your home, in your neighborhood, in your workplace and in our wider community.

The Church is surely on a Mission to show and tell the world about our savior Jesus Christ...are you? We hope and pray that you are on Mission with us.

Yours in Christ,
Mtr. Sue+

**Just a Reminder,
Daylight Savings is November 1st
Fall back!!**

Thanksgiving Eve Service of Holy Communion will be on Wednesday November 25th at 7:30PM.

Thanksgiving Pies

Due to temperature variations in the church's ovens here at St. Peter's, the Choir will no longer be offering any **baked** pies. However, they will be offering their delicious, home-made **frozen apple pies** that you can take home and bake yourself (baking instructions included). These frozen apple pies will be available for pick-up on Sunday, November 22nd after both the 8:30AM and 10:30AM services. The price is \$18 per pie. Please **pre-order** your pie(s) by **Thursday, November 19th**. An order form is included in your newsletter or you may call Janice Chenot at 786-1070. Proceeds will benefit the Choir's 2017 England trip.

Thanksgiving Altar Donations

Again this year, for Thanksgiving, we will decorate the Altars with a bounteous display of food – cans, boxes, jars or packages destined for distribution to the food pantry. (No fresh foods that can spoil, please.) We are asking for contributions from the whole parish family so that our altars may truly reflect our dedication to community outreach. Donations may be left at the Church before Saturday morning, November 21st when the Flower Guild will be decorating the altars with food, instead of the usual flowers. These Thanksgiving altars are given in memory of Jan D'Agostino, beloved leader of St. Peter's Flower Guild, whose idea for this decoration has become a fine tradition.

Service of Remembrance

December 3, 2015 at 7pm: An ecumenical prayer service will be held to gather and remember our departed loved ones. Each remembrance will be signified by the lighting of a candle and an ornament placed on our Remembrance Tree. A reception follows the service in the Pumpelly Room. We thank Judy Burns for coordinating this annual prayer event.

Equinox Volunteers Needed!:

Thanksgiving week, we will be joining hundreds of volunteers in preparing Thanksgiving dinners for Equinox at the Empire State Plaza. Please join us for our time slot on **Monday, November 23rd from 5:45PM to 8PM**. We will meet at the church at 5:30PM and walk over to the Plaza together. If you have any questions, please call Laura Safares at 3684284.



Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Peter's

**Saturday, November 14th, 2015 ~ Beginning at 5PM
Dinner Served at 5:30PM**

Please join us for our 5th 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 helping out by 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 you are bringing and the other sheet is to let us know how many of you are coming. Or you may call the church office at 434-3502 to let us know.

We also 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 pantry for distribution. For more information or to help with the dinner (set-up, cooking or clean-up) please contact Judy Burns or Christy Fish at 441-7538 or judyburns714@yahoo.com.

Outreach

The First Lutheran Church Shelter Dinners begins Thursday, November 19th. The Capital Area Council of Churches runs a 20-bed shelter at First Lutheran Church (on Western Avenue in downtown Albany). During the cold months (November through April) when other shelters fill up quickly with women and children, the men can come to this overflow shelter and receive a hot meal and a good night's sleep. The Outreach Committee of St. Peter's Church invites you to volunteer in both cooking and/or delivering meals for the Overflow Homeless Shelter. We are committed to providing a complete dinner for 20 people, cooked and delivered, every Thursday evening to the Overflow Shelter. We are asking that you sign-up to cook a complete dinner. Please sign your name next to the date on the board in the Pumpelly Room and take an instruction form. Please include a phone number that we can contact you at. Containers will be in the Pumpelly room to take home to cook in. If you cannot deliver the meal, please return the meal **frozen** to the church on the **Sunday before** the date you signed up for. Pat will put the dinners in the freezer for delivery during the week. If you are delivering the meal you can call Deb Spath at 478-9389 for directions.

Adult Education

Adult Bible Study:

Sunday's from **12:00-1:00pm** through November 22nd!

Bring a cup of coffee with you following our 10:30 service coffee hour as we meet in Mother Sue's office for a video presentation from N.T. Wright on Paul's Letter to the Galatians, followed by questions and conversation. This New Testament epistle not only conveys an early church community's growth in the faith, but also conveys much Christian theology; all presented by one of the leading Anglican theologians of our day! Those wishing for deeper study may choose to obtain a copy of *Paul for Everyone: Galatians and Thessalonians*, Tom Wright (ISBN 0-664-22785-6) [book not required]

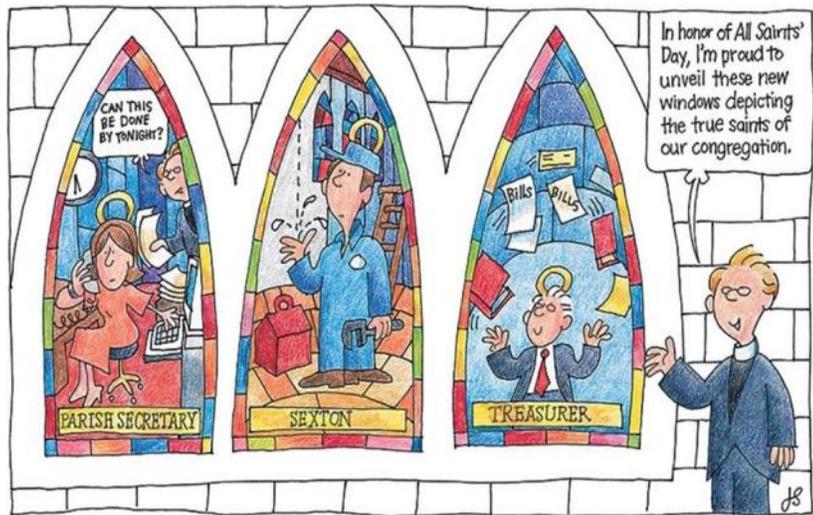
11/1/15 Galatians chapter 3

11/8/15 Galatians chapter 4

11/15/15 Galatians chapter 5

11/22/15 Galatians chapter 6 and concluding thoughts

Church Chuckles!



Of all of poverty's perils, perhaps the most heartbreaking is the tragedy of children not having enough to eat. Just shy of 2 years old, bone-thin Romanico is living this tragedy in Cuilco, Guatemala. Chronic hunger has withered his body so severely that he isn't capable of supporting his tiny frame.

Your gift will give children like Romanico the food they need to survive and the opportunity to overcome the perils of poverty. Food For The Poor is the largest international relief agency in the United States according to the Chronicle of Philanthropy and as of our last audited financials has maintained fundraising and administrative costs of less than 5% of its expenses; more than 95% of all donations go directly to programs that help the poor.

A representative from Food for the Poor, The Rev. Carola von Wrangel, will visit St. Peter's Church on Sunday November 15th to preach at both services and be available for your questions. We thank you for prayerfully consider donating to Food from the Poor. Additional information may be found at: foodforthe poor.org

Daughters of the King

The DOK meeting this month will be Sunday November 8, 2015 at 9:35am

Outreach

This month's Outreach meeting will be on Wednesday 11/10/15 at 4:30 pm. Please join us to learn about Outreach ministries and hospital-ity events beings planned!

Lay Eucharistic Ministers:

Are you looking to increase your religious experience?

We are looking for members of St. Peter's who might be interested in becoming a Lay Eucharistic Minister. Experience the joy of serving God by assisting at both the Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharistic Sunday Services. If interested please call the parish office at 434-3502.

Flower Memorials

During the year, our Flower Guild arranges flowers to bring beauty to our sanctuary and joy to our congregation. Those wishing to make a donation for flowers for a memorial, thanksgiving or celebration should call the Church Office to confirm available dates. During Advent, we use only greens; during Lent, the altars are bare. Other Sundays, we welcome contributions. Cost of flowers: Main Altar is \$50, St. Mark's Altar is \$35, and the Tower Altar is also \$35. All requests are payable in advance.



fresh foods from **small farms**™



Local produce delivered to

St. Peter's Episcopal Church on Thursdays

How Does It Work?

Field Goods is a local produce subscription delivery service. Brilliant, right? Each week, you'll receive 5-8 different types of fruits and vegetables. Invaluable to a healthy lifestyle!

Field Goods chooses the items delivered and purchases them directly from over 60 different Hudson Valley farms. A subscription costs \$20, \$25, or \$30 a week depending on which bag you choose. All of the produce is non-GMO, much is organic, and all is grown by small farms.

In the Bag, our newsletter, gives you information about what you're eating and how to eat it: facts, recipes, and photos! We deliver 150+ varieties of fruits and vegetables, and more than a dozen types of local cheese and artisan bread, all grown by local small farms or local producers.

Field Goods offers great value and variety, convenient delivery, fresh and delicious produce, and supports local farmers.

What's not to love?



What our customers are saying

"I LOVE vegetable day."

"I am having so much fun experimenting with new foods and recipes."

"Excellent quality, value, variety."

"My kids like Baby Turnips and Kale...who knew?"

"Great newsletter. Makes me want to cook."

"THANK YOU for changing the way my family eats!"

To sign up & learn more, go to

Field-goods.com

Email info@field-goods.com

Field Goods is located in Athens, NY



Youth Formation & Sunday School



Many new and exciting things happening at St Peters.....

We are celebrating youth Sunday, the last Sunday of every month. Father Hartt and Mother Sue have captivated the children with their own Eucharistic service, they are able to participate with all aspects of the service. Please come and join us.

The Sunday school will be baking pumpkin bread on November 15th. Please allow the children to wear old clothes so they may enjoy the wonders of baking. There will be a blessing of the bread on November 22 and each member of the church will be able to take a loaf home to share for thanksgiving day dinner.

Also on November 22, we will be collecting cans of cranberry sauce for the equinox. Taking it one step further, we are volunteering at the empire state plaza on November 23rd at 5:45. We will meet at the church by 5:30 and walk up the to the plaza. While there, we will help prepare "fixings" for the up coming thanksgiving day feast. Any questions or comments, please give me a call at 368-4284.

Last but certainly not least, it's going to get cold very soon. I Am once again collecting gently used coats for children and the elderly. I Want to bring the donations to Grace and Holy Innocents on November 21 to be distributed. St. peter's always goes beyond blessing these wonderful people, please if you can, clean out the closet and donate a coat.

I am blessed to have the opportunity to serve the congregation of St. Peter's church. I am humbled by the overwhelming support St. Peter's offers to our community.

Blessings,
 Laura Saffares

St. Francis Mission Soup

Kitchen

The 3rd Saturday of each month (November 21, 2015) (Angels in Training), invites you to join Laura Saffares and others from St. Peter's to prepare and serve lunch at this Episcopal church on Clinton Avenue, Albany. Generally, over 100 adults and children come for lunch so many hands mean light work! Please call Laura for information or to let her know you are coming at 368-4284.

Beaver Cross 2015 Retreat Schedule

Retreat	Theme	Grade	Date	Times	Price
Men of Valor	Learn what it really means to be a man of valor.	9-12	Nov. 20-22	Fri 7PM Sun 4PM	\$95.00
Women of Identity	Who am I? Discover what it means to be a woman whose identity is in Jesus.	9-12	Nov. 20-22	Fri 7PM Sun 4PM	\$95.00

For more information on Beaver Cross events visit their website at:
beavercrosscamp.com



Contest for our High School teens!

Enter our contest to win an all-expense paid weekend at the 2016 EXCEL conference (January 15-17th 2016) in Saratoga Springs NY! This includes the registration for all EXCEL events as well as meals and accommodations in a nearby hotel (with other people from our Albany Diocese).

About EXCEL: Since 1988, with the help of hundreds of volunteers and staff, the EXCEL High School Conference is held each January. Attendance from 3 states and many denominations brings over 1,500 students and leaders each year. **EXCEL** is a fast paced, exhilarating weekends featuring inspiring Christian musical guests, drama, comedy, and motivational speakers from all over the country. Leaders and students enjoy spiritually charged assemblies, worship and seminars that address tough issues facing today's teens. Year after year, these conferences have become "mountaintop" life-changing experiences for many students, youth groups and their leaders. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.beavercrossministries.org/excel-breakout.html>.

To enter the contest: Write and tell us one way that you have seen God work in your life or in the life of someone close to you. You can email it to Mother Sue at: mothersue@stpeterschurchalbany.org or bring it to her in Church!

November 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
1 All Saint's Sunday 8:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Holy Communion 12:00pm - Galatians Bible Study 4:00pm - Holy Communion	2 Commemoration of All Faithful Departed 5 pm - Treble Rehearsal	3 Albany Diocese Priest Retreat	4 8:45 am - Top 12:05 pm - Ho Albany Dioces
8 Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am Holy Communion 9:35am - DOK Meeting 10:30am Morning Prayer 12:00pm - Galatians Bible Study 4:00pm - Holy Communion	9 5pm - Treble Rehearsal	10 4:30pm - Outreach Meeting 5:15 pm - Vestry Meeting	11 Veter Office Closed
15 Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Holy Communion with Food for the Poor Speaker 12:00pm - Galatians Bible Study 4:00pm - Holy Communion	16 5 pm - Treble Rehearsal	17	18 8:45 am - Top 12:05 pm - Ho
22 Last Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Morning Prayer 12:00pm - Galatians Bible Study 4:00pm - Holy Communion	23 5 pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:45-8pm - Equinox Volunteers	24	25 8:45 am - Top 12:00 pm - Ho 7:30pm - Than vice
29 First Sunday of Advent 8:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Morning Prayer 4:00pm - Holy Communion	30 St. Andrew the Apostle 5 pm - Treble Rehearsal		

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
of the Hill ly Communion	5 5 pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30 pm - Full Choir	6 12:30 pm - Organ Concert	7
Priest Retreat	Albany Diocese Priest Retreat	Albany Diocese Priest Retreat	
an's Day	12 5 pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30 pm - Full Choir	13 12:30 pm - Organ Concert	14 5pm - Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner
of the Hill ly Communion	19 5 pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30 pm - Full Choir	20 12:30 pm - Organ Concert	21 11am - Angel's in Training Choir Pie Baking
of the Hill ly Communion hsgiving Eve Ser-	26 Thanksgiving Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28

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 will open for its 7th season on December 1st to augment the ministry of the Capital City Rescue Mission to Albany's homeless by housing up to 20 men when their shelter has exceeded capacity.

We are currently receiving donations of food items and are also scheduling volunteers to offer hospitality during the evening hours; the hours for this are from 8pm until 11pm on the 2nd floor of the Guild House (next to the church).

To sign up to volunteer, please call Judy Burns at [441-7538](tel:441-7538) or email stpeterschurch.albany@gmail.com

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 Pat. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

From the Archives

Outreach - The Capital City Rescue Mission St. Peter's Overflow Homeless Shelter



Throughout St. Peter's history there have been projects to help those in need. We especially reached out to poor orphan children. Today one of our most extensive programs is our Overflow Homeless Shelter which gives homeless men a place to sleep during the winter months out of the cold. Initiated on November 2, 2009, the shelter is an extension of the Capital City Rescue Mission's Homeless Shelter.

The Capital City Rescue Mission currently located at 259 South Pearl Street was founded in 1949. It is "dedicated to proclaiming the life changing gospel of Jesus Christ to the homeless and needy of the Capital Region." From simple beginnings the Rescue Mission now has an eight building campus, including a medical clinic and facilities for long term addiction recovery. The Mission sleeps 240 people every night, serves 700 meals every day and gives away 8,000 articles of clothing every week. The Mission also provides 40 transitional program apartments for those who have found work and still need supportive housing. All of the Mission's work is privately funded.

Started in 2009, St. Peter's Church Overflow Homeless Shelter is in its seventh season of providing a place for men to sleep to help relieve the high demand at the Capital City Rescue Mission. St. Peter's now takes 20 men who are brought to the church along with two members of the Mission staff. Two volunteers from St. Peter's Church are also on hand until lights out.

Both parishioners and the church provide snacks. The Church provides the Parish Hall, sleeping arrangements, and storage containers for the men's personal belongings. Locks and a buzzer system ensure that the Church is safe. From December 1st until March 30th the overflow shelter is operated every night starting at 8 pm and going until 7 am the next day. During 2014 a total of 1,086 nights of lodging were provided at St. Peter's Church and over the past six years there have been a total of 5,725 uses of our Overflow Homeless Shelter. Perry Jones Director of the Capital City Rescue Mission has expressed his thanks to St. Peter's Church for their help.

Other churches involved in this homeless shelter overflow project have included St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Cathedral of All Saints, Trinity Episcopal Church, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, St. Thomas Roman Catholic Church, First Lutheran Church in Albany, St. Stephens Episcopal Church, Siena College, and Defreestville Reformed Church.

St. Peters Music

~ HANDEL'S MESSIAH ~
DECEMBER 13TH, 3 PM

On Sunday, December 13th at 3 pm the 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 a \$10 donation is suggested. Mark your calendar now for this seasonal favorite.

CHOIR

Choir rehearsals will be on the following schedule:

Mondays: 5:00 - 6:15pm Trebles

Thursdays: 5:00 - 6:30pm Trebles

5:30 - 7:00pm Adult choristers

Sundays: 9:30 rehearse for the 10:30 service

There are several new treble choristers poised to join us, and we would love to welcome more. Please contact Neil Keen for more information at stpmus@gmail.com or 339-0137.

Composer Profile

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

If you are keeping track you may have noticed that the Choir sings quite a bit of music composed by Stanford. Our Stanford repertoire includes two settings of the Jubilate Deo, one of the Te Deum, several unaccompanied Latin motets, a few powerful accompanied anthems, and a hymn-tune anthem.

Born in Ireland and educated at Cambridge University, Stanford was highly influential in a renaissance of British music in the late 19th century. As Professor of Music at Cambridge, he was a teacher of Gustav Holst and Ralph Vaughan Williams, among others. He also held important posts as organist, and as a conductor of choirs and orchestras.

His compositions include symphonies, chamber works, and operas, but it is his church music which remains most often heard. While occasionally veering toward a certain Victorian pomposity, his works expertly balance craft and expression, and deserve their lasting place in the repertoire of cathedrals and parishes across all denominations.

The Choir will sing Stanford's motet, *Jusorum animae*, on November 1st

FRIDAY NOONTIME ORGAN CONCERTS
Free half-hour recitals each Friday at 12:30



Saint of the Month Club Consecration of Samuel Seabury

First American Bishop, 1784



Samuel Seabury, the first Bishop of the Episcopal Church, was born in Groton, Connecticut, November 30, 1729. After ordination in England in 1753, he was assigned, as a missionary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, to Christ Church, New Brunswick, New Jersey. In 1757, he became rector of Grace Church, Jamaica, Long Island, and in 1766 rector of St. Peter's, Westchester County. During the American Revolution, he remained loyal to the British crown, and served as a chaplain in the British army.

We give thee thanks, O Lord our God, for thy goodness in bestowing upon this Church the gift of the episcopate, which we celebrate in this remembrance of the consecration of Samuel Seabury; and we pray that, joined together in unity with our bishops, and nourished by thy holy Sacraments, we may proclaim the Gospel of redemption with apostolic zeal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

After the Revolution, a secret meeting of Connecticut clergymen in Woodbury, on March 25, 1783, named Seabury or the Rev. Jeremiah Leaming, whichever would be able or willing, to seek episcopal consecration in England. Leaming declined; Seabury accepted, and sailed for England.

After a year of negotiation, Seabury found it impossible to obtain episcopal orders from the Church of England because, as an American citizen, he could not swear allegiance to the crown. He then turned to the Non-juring bishops of the Episcopal Church in Scotland. On November 14, 1784, in Aberdeen, he was consecrated by the Bishop and the Bishop Coadjutor of Aberdeen and the Bishop of Ross and Caithness, in the presence of a number of the clergy and laity.

On his return home, Seabury was recognized as Bishop of Connecticut in Convocation on August 3, 1785, at Middletown. With Bishop William White, he was active in the organization of the Episcopal Church at the General Convention of 1789. With the support of William Smith of Maryland, William Smith of Rhode Island, William White of Pennsylvania, and Samuel Parker of Boston, Seabury kept his promise, made in a concordat with the Scottish bishops, to persuade the American Church to adopt the Scottish form for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

In 1790 Seabury became responsible for episcopal oversight of the churches in Rhode Island; and at the General Convention of 1792 he participated in the first consecration of a bishop on American soil, that of John Claggett of Maryland. Seabury died on February 25, 1796, and is buried beneath St. James' Church, New London.

Minutes of the Vestry
St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church
September 8, 2015

1. Approval of the minutes of Vestry Meeting, September 8, 2015. - The minutes were approved as amended on a motion made by J. Ratzel and seconded by M. Lundberg.

2. Sr. Warden's Report- J. Chenot

Jim started his report welcoming everyone back from the vestry's summer break. The Sunday school will be starting up this Sunday which includes school registration. The children in our Sunday school will also be busy making prayer pretzels. The vestry would like to thank Laura Saffares for her continuing support heading up this very important ministry at St. Peter's. This Sunday I look at it as a new beginning in our church life after the summer months which becomes quite busy leading us to the beginning of the Advent season that is not too far off.

Fall programs and classes will begin shortly including First Communion, Confirmation Classes, Bible studies, just to name a few. There are a few new exiting programs that will be added this year that Father Hartt, Mother Sue and the outreach committee has been working on during the summer and will be announced in the bulletin as well as in their report that will follow. We hope that many will be able to attend these events which bring the congregation together in fellowship. The first event will be our annual parish picnic on September 20th which is a great time for all to get reacquainted with each other after the summer months.

Our current financial picture at St Peter's has been stable, though in August as many know, everyone took a slight loss including St. Peter's. I would again like to take the opportunity to thank George Scala for his continued hard work with our investments and the committee. We are carefully watching our investments as well as our expenses conferring with our investment advisor as needed. The finance committee is excited to bring back the Consecration Sunday Stewardship program this year which was very successful last year. We hope that everyone will be able to attend all the services leading up to Consecration Sunday and be able to attend that important day of stewardship as well as participate in the celebration luncheon that follows that day.

We continue to look for individuals that would be interested in volunteering on committees such as the Flower, Altar, and Usher guilds. We have been very fortunate to have many dedicated members that have volunteered a considerable amount of time on these committees. We look forward to seeing new members as well as those who thought they might be interested in the past year to inquire about these important ministries in our church life.

I would like to thank Megan in our office who worked on a new look to our website as well as making it user friendly. Also we would like to thank Janice for volunteering her time in the office during the summer months, keeping all our records in order which makes our job easier on the vestry in times when we need to review them.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable safe summer and look forward starting this fall with many new as well as old programs that have been put in place.

3. Finance-G. Scala

George S. reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the months of June, July and August. Total offerings YTD through August were \$155,526 versus budgeted offerings of \$239,816. George discussed that with the decline in attendance over the summer months many parishioners may be behind on their commitments and hopefully will catch up in the coming months. The investment/endowment accounts had a very down month in August consistent with the market and YTD Merrill Lynch is down -1.69% and Key is down -1.77%. This is causing a significant budget variance of (\$293,870). Hopefully the market will rebound in the near future. Expenses year to date are \$17,751 under budget.

George also reported on the stewardship. Consecration Sunday is set for October 18th and the committee will be meeting soon to discuss specifics.

4. Property- T. Murphy was absent.

J. Chenot reported that the rectory needs scraping and painting. He received a quote of \$7600 from Ed Tobio who has done work at the church in the past. Jim looked back at the last time the rectory was painted. It was when Fr. Eggenchiller was rector and the cost at that time was \$10,000. A motion was made by M. Lundberg and seconded by P. Gerfin to authorize the funds for the scraping and painting of the rectory.

5. Outreach- J. Burns

Concerns were expressed about the St. Francis Soup kitchen. They need new leadership and more volunteers. The Outreach Committee provided three scholarships to Beaver Cross at a cost of \$1520. St. Peter's raised \$955. for the CROP Walk. Thank you to Maria Holden for organizing this. The entire Albany CROP Walk raised \$101,394.50.

On December 9/26/2015, Mary and Vinnie Troiano will host a dance at the parish hall. Michele Lundberg has volunteered to coordinate the refreshments for the dance. On Saturday October 3, 2015, St. Peter's will show a broadcast of the Daniel Plan. The church is going to cover the event so there is no cost to attend. There is the possibility of a follow-up event of a cooking workshop based on the Daniel Plan. The church is considering becoming a pick up site for Field Greens subscriptions if there are enough people interested.

St. Peter's Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on November 14, 2015. Since there are so many events planned for the Fall, we decided to move the Soup Sampler to the winter in January or February.

Jim Chenot reported that Adirondack Beverage sent a donation of \$500 for the Overflow Shelter.

6. Old Business- There was no old business.

7. New Business-

A. Music Contract- The vestry approved \$175. to provide music for the dance.

B. New Construction- J Ratzel announced that there are 23 new complexes planned to be built in Albany and many of them will be in walking distance of St. Peter's. Jack said that it is a great opportunity to increase membership for the church. He said he is willing to visit the new complexes and bring brochures about St. Peter's. Mtr. Sue also said she would be interested in doing some neighborhood evangelism on Sunday afternoons. It was suggested that the clergy could offer house blessings.

8. Associate Rector's Report- Mtr. Sue-. Associate Rector Report

THANK YOU to Fr. Hartt and the Vestry for your support and prayers during my surgery, hospital stay and recovery this summer. I am so thankful and blessed for the healing God has brought me and am feeling wonderful and am in excellent health.

The summer months were busy ministry-wise with pastoral care and also some funerals. I am excited for September's arrival and the ministries and events we have planned for this coming fall:

There are (2) Adult Bible studies beginning in September:

1. Women's Bible Study: The women will meet on Monday evenings (beginning September 14th) to study and discuss *John: the Beloved Disciple (A Beth Moore Bible study)*.
2. Sunday Bible Study: following the 10:30 service we will hold Bible study in Mother Sue's office, including a video presentation by N.T. Wright (one of today's leading Anglican theologians) on *Paul's Letter to the Galatians followed by discussion, beginning September 27th*

I will also be assisting Fr. Hartt in our new Sunday Service at 4:00pm beginning September 20th. There are hundreds of new apartments being renovated/leased downtown and so I am planning to do some neighborhood evangelism on Sunday afternoons to invite our neighbors to this new service. Jack Ratzel has been researching this neighborhood growth and will be reaching out to the developers and residents. He is also working on updating the St. Peter's brochure as a evangelistic handout. Thanks, Jack!

Youth: First Holy Communion Classes begin 9/27 with children receiving their first Holy Communion on All Saints Sunday (November 1st). Confirmation instruction for youth age 13+ is planned to begin in January 2016 with a Spring Confirmation service).

Daughters of the King: The Daughters continue to hold intercession for St. Peter's Church. We are planning a Fall Neighborhood Prayer Walk and also an upcoming discernment class.

Commission on Ministry: I am assisting the Diocese at a retreat this coming weekend at the Spiritual Life Center (9/11-13 Friday-Sunday)

9. Sunday Attendance-Fr. Hartt

The average Sunday attendance is 115.5.

10. Rector's Report- Fr. Hartt

Father Hartt reported that since our June Vestry meeting, there have been four deaths and 2 funerals in the parish. We commended to Almighty God, Georgia Rosen, and Helen Taylor. Our beloved Geraldine Haase also went home to the Lord. Her service is being planned. We will soon commend Dr. Martin Davis to Almighty God. Dr. Davis, as his wife Peg, were exemplary in their commitment to our parish. Dr. Davis' funeral will be held Saturday, September 19th at 10:30AM.

We rejoice that Eva Kim Fishbein was Baptized this summer.

Our new website has had quite a successful launch. As of today, the parish website registers 4209 visitors.

We were blessed with many visitor's this summer at church. The summer can be a fruitful time for grounding new members, but we will need to present more to welcome them.

Our new 4:00PM Service of Holy Communion begins September 20th. Father Hartt is encouraged by news of the considerable amount of new residential building planned for downtown. Vestryman Jack Ratzel has been diligent in keeping track of these developments and working with clergy to plan ways to reach out to these new neighbors. Thank you, Jack.

The Parish Picnic is planned for September 20th. Jim Chenot has already made plans for the grills to be staffed -- with the Chenot family well represented in service. It is always with some sadness that we attend the grills without our beloved Harry D'Agostino. Our prayers for healing continue for Harry's long-time assistant, Bob Schupp.

The "Blessing of the Backpacks" will also be held September 20th. Children are encouraged to wear their backpacks to church for a blessing to start the school year.

The clergy are excited about the start of Children's Chapel, which will begin September 27th. Children's Chapel will take place the last Sunday of the month. The children will have their own instructed Eucharist in the Pumpelly Room and form their own procession there from the church. Children's Chapel is aimed at children of the age now attending the children's homily. The last Sunday of month will also have a youth focus, with older children doing readings and serving in various ways.

St. Peter's will be holding a dance on Saturday 26th, 7:00PM. We are excited that our own Vince and Mary Troiano will be hosting the event in the gym. Dance instruction will be included. We hope this event will be one of many.

Grace and Holy Innocence Soup Kitchen is in trouble. Laura Saffares has been most dedicated to this outreach and an encourager of our young people in this work through "Angels in Training." Unfortunately, since the death of the long-time organizer of the soup kitchen Marge Welch, both staffing and cooking have been problematic. We need to look into the matter further.

A Bible Study – N.T. Wright On Galatians – will be offered after church on Sundays. It will run from Noon to 1pm. In order to attract more participation, it is the plan of the clergy to offer more educational offerings to the parish on Sunday morning.

Father Hartt was pleased to report that Cathy Schunk will be taking on the Altar Guild Director's position this fall. Cathy is most dedicated and able. The clergy thank her for undertaking this important ministry.

Consecration Sunday will be October 18th. Considerable work has gone into the planning over the summer. We are delighted that Christie Chenot has agreed to chair the committee. The program was a great success last year. The witness of our own members to the spiritual significance of disciplined giving is especially powerful.

Father Hartt reported that there are some needed repairs in the rectory. Plans are already being made to address them.

Archives has been growing in scope and organization under Connie Powell. Due to her care and ability, we have never been in better shape.

Father Hartt expressed concern that the Cathedral was the target of a less than balanced article by the Times Union. The article focused on tensions following this year's General Convention, but did so in an unbalanced and needlessly provocative fashion in the view of Fr. Hartt.

Father Hartt reported that our ASA fell to 115.5 by the end of the Summer. He noted that it would be all but impossible to recover at this point to achieve last year's ASA. The slide begins even before Choir and Sunday School awards in June. In fact, it seems to begin by the Sunday after Easter and build momentum.

Father Hartt has spoken many times about our need to have stronger attendance patterns that continue beyond the cycle of the school year. We each need to be present to provide the vitality needed to draw new members. Indeed, we are commanded to "Keep the Sabbath."

Easter falls March 27th.

Father Hartt again spoke of his excitement about the plans for Children's Chapel and the 4:00PM Sunday Eucharist.

11. Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned on a motion made by J. Ratzel and seconded by P. Gerfin.

12. Compline- Mtr. Sue led Compline.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith A. Burns

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Paul J. Hartt..... Rector
The Rev. Susan Waldron..... Associate Rector
Neil K. Keen, F.A.G.O..... Organist & Choirmaster
Laura Saffares..... Director of Christian Education
James P. Shortall..... Sexton
Robert Clancy..... Assisting Sexton
Meghan Cooney..... Administrative Assistant
Janice Chenot..... Office Volunteer
E. Constance Powell..... Historian & Archivist

Vestry

James Chenot..... Senior Warden
Deborah Spath..... Junior Warden
Judy Burns..... Clerk
George Scala..... Treasurer
Pam Gerfin, Stephanie Lencewicz, Maria Holden, Moses Kamya, Mark
Lundberg, Earl Stafford, Jack Ratzel, Tim Murphy

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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.

Holy Communion 4:00pm

Wednesday

Holy Communion 12:05 p.m.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

