

Cornerstone

October 2016

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

From the Rector

The Bible & The World

It is not possible to understand the world without understanding the Bible. A provocative statement?

There are many things that shape human events. Wars and natural disasters, science and technology, economics and inventions, philosophies and theories, media and culture, diseases and cures, secular leaders and religious ones all have their impact. But under-girding this interplay of events is the Bible. Entire civilizations have been built on the Bible's principles. Entire nations have been built on the Bible's rejection. Consider our Nation's founding. Consider then the late Soviet Union. There is at the heart of almost every political and social struggle we face either the embrace or rejection of the Bible's authority and counsel.

The Civil Rights movement was permeated from top to bottom with the biblical word of the Prophets. A white Christian power structure was finally shamed into confronting its privilege and abuses. The struggle continues and does so in Biblical terms. While we are increasingly inclined in a secular culture to speak generically of justice, we know deep down those principles did not emerge out of nowhere. They had and have their origin in Scripture.

The history of Christianity has been spotty to be sure, but only the most extreme secularists would look at this world as better off without the Bible's impact and moral guidance. Indeed, one tragedy today is the lack of knowledge of the Bible's content. As a result, people believe the Bible says things that it doesn't and doesn't say things that it does. Increasingly, we live only on biblical vapors. Of course, religion gets trotted out at election time. We rightly complain about this misuse of faith, but most of us are nervous if our leaders won't embrace core principles of Biblical morality. Indeed, our Nation still overwhelmingly wants leaders of Faith. Why? I think we know why.

The case is sometimes made that all Biblical morality is just a sort of distillation of moral common sense. Nothing could be further from the truth. Any look at the cruelty of the pagan ancient world or modern atheistic political movements will debunk that claim. No, the truth is that the Bible has shaped our very way of thinking about right and wrong, life and death, hope and possibility for all humanity.

So where am I heading? My hope in this brief reflection is to encourage your participation in the Discovery Bible studies (DBS) that Mother Sue and I will be introducing this month.

What is unique about DBS is the way it goes about deepening our relationship to Scripture. Bible studies usually have the defect of promoting knowledge without a clear "lived out" response. Bible studies also tend to be teacher dominated and information driven rather than fostering an environment of the active engagement of all participants. DBS is about one shared question. The question of DBS asks is this: "Given what I read, what will I commit to do this coming week in obedience God's word?" This mode of Bible study is about action. It is about being a disciple responding obediently to the claim of the Word of God on our lives. DBS is also about mutual accountability.

The DBS group becomes an accountability vehicle. Week by week, group members check in with one another on their personally chosen "I will" statement. Suppose we read a Bible passage of Jesus teaching us that if we are to be forgiven we must ourselves forgive. A person in the group may commit to reconcile with a particular person. The group checks in at the next meeting, "How did your 'I will' go this week? Or perhaps we read about Jesus teaching his disciples to care for the poor. A person in the group might say, "I've been putting off helping at the soup kitchen. This week I will go and help in the kitchen." DBS also provides an opportunity for thanksgivings, prayer concerns, and simple acts of service by group members. A DBS group is typically about 8-12 people.

Often clergy hear the complaint that sermons aren't concrete enough or "real world" applicable. DBS deals with that issue head on. It is a Bible study leading to action. A truly biblical Bible study will call us into discipleship. Central to being a disciple is actually practicing what we are taught. Luke tells us that one day Jesus was particularly exasperated with his followers. Jesus said to them, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you." (Luke 6: 46.)

The expression "practicing Christianity" exists for a reason. Disciples do the teaching. Disciples are also accountable to their Lord and one another. Part of the gift of Christian community is mutual encouragement in our practice of the Faith. We are vulnerable alone to sloth and discouragement. The group is life-giving as we live out together the call to do the teaching.

I started off the news article with the world and the Bible. But now what of the individual and the Bible? DBS is one powerful way to respond to that question.

From the Associate Rector

It's Time to Fall Back...

Don't we all love setting the clocks back one hour each Fall? In doing so, we gain an extra hour. Extra time – it's what we all need and covet.

It's Time to Fall Back...

I was talking with one of my co-workers recently and noticing with school open just a few weeks she is already bone tired. She was telling me the various sports and activities her two boys are involved in and how they consume all of their family's free time. "Weekends are even worse", she said; "I need to come to work to rest!"

It's Time to Fall Back...

Not just this tired mom of two school-aged boys, but many of us have over-scheduled lives and have never been busier or more tired. Many, in fact, are too busy for personal down-time, family-time, even church-time.

It's Time to Fall Back...

God didn't intend for our lives to become so busy and chaotic. God didn't intend for our lives to become too busy for personal down-time, family-time, even church-time. God created us and our lives – created all of creation – with Sabbath built-in. *"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation."* (Genesis 2:1-2)

It's Time to Fall Back...

The reason we love setting our clocks back in the Fall is because it gives us an hour that wasn't planned on and probably wasn't scheduled. Many of us choose to rest with that one extra hour. What a difference it makes! Can you imagine how different life would be with just such an hour every day? Perhaps that's over-reaching. Well – at least one extra hour each week?

It's Time to Fall Back...

You don't need to just imagine what it would be like to have an extra hour of rest because you can create it and experience it. How do you do such a thing in your over-scheduled life? By scheduling it in like any other "must-do" appointment.

It's Time to Fall Back...

What do you place on your family calendar? Ball games, swimming practice, ballet lessons, and so on? Why not find one hour each week on your calendar for Sabbath. Pencil it in – no, use pen! Better yet, use a Sharpie permanent marker and block off that time.

It's Time to Fall Back...

It's Time to Fall Back to God's Sabbath as He created. God's Sabbath gives us rest. God's Sabbath give us a time to re-focus. Even more so, God's Sabbath gives us the opportunity to value Him over everything else; to trust him with one of our most precious resources – time. Lastly, God's Sabbath will give us refreshment and new perspective towards the rest of our lives.

Use that Sabbath hour for rest, for prayer, for meditating on God's Holy word, or anything else that honors God and draws you closer to him. The only 'rule' is that you stop 'doing' and start 'being'.

It's Time to Fall Back...

With Blessings, Mtr. Sue+



October Happenings

Vestry Meeting

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

Toiletry Drive

We will be collecting Toiletry Items in the back of the church from October 4th - October 28th. All Donations will go to the local shelters that provide services for survivors of domestic violence and their families.

Outreach

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

Daughters of the King

In October, the Daughters of the King from St. Peter's Church will join the Daughters at St. Stephen's Church, Delmar at their monthly DOK meeting on Monday, October 17th at 7:00pm. We hope all the Daughters, and also interested women of the parish, will join us! Please see Carly Crewell or Julia Drao for more information.

Albany Diocese Daughters of the King Fall Retreat 2016: Holy Spaces

...How do we create and maintain Holy Spaces for a hurting world?

Oct. 15, 2016 8:30am – 3:30pm
Christ the King Spiritual Life Center
Cost: \$25.00 includes lunch

Please speak to one of the Daughters if you are interested in attending with us!

Neighborhood Prayer Walk

Sunday, October 16th, 1:00pm-2:00pm. All members are invited to join the DOK with prayers throughout our neighborhood starting at 1:00pm. We will depart St. Peter's and pray throughout our downtown neighborhood, stopping at key sites with dedicated prayer at:

- Academy Park
- NYS Capitol
- Veterans Memorial
- Capital City Rescue Mission
- Bus Station



Offering Envelopes for 2017

We are in the process of preparing a final list for the printers of those parishioners who wish to receive weekly Offering Envelopes for the 2017 calendar year. Please review your envelopes for accuracy in your name and address. Should you wish to make any changes, or if you do not presently receive Offering Envelopes but would like to, or if you would like to discontinue your envelopes, please send your changes and/or information to Janice Chenot at office@stpeterschurchalbany.org or call the church office at 434-3502. In order for you to receive your envelopes by the first of the year, your changes must be received by **Sunday, October 23rd.**

Women's Bible Study

Please join the women of the church as we delve into Holy Scripture on Tuesday evenings at Mother Sue's house. Our meetings will be informal and will help us to study the Bible in the form of Discovery and Discipleship. This is a perfect Bible study format for all Christians, and especially the unchurched so please feel free to invite a friend to our gatherings! We will use to same format as the men (see below)

When: Tuesday evenings

Beginning: October 18th, 2016

Time: 5:30pm-7:00pm

Place: Mother Sue's home

(please call Kristin in the office 434-3502 for directions)



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Discovery Bible Study is a very different kind of Bible study. It is not about instruction, but practice. If you have ever wanted a practical, "real life" mode of Bible study, this is it. Our sessions will only be about 45 minutes in length, so you will be experiencing a powerful tool for faith formation that makes good use of your time. I promise that this approach to Bible study will speak concretely to your daily life. If you would like to know more, please come to our first session on Wednesday October 19th, 5:30PM. We will be meeting in the Vestry Room. God bless, Fr. Hartt

Adult Education

Discovery Bible Study Workshop

We know the words of Lord Jesus, what we call the Great Commission, "Go and make disciples..." Let's be honest, many of us don't have a clue on how to do this. On **Saturday, October 22nd** to you can learn how! On that day, you can come to Christ the King Spiritual Life Center and learn a biblically based, reasonably applied and fruitful approach to making disciples. The workshop will be led by Fr. Brewster Hastings and Mr. Fred Hall as well as others from the Philadelphia region who presented at the Diocesan Convention in June. You will learn the basics of discipleship and how to participate and lead Discovery Bible Study. Check-in will begin at **8:30 a.m.** (There will be coffee!) The program itself will start at **9:30 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m.** Lunch will be provided. The cost of the day is \$20. Scholarships are available up to 50% of the cost. Rooms are being offered at a special rate for Friday night with Saturday breakfast included in the price, for those coming from the farther reaches of the Diocese or who would rather not drive in in the morning. Single occupancy is \$80 per person and double occupancy is \$45 per person. To register for the training day (you can also reserve your room), <http://www.albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/forms/DiscoveryBibleStudy/2016DiscoveryBibleStudyRegistration.php>

St. Mary's Institute of Christian Studies

On the second Tuesday of the month, **October 11th, November 8th, and December 13th from 4:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.**, at the Sisters of St. Mary Convent, 242 Cloister Way, Greenwich, NY 12834, Torre Bissell will be speaking about evangelism. Torre has labored in both foreign and local mission fields for most of his life. Come and listen to the story of how a heart aflame with the love of God can reach out to God's people and bring them into the household of God. You can start the afternoon off right by having with tea with the Sisters at 3:30 p.m. Cost *per session* is \$10. For more information, or to register, email Mother Miriam at <http://www.albanyepiscopaldiocese.org>

Desserts Against Domestic Violence

Healing a Woman's Soul's 8th Annual Fundraiser, Desserts Against Domestic Violence, will be held on **October 22nd from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.** The event will be held at St. Paul's Church, 21 Hackett Blvd, Albany, NY 12208. The event will feature a cheesecake tasting competition with both professionally prepared cheesecakes and homemade favorites. Our keynote speaker is Times Union columnist Jennifer Gish. There will be a Chinese Auction and a Silent Auction, which will include 2 weekend stays at a Lake George camp that sleeps 10. We will honor an outstanding agency volunteer with the first Paula Schultheiss Memorial Award. A donation of \$15 at the door includes tickets for the Chinese auction, refreshments and entertainment. 4

Alzheimer's Workshop for Faith Leaders

The Alzheimer's Association of Northeastern New York, 4 Pine West Plaza, Suite 405, Albany, NY 12205 is offering a professional training workshop for leaders of faith communities on **Thursday, October 27th from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.** *Keeping Faith in Mind* is designed to provide basic information that faith leaders need to know about memory loss issues and what they mean for all of us, as well as practical tips for creating dementia-friendly communities of faith. This workshop is intended for clergy, chaplains, parish nurses, pastoral care coordinators, and care givers. The workshop is free, but registration is required. To register, call Tonya at (518) 867-4999

Walk Through the Door to Holiness

Christ the King Spiritual Life Center and St. Mary's Institute at The Community of St. Mary are jointly sponsoring *Walk Through the Door to Holiness: An Ecumenical Conference Exploring Christian Character within Post-Christian Culture* **Monday, October 3rd - Wednesday, October 5th** at Christ the King Spiritual Life Center. The main speaker will be Most Rev. and Rt Hon. George L. Carey, 103rd Archbishop of Canterbury. Also speaking will be Rt. Rev. Ed Scharfenberger, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, the Very Rev. Chad Hatfield, Chancellor of St Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary and the Rev. Dr. Doug Cullum, Dean of Northeastern Seminary. The four presenters will offer teaching and reflection on the life and call of holiness for Christians, particularly in an increasingly secular environment. The format of the Conference will be in the framework of daily Morning and Evening Prayer. The conference opens on Monday evening and ends with lunch on Wednesday. Cost for the conference is \$175. **Lodging is extra** and can be reserved at Christ the King Spiritual Life Center or at one of the area hotels. Space is limited - so don't delay! For more information, or to register, contact Maggie Hasslacher at (518) 692-9550, ext. 511

Day of Quiet and Healing

The Healing Center at CtK will host a day of quiet and healing on **Saturday, October 8th from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.** There will be opportunities for contemplative worship, soaking prayer, inner healing, Reconciliation, along with readings from Scripture. Take a day to rest in the Lord and let His healing power embrace you. For more information, <http://www.ctkcenter.org>

Concert for Flande, Haiti

On **Sunday, Oct 2nd at 4:00 p.m.**, St. Stephen's Church, 16 Elsmere Ave, Delmar, NY 12054, will be hosting a concert to raise funds to finish building classrooms for the Flande School in Haiti. Wally Jones, a well know pianist in the Bethlehem Community, has gathered multiple musicians plus St Stephen's bell choir to raise the roof with music. A free will offering will be taken and a reception will follow.

Youth Formation & Sunday School

Calling all Families to **Youth Sunday:**
The last Sunday of each month.
October 30th!

The clergy of St. Peter's are happy to announce this ministry highlighting the youth of our church at the 10:30 service on every last Sunday of the month. We are proud of our youth and how they are growing into their future roles as members of St. Peter's Church. Because of this, we are inviting them to take special part in the service on the last Sunday of each month. The teens will fill important roles during the 10:30 service in the Sanctuary. Additionally, we will be offering **Children's Chapel** for our youngest members. In lieu of our traditional Sunday school offering, pre-Confirmation youth and Sunday school teachers will celebrate a Youth Eucharist in the Pumpelly Room during the 10:30am service. Children will begin worship with the parents in the main Sanctuary and following the second reading the children will be invited to process into Children's chapel for their own Gospel message, homily and instructed Eucharist service.

Youth Sunday will help our youth learn about and connect with our liturgy as well as take their place among us as St. Peter's Church members. Please speak to Fr. Hartt or Mtr. Sue if your child would like to have a special role during an upcoming Youth Sunday (i.e. reader, acolyte).

Confirmation Classes

Father Hartt and Mother Waldron invite you to prepare for the important sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation marks your growth into an adult faith. The classes will take place following the 10:30AM Service. Faithful church attendance is a necessary part of your formation. The classes will allow you to explore any questions that you have had in your faith journey. Our first meeting will be on Sunday, October 23rd.



Thanks to the whole St. Peter's congregation for the outpouring support for the children of Grace and Holy Innocence ! We were able to serve over 25 children and young adults in the Albany school system ! The blessing of this generosity also left some extra school supplies for future use ! Thank you all. Keep a look out for the green barrel...We are going to collect coats for kids and gloves and hats for the elderly

Prayer before listening to my child

Help me, O God, to listen to this thy child. Help me to hear what is said and what is unsaid. Help me to be fair-minded, honest, just and loving, that the truth may be spoken and received; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen (a.k.a. Angels in Training)

On the 3rd Saturday of each month (October 15th) we invite 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 therefore many hands mean light work! Please call Laura for information or to let her know you are coming at 368-4284.

First Holy Communion

Baptized individuals wishing to prepare to receive their First Holy Communion are invited to attend preparatory classes which began on Sunday, September 25th following the 10:30am service. The group will meet for three consecutive weeks (9/25, 10/2, 10/9), and prepare to receive their First Holy Communion on All Saints Sunday, November 6, 2016 during the 10:30am service. Please call the church office to let us know you (or your child) would like to take part in this class. For those seeking Holy Baptism, please speak to Fr. Hartt or Mother Sue.



Prayer Pretzels



October 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			
<p>2 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion 12:00pm - First Holy Communion Class</p>	<p>3 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 8:45 am - Top of t 12:05 pm - Holy C</p>
<p>9 Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer 12:00pm - First Holy Communion Class 3:00pm Fünf Wind Quintet & Choir Concert</p>	<p>10 Columbus Day Office Closed No Treble Rehearsal</p>	<p>11 4:30pm - Outreach Meeting 5:15pm - Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>12 8:45 am - Top of t 12:00pm - Holy C</p>
<p>16 Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion 1:00pm - Neighborhood prayer walk</p>	<p>17 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 7:00pm DOK Meeting @ St. Stephen's Delmar</p>	<p>18 St. Luke the Evangelist 5:30pm - Women's Bible Study @ Mother Sue's Home</p>	<p>19 8:45am - Top of th 12:05pm - Holy C 5:30pm - Men's Bi Vestry R</p>
<p>23 Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer 12:00pm - Confirmation Class</p>	<p>24 St. James of Jerusalem 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal</p>	<p>25 5:30pm - Women's Bible Study @ Mother Sue's Home</p>	<p>26 8:45 am - Top of t 12:05pm - Holy C 5:30pm - Men's Bi Vestry R</p>
<p>30 Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost Youth Sunday 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer w/ Children's Chapel in Pumpelly Room 12:00pm - Confirmation Class</p>	<p>31 Halloween No Treble Rehearsal</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>		
			

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1
<p>the Hill Communion</p>	<p>6 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30 pm - Full Choir</p>	<p>7 12:30 pm - Organ Concert 6:00pm - Chenot/Gordon Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>8 3:00pm - Chenot/Gordon Wedding</p>
<p>the Hill Communion</p>	<p>13 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir</p>	<p>14 12:30pm - Organ Concert</p>	<p>15 11:00am - Angel's in Training</p>
<p>the Hill Communion Bible Study in Room</p>	<p>20 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir</p>	<p>21 12:30pm - Organ Concert</p>	22
<p>the Hill Communion Bible Study in Room</p>	<p>27 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir</p>	<p>28 St. Simon and St. Jude 12:30pm - Organ Concert</p>	29
			

St. Peter's Music

FRIDAY NOONTIME ORGAN CONCERTS

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

CHOIR

Choir rehearsals are on the following schedule:

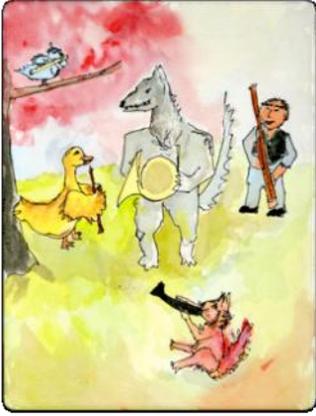
Mondays: 5:00pm - 6:15pm Trebles
Thursdays: 5:00pm - 6:30pm Trebles
5:30pm - 7:00pm Adult choristers
Sundays: 9:30am rehearsal for the 10:30am service

Please contact Neil Keen for more information at
stpmus@gmail.com or 339-0137.

CONCERT

OCTOBER 9TH - 3:00PM by the wind quintet Fünf, and by members of St. Peter's Choir.

Come and enjoy a concert of music all about animals, from the quintet's performance of Peter and the Wolf, to vocal pieces about a swan, a cat, and a cricket. Bring your friends, children, and grandchildren to this fun event.



Fünf!
♪ Fur!
FINS! 🐟
Feathers!

Fünf Wind Quintet &
Members of the St. Peter's Church Choir
Perform Music Inspired by Animals!

Mother Goose Suite, Bevel
Peter & the Wolf, Prokofiev (with the St. Peter's Church Sunday School)
Music of Britten, Gibbons and more!

Sunday, October 9, 2016 / 3:00 p.m.
St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 107 State St., Albany

All Welcome! Refreshments! Craft & Art Sale!

All proceeds support the St. Peter's Choir Residency at Chichester Cathedral, 2017

Saint of the Month Club

St. Luke the Evangelist

Prayer:

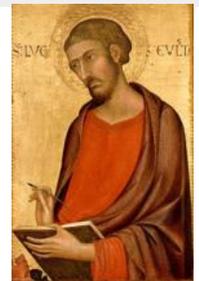
Almighty God, who didst thy servant Luke the physician to set forth in the Gospel the love and healing power of thy Son: Graciously continue in thy Church the like love and power to heal, to the praise and glory of thy Name; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with the, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Luke was a Gentile, a physician, and one of Paul's fellow missionaries in the early spread of Christianity through the Roman world. He has been identified as the writer of both the Gospel which bears his name, and its sequel, the Acts of the Apostles. He had apparently not known Jesus, but was clearly much inspired by hearing about him from those who had known him.

Luke wrote in Greek, so that Gentiles might learn about the Lord, whose life and deeds so impressed him. In the first chapter of his Gospel, he makes clear that he is offering authentic knowledge about Jesus' birth, ministry, death, and resurrection. The Gospel is not a full biography—none of the Gospels are—but a history of salvation.

Only Luke provides the very familiar stories of the annunciation to Mary, of her visit to Elizabeth, of the child in the manger, the angelic host appearing to shepherds, and the meeting with the aged Simeon. Luke includes in his work six miracles and eighteen parables not recorded in the other Gospels. In Acts he tells about the coming of the Holy Spirit, the struggles of the apostles and their triumphs over persecution, of their preaching of the Good News, and the conversion and baptism of other disciples, who would extend the Church in future years.

Luke was with Paul apparently until the latter's martyrdom in Rome. What happened to Luke after Paul's death is unknown. Early tradition has it that he wrote his Gospel in Greece, and that he died at the age of eighty-four in Boeotia. Gregory of Nazianzus says that Luke was martyred, but this testimony is doubted by most scholars. In the fourth century, the Emperor Constantius ordered the supposed relics of Luke to be removed from Boeotia to Constantinople, where they could be venerated by pilgrims.



From the Archives

Neil Keen – Church Organist and Choirmaster

This article should be entitled Neil Keen, Church Organist and Choirmaster, now with a 36 year tenure and counting. Neil came to St. Peter's Church following the musical careers of Donald Ingram (1969-1978) and Andrew Clarke (1978-1980).

Neil's career has been noteworthy. His choir has not only sung for weekly services, and many special occasions such as weddings and funerals, but for all the church holidays, including Christmas (Lessons and Carols) and Christmas Eve, Epiphany, weekly Lenten Services, Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost. Prior to Christmas, the choir has performed Handel's Messiah with chamber orchestra, and prior to Easter has sung Bach's Passion according to Saint Matthew or St. John or the equivalent with chamber orchestra. Over the years the choir has performed requiems by Mozart, Faure and Durufle; and oratorios and cantatas by Bach, Handel, Haydn, Mendelssohn, Cherubini, Schutz and Carissimi. Every spring the choir performs an unusual piece, for example *Rejoice in the Lamb* by Benjamin Britten or the *Chichester Psalms* by Leonard Bernstein. Such performances are especially enjoyed by the congregation.

Neil has taken the choir on numerous trips to Europe, especially to England. These trips involved performances in some of the most outstanding Cathedrals, such as at Worcester, Exeter, Canterbury and Oxford. In some cases this is the first experience young choir members have had to travel out of the country. There have also been trips to Toronto and to Washington D.C.

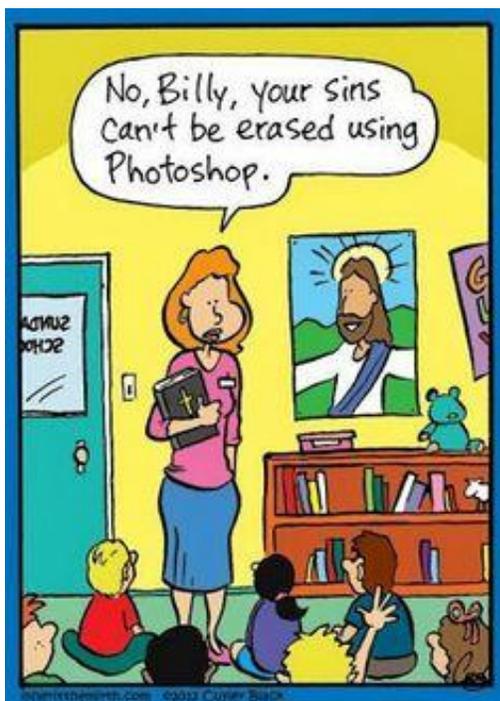
In addition to all of this, Neil performs a recital of organ music every Friday from 12:30 to 1:00. He gives attendees a chance to listen to music in a variety of styles and composers from Bach to Dupre. Especially nice was his performances of music by Durufle and Cezar Franck These are lovely concerts for which there is no charge.

But the highlight of Neil's tenure has been his training of young people as singers or organ scholars of note. Neil is working with younger members of the current choir to give them the musical skills they will be able to continue to use when they are older. Some young choristers of promise include Nancy Lundberg and Caroline Creagan. Other choir members trained by Neil have gone on to musical careers. One choir singer has become an operatic singer. Her name is Tory McKenna. She is making a name for herself in opera in California.

An organ scholar who has gone on to be the Organist and Choirmaster at St. James's Episcopal Church in West Hartford Connecticut is Vaughn Mauren. He recently returned to St. Peter's Church to give a concert to raise funds for the choir's next trip to Europe. His program included one of Bach's Preludes and Fugues, a Sonata by Mendelssohn, a work by Herbert Howells, and excerpts from two symphonies, one by Charles-Marie Widor and one by Louis Vierne . His playing and interpretation were masterful. He will be accompanying the choir on their next trip to Europe – this time to the Chichester Cathedral in England.

The congregation had a chance to show their appreciation to Neil when he was feted to a dinner for 25 years of service at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in 2005. But I hope we will say thank you after services for the work he does for the church week-by-week.

Church Chuckles!



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.

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.

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

June 14, 2016

Present: Fr. Hartt, Mtr. Sue Waldron, J. Chenot, G. Scala, D. Spath, T. Murphy, M. Lundberg, E. Stafford, N. Creagan, M. Kamyra, K. Cehowski

Absent: S. Lencewicz, M. Holden

Opening Prayer Fr. Hartt

1. Approval of Minutes of Vestry Meeting , May 10, 2016

The **May 10, 2016** minutes were approved on a motion made by M. Kamyra and seconded by K. Cehowski. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

2. Senior Warden Report – J. Chenot

As we moved into May finishing the Easter season, we finished celebrating Pentecost on the third Sunday of the month with five young children baptized with many family and friends attending, at the 10:30 service. It was encouraging see these new young families with new members baptized for the future life of the church and our congregation.

We had a slight change in our schedule for the beginning of this June moving the awards Sunday to the first Sunday, June 5th. Many thanks to the entire choir and Neil Keen for all their musical talents they bring each week as well the dedication of the Sunday school staff and Laura Saffares for all they do for our younger congregation. Also, congratulations to those who was acknowledged for their successes and milestones with awards and gifts.

The Diocesan Convention was held this past weekend at Speculator. Special thanks to our delegates, Judy Burns, Carly Crewell and Jack Ratzel for representing St. Peter's at this year's convention as well as our clergy, Mtr. Sue and Father Hartt.

Our choir is still on track to sing a week in Chishester Cathedral, England in the summer of 2017. Our choir director, Neil Keen is looking to recruit new individuals early in September for those who may be interested joining the choir and take this opportunity to come along for this great experience singing abroad in 2017.

This coming Sunday we will be honoring the Choir and Sunday school again following the 10:30 service where there will be an ice cream social at coffee hour hosted by the Sunday school. Following the service there will also be a choir picnic hosted at the Chenot's residence. The vestry and clergy would like to thank both of these important ministries for all their continued service and dedication to the spiritual life at St. Peter's.

We also have had our new pew cushions delivered and put in place. The feedback from the congregation has been quite positive and I would like to thank the vestry for moving forward with this project as well as the support they have given me and the church during the first six months of this year. It has been great to have such a wonderful vestry and clergy to work with - Thank you all.

Jim finished his report by wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

3. Finance – G. Scala

George S. reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the month of May. Total offerings for the month were \$17,451 and YTD we are at \$92,527. This is (\$39,328) below budget projections but compares favorable versus 2015 May YTD numbers.

The investment/endowment accounts had positive months. Merrill Lynch was up 1.09% for the month and Key was up .95% for the month. YTD Merrill Lynch is at 1.12% and Key is at 1.45%. This brings us to a positive budget variance in this area of \$4,876. Both accounts performed favorably versus market indexes. Expenses year to date are \$9,043 over budget primarily due to Capital Expenditures.

George also reported on the updated stewardship numbers. To date 2016 pledges are at 64 units at \$160,502.

George reviewed the Treasurers report for the month of April, 2016.

Motion to approve the budget was made by T. Murphy and seconded by D. Spath. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

4. Property –

5. Outreach – Mother Sue

Maria Holden reported that our CROP Walk team raised \$570. at this year's CROP Walk. Thank you, Maria, and the walkers and sponsors.

Jim Chenot reported that a large donation (\$1,500.00) was received to benefit our Overflow Homeless Shelter this coming year. We thank this generous donor and Jim for continually sharing his faith and church with outside individuals.

Outreach voted to sponsor (3) full scholarships for Beaver Cross summer camp totaling \$1,620. These funds join those given by our Deanery to help support the youth of Oaks of Righteousness and the Burmese Refugees attend sleepover camp this summer.

6. Old Business -

7. New Business -

8. Associate Rector's Report – Mtr. Sue

Confirmation: I was blessed to witness and celebrate Malcom Moran's Confirmation at St. George's Clifton Park on May 16, 2016. Adult confirmations are particularly joyful and indicative of the spiritual health of our parish.

Diocesan Convention: This past weekend was the 148th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany. It was a well attended and spirit-filled weekend and included a celebration of Bishop Ball's 90th birthday. I want to thank our delegates, Jack Ratzel, Judy Burns and Carly Crewell, for their attendance and careful consideration in their voting.

Daughters of the King: We continue to be honored to hold the daily prayers and intercessions of the parish with Confidential Prayer Requests submitted to us weekly. The DOK do not meet during the summer months but do continue our prayers daily.

ASA: The ASA data that was lost in March has been restored by Don Young. Thank you Don! This month's Vestry report includes the restored report data and format.

9. Sunday Attendance - Fr. Hartt

The average Sunday attendance is currently 129.6

10. Rector's Report - Fr. Hartt

We gather following yet another terrorist attack, this time in Orlando, Florida. The cowardly attack killed 50 and wounded 52 individuals at a nightclub. The attack was also a hate crime, as it was clearly leveled at the gay and lesbian patrons. Father Hartt commends to us the statement of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York:

Statement of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in Response to the attack in Orlando on Sunday follows: "After Sunday's attack in Orlando as Christians we must speak out in support of LGBTI people, who have become the latest group to be so brutally targeted by the forces of evil. We must pray, weep with those affected, support the bereaved, and love without qualification. The obligation to object to these acts of persecution, and to support those LGBTI people who are wickedly and cruelly killed and wounded, bereaved and traumatized, whether in Orlando or elsewhere, is an absolute call on our Christian discipleship. It arises from the unshakable certainty of the gracious love of God for every human being. Now, in this time of heartbreak and grief, is a time for solidarity. May God our Father give grace and comfort to all who mourn, and divine compassion to us all."

Father Hartt thanked our Diocesan Convention Delegates: Carly Crewell, Jack Ratzel, and Judy Burns for their service to the parish and our Diocese. The 148th Diocesan Convention was held June 10th-12th in Speculator, NY. The Rev. Brewster Hastings of St. Anne's, Abington, PA, brought a ministry team to the Diocese to present a new method of Bible study that show great promise for reaching the hearts of both a new generation and those long in the church.

Bishop Ball's 90th birthday was celebrated at Convention. A wonderful video was assembled of his life from birth to present. The holy depth of his episcopate was well captured. Bishop Ball gave a brief address and blew out all of his candles.

Fr. Hartt was elected to the Disciplinary Board.

St. Peter's had five baptisms on Pentecost. The parish welcomes: Kyle Patrick Heller, Connor James Ingraham, Owen Keith Ingraham, Sophie Drew Clark, Alayah Melanie Monroe-Tamer to the parish.

Malcolm Moran was Confirmed at St. George's, Clifton Park, on May 16th. It is usual for there to be a regional Confirmation at the Cathedral, but this year Bishop Love's schedule did not permit it. We went to St. George's at the kind invitation of the parish. The liturgy was glorious. Malcolm was a wonderful adult student. Father Hartt spoke of the list of Confirmation age students now in the parish.

David C. Panzironi and Annette M. Hollis were married May 28. We rejoice with them.

Father Hartt proposed an overnight Vestry retreat for September 23-24. The retreat would overlap with a training Saturday morning in the Bible study method promoted at Convention.

The Albany Visitors Bureau continues to offer excellent promotions of our City. An upcoming promotion is called The Albany Top 40. It includes places of worship and an opportunity for a video promotion of your church. Fr. Hartt distributed materials and encouraged our involvement.

Father Hartt offered a 25 point plan for evangelism and parish growth.

Father Hartt included in the vestry packet materials which gave a better sense of our historic stewardship patterns.

The recent development in downtown Albany is encouraging. There is a sense of being at the "tipping point" for the improvement of our community around St. Peter's. With continued business and residential construction, the future looks bright. Parking continues to be unresolved and seemingly resolvable.

The new pew cushions are being enjoyed and appreciated. Fr. Hartt thanked the vestry for seeing this project through.

Fr. Hartt will be taking part of his vacation from the 18th - 20th of June.

11. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by E. Stafford and seconded by G. Scala. It was passed unanimously by the vestry.

12. Compline

Fr. Hartt led Compline.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Spath

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
Kristin Robinson.....Administrative Assistant
Janice Chenot.....Office Volunteer
E. Constance Powell.....Historian & Archivist

Vestry

James Chenot.....Senior Warden
Deborah Spath.....Junior Warden
George Scala.....Treasurer
Kevin Cehowski, Nancy Creagan, Maria Holden, Moses Kamy,
Stephanie Lencewicz, Mark Lundberg, Tim Murphy, Earl Stafford

How to Contact Us

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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.

Wednesday

Holy Communion 12:05 p.m.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

