



THE **Cornerstone**

November 2017

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

Why Thanksgiving Matters

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3: 17)

Many years back, someone shared a spiritual lesson that has remained with me. She said that there was an ordinary, simple man who died and went to heaven. As he stood in line at the heavenly gate, he saw ahead of him many holy men and women who had accomplished great deeds during their lives. Waiting for his own entrance, the man was astounded that he could be found acceptable to God. Yet when his turn to enter came, he was shown to a palatial heavenly home by Christ Himself. Indeed, even the angels were rejoicing to see the arrival of the humble man! The man turned and said to Jesus, "Lord, I saw earlier all those people who had lived great saintly lives. How could such blessing and angelic welcome be for the likes of me? I have never done anything of note." Jesus replied, "Yes my son, but you were always grateful."

Gratitude is a Christian virtue not extolled enough. In fact, thanksgiving is the spiritual state of heart that gives birth to almost every other holy state to which Scripture calls us. While it does seem true that some people are constitutionally better at it than others, this can obscure the greater truth that gratitude can also be a cultivated virtue. Life is continually giving us reasons to be grateful, to see our existence as a series of gifts received and mercies extended. My parents recently completed a car trip around the country, They logged in an amazing 11,000 miles! On returning home, their first stop was Saint Mark's Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. They wanted to give thanks for a safe journey.

Each day, we are presented with such moments for giving thanks. It is part of cultivating the virtue of gratitude that we claim those occasions with a heartfelt "thank you" to God. We can always give thanks for "the hope that is in us" through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. (1 Peter 3:15.) The mercies of God and His love enfold us each day like the pedals of a rose. We can also give thanks that our hearts are stirred by the Holy Spirit to some deed of kindness or witness to the Faith. We can even give thanks for the angels!

During the Reformation, a core point of contention was the relationship of faith and works to our personal salvation. Without revisiting such an important dispute, both Protestants and Roman Catholics would agree that thanksgiving is the fruit of our life properly understood. Let me conclude with one of the two litanies of Thanksgiving appointed by The Book of Common Prayer, which would be perfect for use around our Thanksgiving table.

A General Thanksgiving

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us.

We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world,
for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends,
and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts,
and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life;
for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death;
and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known;
and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. *Amen.*

A thankful Thanksgiving to us all,
Fr. Hartt

From the Associate Rector

For All the Saints...

“For all the saints, who from their labors rest, thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blessed, Alleluia, alleluia! (1982 Hymnal, Hymn 287)

It is hard to begin November without this tune in our hearts. November 1st, All Saints Day, is not to be missed even when it falls on a Wednesday as is the case this year. Because of this, our Church tradition then transfers and celebrates it on the first Sunday of November. This tells us that it is important to remember the Saints of the Church. It is a yearly remembrance not to be missed.

We then must contemplate, “Who are we remembering?” If one asks, within different parts of the Church, “What constitutes a saint?” one is certain to get different answers. And so in keeping our thoughts in the widest sense, as the hymn relays, these are people who labored for and confessed Jesus before the world. They may have done so in word, in deed or with the entirety of their life - yet labor and confess they did.

We know of Saints with a capital “S” and also saints with a small “s”. These identifiers are one way our human minds like to organize saints. But in God’s view, I imagine he only knows SAINTS. God’s love for each of us is so great, I can only imagine equal standing before God for those people who labor for and confess Jesus before the world.

This equalizing thought brings us to another well-known hymn:

“I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew.” (1982 Hymnal, Hymn 293)

This first stanza reiterates this general sense of who might be labeled saint with a particular caveat: they “lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew”. We know the stanzas continue and list a variety of types: doctor, queen, shepherdess, soldier, priest and so on. The hymn ends: “for the saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too.” Perhaps this final stanza is leading us to the reason why we always celebrate All Saints Day every year - despite what day of the week November 1st falls on. We celebrate and remember All Saints with the idea of meaning to be one too. Whether one categorizes saints with a capital “S” or a small “s”, and whether one generalizes who is a saint or whether they must die for their witness to carry that title, may not matter as much as one’s desire to be one too. The saints are celebrated and remembered because they provide us with the supreme examples of what it means to be a Christian.

There is a lesser known, or rather lesser celebrated feast of the Church: All Soul’s Day which falls on November 2nd and is held to remember All of the Faithful Departed. How are we to understand the difference between All Saints Day and All Soul’s Day? From The Episcopal Church, “In the New Testament, the word ‘saints’ is used to describe the entire membership of the Christian community,” explains Holy Women, Holy Men (Church Publishing, 2010). “From very early times, however, the word ‘saint’ came to be applied primarily to persons of heroic sanctity.” So, technically, All Saints’ Day, November 1, includes all deceased Christians; however, historically, there has been a strong inclination to remember and honor our personal loved ones on a separate day.”

But because we don’t often gather for a unique celebration on November 2nd to remember All Souls, we have a tendency to link these two together into one grand celebration on All Saints Sunday, the first Sunday of November. This has been the basic Protestant practice since the Reformation. Yet again, whether one chooses to have one particular remembrance or two, may not be as important as the Christian call “to mean to be one too.”

So, this November, we might reflect on that facet of All Saints/All Souls. What does it mean, in practice, “to mean to be one too”? What does it mean for us to live our Christian faith that someday we stand before God as a SAINT of his church? Perhaps part of yet another hymn will help focus our thoughts:

“These are they who have contended for their Savior’s honor long,
wrestling on till life was ended, following not the sinful throng,
these who well the fight sustained, triumph by the Lamb have gained.
These, like priests, have watched and waited, offering up to Christ their wills,
soul and body consecrated, day and night they serve him still,
Now in God’s most holy place, blest, they stand before his face.”
(1982 Hymnal, Hymn 286)



For All the Saints,

Mtr. Sue+



**Just a Reminder,
Daylight Savings is November 5th
Fall back!!**

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, homemade **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 19th after both the 8:30AM and 10:30AM services. The price is \$18 per pie. Please **pre-order** your pie(s) by **Thursday, November 16th**. An order form is included in your newsletter or you may call Janice Chenot at 518-786-1070. Proceeds will benefit the Choir Fund.

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 18th** 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.

Equinox Donations

This year Equinox has asked us to donate single serve applesauce in packs of 4 count or 6 count. Boxes will be located in the Pumpelly Room and in the Sunday School rooms. We will be collecting applesauce through Sunday, **November 19th**. Thank you in advance for your support.

Equinox Volunteers Needed!:

On Thanksgiving day we will be joining hundreds of volunteers in assembling Thanksgiving dinners for delivery for Equinox at the Empire State Plaza. Please join us for our time slot on Thanksgiving morning, **November 23rd from 9:00am to 11:00am**. If you have any questions, please call Laura Rulison at (518)368-4284.

Outreach

The November Outreach meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 14th at 4:30pm. Please join us to learn about Outreach ministries and hospitality events being planned!

Vestry Meeting

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

Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Peter's

Saturday, November 11th, 2017

Beginning at 5:00pm

Dinner Served at 5:30pm

Please join us for our 8th 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 (518)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 Janice Chenot at (518)786-1070 or jechenot@hotmail.com.



Thanksgiving Eve Service of Holy Communion will be on Wednesday, November 22nd at 7:30PM.

OUTREACH

The Outreach Committee of St. Peter's Church invites you to volunteer in both cooking and/or delivering meals for the First Lutheran Church Overflow Homeless Shelter. We are committed to providing a complete dinner for 20 people, cooked and delivered every Thursday evening beginning Thursday, **November 2nd**. During the cold months of November through April when the other shelters fill up with women and children, the men can come to this overflow shelter and receive a hot meal and a good night's sleep. We are asking that you sign-up to cook a complete dinner. Please sign your name and include a phone number we can contact you at, next to the date on the board in the Pumpelly Room. Instructions and containers for the meal items will be in the Pumpelly Room. If you cannot deliver the meal, please return the meal frozen to the church on the Sunday before the date you signed up for. If you are delivering the meal you can call Debby Spath at (518)478-9389 for directions.

Adult Education

Women's Bible Study

Join the women of the church as we continue to read and discuss Joanna Weaver's *Lazarus Awakening: Finding Your Place in the Heart of God*. We meet on Tuesdays at 5:00pm in the Vestry room (except when Vestry meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month). We read one chapter weekly and discuss it together to reflect on its Biblical connection and life application. This group meets through November 21.

Welcome Home Initiative is a ministry that offers emotional healing for military veterans (& spouses) who have served their country in combat. The next retreat is **November 13th - 15th** at Christ the King Spiritual Life Center. For more information and to register, go to www.ctkcenter.org. *Registration deadline is November 6th.*

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 10th**. 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 3rd.**

What does it mean to be a Daughter of the King and wear the cross daily?

As a member of the DOK now for almost twelve years, I am reflective of the importance of daily prayer in my life and for the members of St. Peter's Church. Daily prayers are thoughtful and needed for so many people. Our DOK Chapter, the Julia Chapter, considers these prayerful requests and does so in a very selfless manner. The DOK cross that each of our members wear daily is a sign that we have pledged ourselves to a life-long program of prayer, service and evangelism, dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of our parish. As members of the Order we understand the responsibility that comes with wearing our cross. We have to protect the cross we wear, and in doing so we protect both the identity and integrity of the cross. This wonderful cross we wear is the sacred emblem of the Order of the Daughters of the King, handed down from our foremothers over 130 years ago. The badge, or cross, of the DOK was adopted in the DOK first Constitution on November 5, 1891. Our rich heritage gives us so much to be thankful for, as well as the meaningful purpose of daily prayer. Our next meeting is **Sunday, November 12th, at 11:45am.**

FHS, Julia Hotmer Drao, Julia Chapter, The Order of the Daughters of the King®



"The Object of our Order is the extension of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the Church's spiritual Life."

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 9th season on 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 20 **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; the hours for this are from 8:00PM until 11:00PM 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 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.

For those individuals who are new to the ministry (and those who would like a refresher) two orientation sessions have been planned and will last approximately one hour. They are as follows: **Tuesday, November 7th at 7:00PM** and **Saturday, November 18th at 10:00AM**. The orientation sessions will be held here at St. Peter's Church. Please join us in praying for God's Blessing on this ministry and the women it serves.

Youth Formation & Sunday School

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Many new and exciting things happening at St. Peter's.....

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. The children are able to participate with all aspects of the service. Please come and join us.

The Sunday School will be baking pumpkin bread on **Sunday, November 12th**. 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 **Sunday, November 19th** and each member of the church will be able to take a loaf home to share for Thanksgiving day dinner.

Also, on **November 19th**, we will be collecting single serve applesauce in 4 count or 6 count packs for Equinox. Taking it one step further, we are volunteering at the Empire State Plaza on **Thanksgiving morning, November 23rd** from 9:00am to 11:00am. While there, we will be assembling Thanksgiving dinners for delivery. Please wear a baseball cap.



During the month of **November**, we will be collecting gently used coats for people of need at the soup kitchen. Please drop off your donations in the front office or upstairs in the Sunday School. The donations have started to come in thanks to our Daughters of the King! All sizes are needed for men, women, and children.

Mark your calendars: The Christmas Pageant will be held on **Sunday, December 10th**. We need angels and shepherds, etc. Please join us on Sunday, December 3rd to get parts and costumes.

Any questions or comments, please give me a call at (518)368-4284.

Blessings,
Laura Rulison

Confirmation Class:

Confirmation instruction for adults and youth (aged 13+) will begin on All Saints Sunday, November 5, 2017. The class will be co-led by Fr. Hartt and Mtr. Sue and will meet during the months of November – January each Sunday (except 12/24 and 12/31) after the 10:30 service. We are preparing candidates to be Confirmed on Sunday, February 11, 2018 at St. Peter's Church during Bishop Love's Visitation. Please speak with Fr. Hartt or Mother Sue if you (or your youth) are interested.

St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen

Saturday, November 18th ~ 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.



November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	Count Your Blessings		1 All Saints 8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Ho 5:45pm - His (last
5 All Saint's Sunday Healing Prayers 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion 12:00pm - Confirmation Class	6 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal	7 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's 5:00pm - Women's Bible Study 7:00pm - Overflow Shelter Training Albany Diocese Priest Retreat	8 8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Ho Albany Dioces
12 Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer 11:45am - DOK Meeting 12:00pm - Confirmation Class Sunday School Baking Pumpkin Bread	13 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal	14 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's 4:30pm - Outreach Meeting 5:15pm - Vestry Meeting	15 8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Ho
19 Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion 12:00pm - Confirmation Class	20 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal	21 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's 5:00pm - Women's Bible Study (last group meeting)	22 8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Ho 5:30pm - 7:00 7:30pm - Tha
26 Last Sunday after Pentecost Christ the King Sunday Youth Sunday 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer 12:00pm - Confirmation Class	27 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal	28 1:00pm - Friends of St. Peter's	29 8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Ho

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All Saints Day o of the Hill ly Communion tory Study (for this semester)	2 Commemoration of All Faithful Departed 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	3 12:30pm - Organ Concert	4
o of the Hill ly Communion e Priest Retreat	9 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir Albany Diocese Priest Retreat	10 Veteran's Day Office Closed Albany Diocese Priest Retreat	11 5:00pm - Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner
o of the Hill ly Communion	16 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	17 12:30pm - Organ Concert	18 9:00am - Choir Pie Baking 9:30am - Harvest Altar Decorating 10:00am - Overflow Shelter Training 11:00am - Angels in Training
o of the Hill ly Communion 0pm - Full Choir Rehearsal Thanksgiving Eve Service	23 Thanksgiving Office Closed 9:00am - Equinox Volunteers to pack dinners for delivery	24 Office Closed	25
o of the Hill ly Communion	30 St. Andrew the Apostle 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir		

Saint of the Month Club

The Feast of All Saints

Prayer: *O Almighty God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord: Grant us grace so to follow thy blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys which thou hast prepared for those who unfeignedly love thee; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.*



It is believed by many scholars that the commemoration of all the saints on November first originated in Ireland, spread from there to England, and then to the continent of Europe. That it had reached Rome and had been adopted there early in the ninth century is attested by a letter of Pope Gregory IV, who reigned from 828 to 844, to Emperor Louis "the Pious," urging that such a festival be observed throughout the Holy Roman Empire.

However, the desire of Christian people to express the intercommunion of the living and the dead in the Body of Christ by a commemoration of those who, having professed faith in the living Christ in days past, had entered into the nearer presence of their Lord, and especially of those who had crowned their profession with heroic deaths, was far older than the early Middle Ages. Gregory Thaumaturgus (the "Wonder Worker"), writing before the year 270, refers to the observance of a festival of all martyrs, though he does not date it. A hundred years later, Ephrem the Deacon mentions such an observance in Edessa on May 13; and the patriarch John Chrysostom, who died in 407, says that a festival of All Saints was observed on the first Sunday after Pentecost in Constantinople at the time of his episcopate. The contemporary lectionary of the East Syrians set a commemoration of all the saints on Friday in Easter week. On May 13, in the year 610, the Pantheon in Rome--originally a pagan temple dedicated to "all the gods"--was dedicated as the Church of St. Mary and All Martyrs.

All Saints' Day is classed, in the Prayer Book of 1979, as a Principal Feast, taking precedence of any other day or observance. Among the seven so classified, All Saints' Day alone may be observed on the following Sunday, in addition to its observance on its fixed date. It is one of the four days recommended in the Prayer Book (page 312) for the administration of Holy Baptism.

St. Peters Music

CHOIR

Choir rehearsals are on the following schedule:

- Mondays: 5:00pm - 6:15pm Trebles
- Thursdays: 5:00pm - 6:30pm Trebles
5:30pm - 7:00pm Adult choristers
- Sundays: 9:30am rehearsal for the 10:30am service

Please contact Neil Keen, our organist and choir-master, for more information at stpmus@gmail.com or 518-339-0137.

FRIDAY NOONTIME ORGAN CONCERTS

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



~ HANDEL'S MESSIAH ~ DECEMBER 3rd, 3:00 PM

Presented by St. Peter's Choir,
accompanied by a small orchestra.

No charge for admission. Donations will be received.

Composer of the Month Club



William Billings (1746-1800) was born in Boston. At the age of 14, the death of his father stopped Billings' formal schooling. In order to help support his family, young Billings trained as a tanner. As a musician, he was for the most part self-taught. He was involved in teaching singing schools throughout his life. In 1769, the following announcement appeared in the Boston Gazette: "John Barrey & William Billings Begs Leave to inform the Publick, that they propose to open a Singing School ... where any Person inclining to learn to Sing may be attended upon at said School with Fidelity and Dispatch."

Virtually all of Billings' music was written for four-part chorus, singing unaccompanied. His many hymns and anthems were published mostly in book-length collections

There is one Hymn by Billings in our Hymnal; it is a round at #715. Hymn 450, "All hail the power of Jesus' Name, to the tune Coronation by Oliver Holden, is a example of the style of Billings and other 18th century American composers.

From the Archives

Church Dedications



Many of the beautiful additions in the church are memorials, dedicated to people of the church who have passed away. Some of the more prominent dedicatory gifts are listed below:

Bronze Doors – Dedicated to Henry A. Glassford - There is a plaque in our church vestibule for the original bronze doors. Bronze, which is an alloy of copper and tin and other metals is a hard substance appropriate for church doors. There are intricate designs in the metal of the doors. The plaque in the vestibule reads “These doors are the gift of Alice Glassford Boyd in loving memory of her father Henry A. Glassford, sometime Vestryman of this Church. Marchus T. Reynolds – Worthington Palmer, Associate Architects, 1933.”

The doors were refurbished by Reverend Laman Bruner in 1965 at the 250th Anniversary of St. Peter’s Church. The Archives has pictures of these refurbished doors. Still later the doors were restored by Reverend Robert Eggenschiller. A service of dedication of the restored doors was held on September 14th, 1999. A plaque dated December 12, 1999 was hung on the outside wall of the church near the front steps in appreciation of Reverend Robert and Pat Eggenschiller, and for the bronze door restoration.

Church Roof Stone Cross – Dedicated to John DeWitt Peltz - In the church Narthex there is a plaque for the Stone Cross located at the South Gable of the Church. The wording of the plaque is as follows: “This Stone Cross at the peak of the south gable is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of John DeWitt Peltz, Vestryman of St Peter’s Church. “ Peltz was a church Vestryman from 1900 to 1904.

The Stone Cross came to St. Peter’s from a downtown Philadelphia church demolished in 1945 because its people had moved from the vicinity. It was brought to Albany by a member of St. Peter’s and ”placed on the topmost peak of the roof to stand as a symbol of St. Peter’s determination to carry on under like conditions.”

Mosaic Floors of the Nave – Dedicated to Joseph W. Tillinghast and his son Wilbur - The mosaic floors of the Nave were laid by the Holzer Company in honor of Joseph W. Tillinghast and his son Wilbur. The following are meanings of the symbols in the center aisle, mostly taken from the book in the Archives titled *Worship Without Words* by Patricia Klein. Going from front to back, the first symbol is the Corporate Arms of St. Peter’s Church with the crossed keys representing Christ’s gift of the church to Saint Peter (Matt 16:18). The second symbol is a Crown representing the reward for the faithful Christian life (1 Pet 5:4). The third symbol is an Anchor representing Christian hope, i.e. Christ as the anchor of the soul (Heb 6:19). The fourth symbol is a Lamp representing the light and truth of the word of God (Ps 119:105); and last is the ornate symbol honoring the Tillinghasts. Joseph W. Tillinghast worked in the area of church finances as Warden of the Church from 1874 to 1889.

Pruyn Altar – Dedicated to Elizabeth McClintock Pruyn - In 1885 the Pruyn Altar and Reredos were erected. They were designed by Richard M. Upjohn, son of the famous architect Richard Upjohn who was the designer of the third edifice of St. Peter’s Church. The altar and reredos were executed by Ellin & Co. of New York. They contain many bits of sculpture, but the chief sculptural feature are the two large angels with outspread wings kneeling in adoration of the cross. These were modeled by Louis St. Gaudens in the studio of his brother Auguste.

On the altar and reredos there are inscriptions. The one on the west buttress reads: “To the glory of God and in sacred and loving memory of Elizabeth McClintock Pruyn, born Oct 31st, 1853, evermore at Rest Dec. 20th, 1884.” This dedication is of special significance since according to the pamphlet titled *St. Peter’s Church in the City of Albany*: “One of the kneeling angel figures is modeled in the likeness of the woman in whose memory the altar and reredos were given by her husband” (Charles L. Pruyn.) One can only wonder which depiction is the likeness of Elizabeth McClintock Pruyn.

Cameo Sculpture – Dedicated to Elizabeth Brant Wilson - In the east side of the Narthex is a plaque in the form of a cameo sculpture done in honor of Elizabeth Brant Wilson, wife of Orlando Meads. The sculpture was created by the talented Albany artist Erastus Dow Palmer (April 2, 1817 – March 9, 1904.) Other sculptures of Erastus Dow Palmer are on permanent display at the Albany Institute of History and Art.

The dedication of this cameo sculpture reads: “Elizabeth Brant Wilson wife of Orlando Meads, died December 29, 1850. Looking with faith to the better life hereafter, she so walked here in love and duty, that they who sorrowed most for her departure, still most blessed God for her life and good example.”

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

September 12, 2017

Present: Fr. Paul Hartt, Mtr. Sue Waldron, J. Chenot, G. Scala, M. Lundberg, T. Murphy, C. Gordon, S. Lencewicz, N. Creagan, M. Holden

Absent: D. Spath, K. Cehowski, E. Stafford

Opening Prayer Led by Father Paul Hartt

Approval of the Minutes of Vestry Meeting, June 13, 2017

The June 13, 2017, minutes were approved on a motion by M. Holden and seconded by G. Scala. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

Senior Warden Report –J. Chenot, Senior Report, September 2017

Jim started his report welcoming everyone back from the vestry's summer break. We started this month celebrating a baptism for Matthew Scott Ragotskie, Laura Rulison's first grandchild this past Sunday. This coming Sunday, the Sunday school will be starting a new season with children's registration as well as baking prayer pretzels for the congregation. Many thanks to Laura Rulison for her continuing support leading our Sunday school program as well as those who take care of the younger children in the nursery.

We would also like to take the opportunity to welcome the choir back from a successful journey abroad in England performing in July as the residence choir in Chichester. Many thanks to our choir director Neil Keen, the choir and Maria Holden, who took care of all the travel plans, for all their hard work preparing for this trip. It is an honor to have such a professional and dedicated choir that takes pride in the music they perform and St. Peter's is very fortunate to have them to worship with us each Sunday. Many thanks to all.

Sunday, September 24th, we again will host our church picnic at the church rectory. This year we are taking the opportunity to celebrate the ministry of our Sexton, Pat Shortall, retiring from St. Peter's Church after many years of service. We hope that many will attend this special day thanking Pat for his dedicated service he has given to the church as well as celebrating this important day bringing us all together for great food and fellowship. Again, thank you Pat for your service.

During the summer our secretary Kristen Robinson left us for a new career. During her absence while looking for a replacement for her job, Janice Chenot took over the majority of Kristen's duties as well as continuing Janice's own workload. Janice has been working as a volunteer at St. Peter's for over seven years and I want to thank her for all the dedication and impeccable work she puts forth over and beyond each week for St. Peter's. On September 5th, Angie Schlossberg started working with us in the office as the new receptionist at St. Peter's. We welcome her and look forward to her bringing her office skills to St. Peter's as we begin our new church season. We also would like to thank Mother Sue for covering Father Hartt's duties while he was away on vacation in June. We are so fortunate to have such an incredible clergy extremely dedicated to all of us at St. Peter's. Thank you both.

Fall programs and classes will begin shortly, First Communion, Confirmation Classes, Bible studies, just to name a few. Mother Sue will start with here women's bible study on September 19th.

Our financial portfolio did very well over the summer with the stock market moving in a positive direction. I again would like to take the opportunity to thank George Scala for his work with our investments and reports he generates each month for all of us. The finance committee is planning this year's Stewardship campaign as well as planning for Consecration Sunday as we have done in the past few years. The importance of this Sunday celebration is to honor and celebrate the commitments individuals make during the stewardship drive as well as to bring the congregation together for fellowship at this luncheon.

Each year we continue to look for those interested in volunteering on committees such as the Flower, Altar, and Usher guilds. We look forward seeing new members as well as those who may think they might be interested to inquire about these important ministries that are vital to our church life. St. Peter's is very fortunate to have many dedicated members who volunteer a considerable amount of time to these committees and we would like to thank them for their continued support and commitment to all these important missions within the church life.

We hope to see you at the parish picnic.

Finance – G. Scala

George S. reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the months of June, July and August. Total offerings for YTD are \$147,327. This compares to a budgeted number of \$182,433. YTD through the same period in 2016 was \$149,609.

The investment/endowment accounts both showed gains over the summer. YTD the Merrill Lynch account shows a positive return of 8.70% and the Key accounts show a 9.88% return. This leaves us with a positive budget variance in this area YTD of \$315,592. Both accounts performed favorably versus market indexes. Expenses YTD through August are \$37,592 over budget. YTD we show a gain of \$118,617, primarily as a result of performance of the investment accounts. Pledges remain at 54 pledging units for a total amount of \$143,646.

Property

As of June, all major Rectory and Church issues have been taken care of. Jim has asked Father Hartt for a punch list of other projects that need to be done. We will have a team of two men from Divietro Construction begin working on the guild house slate roof which is in need of repair. They will take care of the water leaks as well as interior damage (cosmetic) due to the leaks that we have been experiencing this past year. Work should begin in October after city permits are processed.

Outreach – Mother Sue

We welcomed Food for the Poor the first weekend of July and I thank those who have been stirred to donate funds to this worthy organization. Our collection drive for them continues this fall. Please ask the office for details on how you can contribute.

St. Peter's is invited to attend the Capital City Rescue Mission's Annual Banquet and Silent Auction on Tuesday, October 10, 2017 (a scheduled

Vestry night). The Vestry is moving the October meeting to Wednesday 10/11 to allow the clergy and lay leaders of St. Peter's attend this important Banquet.

Jim Chenot has been in contact with the Rev. Perry Jones to confirm that we will be opening our Overflow Homeless Shelter on December 1st for its 9th season. Like last year, we will house women. Please watch for details on how you can volunteer and contribute to the Shelter's success.

Old Business

Consecration Sunday Date Possibly October 22nd or 29th, contingent on availability of The State Room.

New Business

Due to the Capital City Rescue Mission Fall Banquet, the October vestry meeting will be moved to Wednesday, October 11, 2017. A motion was made by M. Lundberg and was seconded by T. Murphy. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

There will be a celebration for Pat Shortall's retirement at the church picnic on September 24, 2017. The vestry discussed giving a gift from the church which was approved on a motion by T. Murphy and seconded by M. Holden. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry. It was also discussed to have this celebration advertised in the leaflet and constant contact to make sure the whole congregation is aware of the celebration.

The Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner will be November 11, 2017.

There will be one single 4th Sunday of Advent service held at 8:30am on December 24, due to it falling on Christmas Eve. The two Christmas Eve services will run as usual.

The Messiah will be December 3, The Sunday School Pageant will be December 10, and the Hanging of the Greens will be December 17.

Associate Rector's Report – Mother Sue

The summer was filled with many pastoral events and celebrations from Diocesan convention to pastoral care of the sick and homebound including two deaths in the parish. We ask for your prayers for the Everett and Mulsapatti families.

Women's Bible Study, the Children of the Day video series by Beth Moore ended June 27th. This was an in depth look at Paul's 1st and 2nd Letters to the Thessalonians. The women enjoyed the study very much and grew deeply from its teachings.

I was very blessed to accompany the choir on their trip to England and week-long residency at Chichester Cathedral in July. The choir gave their best and sang in top form as evidenced by the many compliments given by Cathedralites and staff. We should be very thankful and proud of our choir members.

The fall Women's Bible study will begin next week (9/18). We will be studying Joanna Weaver's *Lazarus Rising* on Tuesday evenings at 5:00pm in the Vestry. We have six women registered in the group and welcome others to join us.

Daughters of the King: The Daughters continue to hold intercession for St. Peter's Church. We are planning a Fall Neighborhood Prayer Walk on Sunday, October 15th, following services and invite all members of the church to join us, soaking our downtown neighborhood in prayer. We are also assisting Laura Saffares on her collection of coats for the people of St. Francis Mission.

Commission on Ministry: I continue to serve as Chair for the Commission on Ministry for the Diocese of Albany. I assisted at a retreat for Ordination Postulants and Candidates this past weekend at the Spiritual Life Center (9/8-9).

This summer our office staff transitioned and Janice Chenot jumped in picking up all the extra office duties. Although Janice always gives tirelessly to our church, she went above and beyond this summer and we are so grateful for her help. I am also excited to welcome Angie Schlossberg as our new Administrative Assistant. Angie has been training diligently these past two weeks, showing an excellent skill set and great care for her work, and I am certain she will support the parish well. Please welcome her among us!

Sunday Attendance ASA 121.9

Rectors Report

Father Hartt welcomed back the Vestry after summer recess. Father Hartt was encouraged by an increase in summer attendance. He also said that the parish appeared to have more visitors this summer than usual, both during the week and on Sunday. Some young couples have come several Sunday's and expressed interest in joining the church.

This past Sunday Saint Peter's baptized Matthew, the grandson of Laura Rulison. Laura and the family hosted a reception in the Parish Hall. It was well attended and revealed the kind of joy the parish shares in the blessings of other members.

Plans are well underway for the Parish Picnic on September 24th. Father Hartt mention a few external maintenance items that it would be good to have addressed at the Rectory prior to the picnic.

Looking forward to November, the date of November 11th was proposed for the "Pre-Thanksgiving Thanksgiving Dinner." Special effort should be made to reach out to new members.

Father Hartt spoke to the Vestry about personnel matters. Kristin Robinson left the office staff in July. He is delighted to have found a very able replacement in Angie Schlossberg. Angie has considerable experience in administration and is already knowledgeable about Episcopal Church customs and practice. In the past, we have needed to spend a good bit of time training in Episcopal terminology. We have no such need with Angie Schlossberg. Angie is the wife of Fr. Schlossberg, the rector of St. John's in Troy.

Ian Mike joined the Sexton staff this summer. He has been doing a wonderful job. Pat Shortall is working with Ian to familiarize him with sexton duties. Pat retired at the end of June and has been working part-time within Church Pension rules. We look forward to honoring at the Parish Picnic Pat's 35 years of faithful service. Ian has already done much to learn Pat's routine. He has done a considerable amount of painting in the Sunday School area. Father Hartt has been eager to address the Sunday School area for a while. Fr. Hartt also spoke of the good work of Wayne Hill who watches over the church during the day. Some further personnel matters were discussed.

Continued on last page

Vestry minutes continued...

Saint Stephens, Delmar, called a new rector. Fr. Scott Garno has accepted the call. Fr. Garno was installed by Bishop Love, Sunday, September 10th. Fr. Hartt attended the institution service and reported the joy of the congregation. We give thanks for Fr. Garno's joining the ministry of the Metropolitan Deanery. The Cathedral called Fr. Leander Harding as Dean earlier in the year. Local parish vacancies are now filled. The retirement of the Rev. John Paarlberg of First Church was announced in a recent letter to the area clergy. Rev. Paarlberg has served First Church since 2003. Rev. Paarlberg will be greatly missed after many years of faithful service to First Church and also for his support with St. Peter's of the Downtown Daycare Center.

Father Hartt received glowing reports of the recent choir trip to Chichester Cathedral this summer. The Cathedral made a point of writing us about the exceptional quality of our choir's offering. Fr. Hartt commended Neil Keen and the choir for their faithful work in England.

Christmas Eve will fall on a Sunday this year. Fr. Hartt discussed the possible ways to address the fourth Sunday of Advent which will fall in the morning. When the calendar fell in this way last time it created confusion. Some attended the morning Service in hope of getting "early Christmas Eve." It will be important to get the word out that this will be a 4th Sunday of Advent Service only. Some confusion is inevitable.

Father Hartt spoke of the rich educational offerings for the fall. Fr. Hartt will be offering a course on Church history. The course will roll into the Spring. It will follow the 13 Chapters of Mark Noll's *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*.

Father Hartt spoke about Stewardship. He believes that some of the Consecration Sunday components are worthwhile and should be retained, but a move to something new is in order. Fr. Hartt showed the Vestry some possible materials from The Episcopal Church. Father Hartt also spoke to Legacy gifts.

Fr. Hartt expressed his joy and sense of encouragement about the coming church year. As always, we will need to be attentive to faithful Sunday attendance.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by C. Gordon and seconded by M. Lundberg, then was passed unanimously by the vestry.

Compline - Father Hartt led Compline.

Respectfully Submitted, Christie Gordon

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.

The Rev. Paul J. Hartt.....Rector
The Rev. Susan Waldron.....Assoc. Rector

How to Contact Us

Office Hours: Monday -Friday: 9:00am to 2:00pm (And sometimes later. Call ahead)
Telephone: 518-434-3502 • **Fax:** 518-462-4419
E-Mail: Receptionist@stpeterschurchalbany.org
Website: www.stpeterschurchalbany.org

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

