



# THE Cornerstone

## Summer 2025

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

Beloved of God,

I've got a great story for you.

Remember Rogation Sunday back in May? When we prayed over plants and gardeners? Well, at the end of Morning Prayer, a visitor approached me, a Roman Catholic traveling from Boston with his family. He felt God had led them to St. Peter's that day.

Why? He had a whole truckload of plants with him. He said one of his passions is growing plants from seed, and he was so delighted by the blessing that he wanted to donate some extra plants to St. Peter's as a gift.

I suddenly found myself that Sunday afternoon with six seedlings. Luckily, I had some extra soil and a cloth raised bed at the Rectory, so I planted them, watered them, and resolved to share whatever they produced with the congregation.

How's that for a story? God sent this brother in Christ to worship with us and to bless us with this gift of new things growing, giving us a "Rogation Garden." But, that's only part of the story.

Maybe God gave us this "Rogation Garden" to remind us that he's growing some brand new things here at St. Peter's. God is not only blessing the things that have grown here before and the people who have grown them – isn't it possible God is going to grow some new things?

That said, here are two lessons to take from our Rogation Garden:

Lesson One: When I got the seedlings, I didn't know what they all were at first. I had to wait for them to get bigger. In the same way, when God gives new growth, it's hard a lot of the time to see where things are going to end up.

It's the same here at St. Peter's. New parishioners have joined in the past few months, both at the 8:30 and 10:30 services. We're continuing to try new things to reach out to our city and to reach into the Word of God through new studies and (coming in the fall!) small groups. We can't see what it'll all look like down the road, but God knows. And eventually, so will we.

Lesson Two: God will grow a variety of things in and through us, just like in the garden. The six seedlings turned out to be: two tomato plants, one eggplant, one basil, one parsley, and one black-eyed Susan. Also, one of the plants failed – the eggplant was chomped to death by a marauding bunny rabbit...a reminder that some of our efforts may not thrive, but we need not lose heart.

Some of God's work for us will be to feed others – like the tomatoes and eggplant. Our city is hungry in body and hungry in soul. Like Peter at the feeding of the 5,000, we are called to feed others with both regular and living bread from our Lord's table.

Some of his work will be to add flavor to our world – like the basil and parsley. So many in our world are existing but not really living. Hopelessness, boredom, loneliness and fear are all around. But we are called to be salt and light – to restore flavor to the bland existence of this world through the power of faith in God and his kingdom.

Finally, some of his work is to share beauty. "Worship in Beauty" is part of our mission here at St. Peter's. Like the sunny faces of flowers, we are called to offer beautiful worship. We do it always to glorify God. But, we also know that the human heart is drawn to beauty, and we trust that God will call some – through our worship and our church – to encounter true beauty in the face of Jesus Christ.

These are some lessons for us from our Rogation Garden, my friends. During this "green" season of the church year, may you encounter the Risen Jesus in the garden of your heart as Mary Magdalene did on that first Easter morning. And, may we all rejoice to see what new growth he brings in and through us at his Harvest.

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus,

Mtr. Christina+



# Parish Picnic NEW LOCATION – Save the Date: September 7



Dear parish family,

I hope you'll mark your calendars now so that you'll be able to attend the Parish Picnic on Sunday, Sept. 7, during Rally Sunday in the fall. As is our custom, we'll be enjoying delicious food from the grill, along with many wonderful home-made side dishes and desserts that you all bring to share each year. We'll be gathering immediately after the 10:30 am service on that day for food and fellowship – celebrating the first Sunday after the summer months.

The big news this year is that the picnic will be held at a new location. Instead of the back yard of our Rectory, our Parish Picnic will be at the James Egan Memorial Pavilion at: 147 Old Niskayuna Road in Loudonville – just 3 miles from the Rectory and near Shaker Road Fire Department #2. The Pavilion has seating for 300, a parking lot, restrooms, a playground, volleyball, and horseshoe pits (and we'll still get a bounce house).

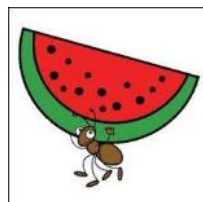
You're probably wondering why this change has been made. There are a few reasons. First, the Pavilion will have easier parking. For our parishioners with mobility challenges, we believe this will make it easier for more folks to attend. Second, the Pavilion is less expensive. The current cost of renting tents, tables, chairs, and grills for the Rectory each year is nearly \$1,500 (and that's before food costs). The Pavilion cost is \$600 – less than half of that amount. In trying to be good stewards of the church's funds, we felt trying this change for a year was wise. And if we hate it? We can always go back to the way things were.

All that said, please know that my husband and I are discussing other ways to welcome the wider parish to our home at the St. Peter's Rectory from time to time. We love seeing kids have fun at the Easter Egg Hunt at our home each year, and we are looking forward to continuing that tradition – unchanged -- for years to come.

I hope you'll mark your calendars now for Sept. 7 and think of a yummy dish to bring. I'll bring a volleyball, and I hope to see you there!

Grace and peace,

Mtr. Christina+



### Vestry Meeting

There will be No Vestry Meeting in July. The next Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 12th at 5:15pm in the second floor meeting room.

### Summer Wednesdays in the Garden

Wednesdays worship continues outside for the summer months, in the garden between the Church and Guild House, with the exception of July 9, 23 and August 20. The garden gate will be unlocked during lunch hours for anyone to bring a bag lunch and/or just enjoy some quiet. A short service of Noonday Prayer will be said outside in the Garden on Wednesdays at 12 noon for anyone who would like to participate. Summer Wednesdays will last until the final Wednesday, August 27.

### 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 Mother Christina at 518-434-3502 ext.1

### 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. The 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.

### Acolyte Training for the Fall

This August, Mtr. Christina is planning to train interested children aged 7 ½ or older to become full Acolytes in the Fall. Their duties will include carrying candles or crosses, assisting the Lay Eucharistic Ministers and priest at the altar, and helping with the offering. Mtr. Christina would like to train Acolytes in August and fit them for robes so that they're ready to serve starting in September. Interested? Contact Mtr. Christina before July 31 at [priest@stpeterschurchalbany.org](mailto:priest@stpeterschurchalbany.org).



### Transfiguration Holy Communion in the Garden

On Wednesday, Aug. 6 at 12:05 pm, a service of Holy Communion will be held outside in the Garden between St. Peter's Church and the Guild House to celebrate the Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ. Following the service, we'll enjoy fresh fruit pie and coffee to celebrate. We hope to see some of you there! In case of rain, the service will move inside to St. Mark's Chapel.



### Want Albany Diocese news?

The Episcopal Diocese of Albany has a weekly email blast that keeps area Episcopalians up on happenings around our region.

If you'd like to sign up for the email news, visit: <https://albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/publications/>

## Outreach

**Loaves and Fishes, Saturdays, July 12th & 19th ~ August 9th & 16th ~ 11:00am to 1:00pm**

Every month on Saturday (dates for this month are listed above), Laura Saffares, along with other volunteers are committed to preparing and serving lunch to the people at Loaves and Fishes (formally known as St. Francis Mission), located at 498 Clinton Avenue in Albany. The number of adults and children we serve keeps growing. This is such a well received outreach for the children! You are welcome to come and witness this amazing outreach program anytime you can, we are there from 11am-1pm. For information or to let Laura know you are coming please call her at (518) 368-4284.

**South End Children's Café**

We are collecting canned or dried goods to put in cabinets to supplement the food supplies of many families with children in the South End. The list is at the front of the church, and on the box for your donation.



Martha Hunter was promoted to a second level treble and was given her white cotta, which she will wear proudly every Sunday.

The Choir Mother, Diana Martin was recognized and given flowers for her invaluable 49 years of service and dedication to the choir.

**Congratulations and Thank You to all!**







**Memorial Day BBQ at the Damien Center  
Thank you to all who contributed and hosted !!**



## St. Peter's Music

**Summer Choir:** Members of the parish are invited to come join the singing of the summer choir on any Sunday that is convenient for you beginning July 6th through August 31st. There is a brief rehearsal at 9:45am on Sundays to prepare music for the 10:30 service. No experience is necessary, no weekday rehearsals, and no audition, but the ability to follow musical notation is helpful. It's rewarding, fun, and an opportunity for the whole family to sing together. Contact Daniel Romero for more information at [ddorganman@gmail.com](mailto:ddorganman@gmail.com).

### **St. Peter's Choir School**

St. Peter's Choir School has been training and imparting a love of music to children for many decades. Based in the centuries old tradition of English choral music, St. Peter's is affiliated with the Royal School of Church Music, which teaches a graded music program where students advance through different levels of learning and musicianship.



### **St. Peter's**

### **Summer Music Adventure for Kids**

July 7-11 - 9:00 am. – 1:00 pm.

Sunday, July 13 - 9:00 am. – 12:00 Noon

**All children throughout the Capital Region who are age 8 or higher are invited to participate in the Summer Music Adventure regardless of religious affiliation.**

This great event for kids ages 8 and older will take place Monday through Friday from 9:00 am. to 1:00 pm. This event will include singing in a choir, playing handbells and chimes, playing games, learning about music and instruments, and lots of fun. Please mark your calendars and invite kids you know to participate. Registration is \$75 per child, and full scholarships are available. Registration form is on the next page. Please contact Daniel Romero for more information.

Registration fee: \$75

Scholarships Available

Lunch Included

For more information please visit: [www.stpeterschurchalbany.org/choir-school](http://www.stpeterschurchalbany.org/choir-school)



Please plan on attending the kids' performance on Sunday, July 13, at the 10:30 a.m. church service.

The participants of St. Peter's Summer Music Adventure will perform some of the music that they will learn during the week. This includes music for children's choir and music for handbells and chimes. Come to support the work of our children and youth.

## **Julia Chapter**

**The Daughters had the privilege of hosting a Coffee Hour on Sunday, June 8, 2025. The Parishioners were delighted to savor a delightful spread of delectable food.**

**The Daughters of the King were delighted to share their mission, which is to extend the Kingdom of God through Prayer, Service and Evangelism. We provided several handouts for everyone to review.**

**We are empowered by the Holy Spirit. As Daughters of the King, our vision is to know Jesus Christ, share him with others, and embody God's love throughout the world.**

**We also have the privilege of praying for anyone who seeks our assistance or completes a confidential prayer card. The Confidential Prayer Cards are located at the entrance of the church along with a beautiful locked wooden prayer box in which to leave your completed card. The President Susan Smith checks the prayer box on a weekly basis.**

**We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the parishioners for their unwavering support over the many years.**

**Susan J. Smith, President of the DOK**

# July 2025



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

	1	2	3	4	5	
		12:05pm - Noonday Prayer in the Garden		Office Closed <b>Independence Day</b> 		
6 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost  8:30am - Holy Com. 10:30am - Holy Com.	7  Summer Music Adventure 9am - 1pm	8  Summer Music Adventure 9am - 1pm	9  Summer Music Adventure 9am - 1pm  No Noonday Prayer	10  Summer Music Adventure 9am - 1pm	11  Summer Music Adventure 9am - 1pm	12  11:00am - Angels in Training
13 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  8:30am - Holy Com. 10:30am - Morning Prayer	14	15	16  12:05pm - Noonday Prayer in the Garden	17	18	19  11:00am - Angels in Training
20 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost  8:30am - Holy Com. 10:30am - Holy Com.	21	22 <b>Saint Mary Magdalene</b>	23  No Noonday Prayer	24	25 <b>James the Apostle</b>	26
27 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost  8:30am - Holy Com. 10:30am - Morning Prayer	28	29	30  12:05pm - Noonday Prayer in the Garden	31		

**We Wish To Thank All our Volunteers  
for Their Service!**





# August 2025

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

					1	2
3 <b>Eighth Sunday after Pentecost</b>  8:30am - Holy Com. 10:30am - Holy Com.	4	5	6 <b>The Transfiguration</b>  12:05pm - Holy Communion in the Garden and Dessert	7  5:30pm - Full Choir Rehearsal	8	9  11:00am - Angels in Training
10 <b>Ninth Sunday after Pentecost</b>  8:30am - Holy Com. 10:30am - Morning Prayer	11	12  5:15pm - Vestry Meeting	13  12:05pm - Noonday Prayer in the Garden	14	15 <b>Saint Mary The Virgin, Mother</b>	16  11:00am - Angels in Training
17 <b>Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</b>  8:30am - Holy Com. 10:30am - Holy Com.	18	19	20  No Noonday Prayer	21	22	23
24 <b>Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost</b>  8:30am - Holy Com. 10:30am - Morning Prayer	25 <b>Saint Bartholomew The Apostle</b>	26	27  12:05pm - Noonday Prayer in the Garden	28	29	30
31 <b>Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost</b>  8:30am - Holy Com. 10:30am - MP 10:30am - Children's Chapel						

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

**May 13th, 2025**

**Present:** Mtr. Christina, J. Chenot, D. Spath, A. Closson, K. Creagan, C. Gordon, S. Hartt, M. Holden, R. LaPlante, A. Panzironi, G. Scala

**Absent:** P. Benson, W. Pettit

Opening Prayer Led by Mtr. Christina.

**1. Approval of the Vestry Meeting Minutes, April 8th, 2025**

The vestry minutes from the April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting were approved on a motion by D. Spath, seconded by K. Creagan, then unanimously approved by the vestry.

**2. Rector Report – Mtr. Christina**

**Pastoral updates:**

1. Participated in Teen Breakfast Club on Sunday, May 4, with a Star Wars-themed reflection on the Force, faith, and Peter walking on water.
2. Began kids' talks on the Lord's Prayer on April 27 during the 10:30 service. Have already given out two Stewart's ice cream cards to kids who have the prayer memorized.
3. Concluded Lenten Zoom groups – Friday Morning Prayer and Tuesday small group.
4. Led special services for Holy Week on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.
5. Participated in the parish Easter Egg Hunt on April 19.
6. Led a Rock and Root Hikers trip on April 27 in a climb around Rensselaerville Falls.
7. Participated in a Teen Breakfast Club outing on May 3 that included Laser Tag, Bowling and Arcade games at SpareTime in Clifton Park.
8. Led a memorial service for Alcoholics Anonymous members in honor of Ebby Thatcher Day at Albany Rural Cemetery on April 26.
9. Officiated the funeral and internment of Lisa Stevens duPont on May 8.
10. Officiated the funeral of Don Ingram on May 10.
11. Participated in the CROP Walk on May 4.
12. Preparing to do Morning Prayer on Zoom for the Nine Days of Prayer from the day after Ascension (May 30) through the Eve of Pentecost (June 7).
13. Attended the Diocesan meeting of the Metropolitan Deanery on May 7.
14. Met with my spiritual director on May 6.

**Big Picture and Mission/Vision work:**

1. Working with our music team on choir member recruitment, especially of kids. Planning to visit the Southend Children's Café this week and will be reaching out to local schools to promote choir camp and the choir school in fall.
2. Beginning to think ahead to fall discipleship and evangelism initiatives. More to come.

**SAVE THE DATE:**

Rock and Root Hikers at Peebles Island – May 18 at 1:30 pm  
Ascension Noon Eucharist and 5:45 pm Evensong – May 29

**3. Sr. Warden's Report – J. Chenot**

To begin, I would like to thank Mother Christina for all her tireless work and leadership during this past Lenten season, including Palm Sunday and Holy week, all leading up to our Easter Sunday services, which concluded this past month in April. Also, we would like to recognize all our lay ministers that are here each week assisting Mother Christina through all our services in prayer and assisting during communion services.

Our Sunday school children colored Easter eggs on Palm Sunday for the Easter egg hunt which followed the Saturday, the day before Easter at the Rectory. The day started off with torrential rain, but by 11:00 when the hunt began, the sky opened to clear skies. We ended up having a beautiful day with many showing up, young and older veterans looking for eggs. Many thanks to Laura Saffaris and all the other Sunday school staff for all their work each Sunday including helping with these special events. Just this past Sunday, Mother's Day, the children planted small flowers in pots during Sunday school passing them out to the moms in the congregation after the service. Thank you all again for all your efforts, making the day a little bit special for all.

This year, beginning with our Easter Services, we were able to stream our services over the internet. Everything went very well for our first time streaming, which included a bit of a learning curve, but now within a few weeks following, the streaming has been running and has been well received. Thank you to Kevin Creagan and Jeff Russom who have taken on this new ministry. We hope that this new ministry will reach out to those who are limited in worshipping with us in person but can feel connected with us in spirit.

We are also thankful to all our wonderful volunteers who are involved in the logistics of all the services during this busy church season. First in starting by thanking the altar guild for all their work on the Maundy Thursday evening service, including the preparation of our altars for both services at Easter, ensuring everything is ready and in order, please know your ministry does not go unnoticed. Also, we are very fortunate to have the talent that comes through our Flower guild this Easter season with no exception to their labor and love to beautify the church with all the flowers and arrangements throughout the church. Others to thank are our ushers, who offer their hospitality to all newcomers visiting, as well as all our parishioners each Sunday. To Pat and Wayne, your work on keeping the physical plant clean and in order each week does not go unnoticed, thank you for your service. To Ruth and Janice who work tirelessly in the church office during this busy church season, many thanks to you both. It is incredible the amount of work that is produced out of the office during the Lenten and Easter season – the printed items for all the services, including all the record keeping for the Easter Lilies memorials. We are so very fortunate to have both of you and sincerely thank you for all your dedication and service.

Our recognition and thanks also extend to our organist and choirmaster Danial Romaro, as well as the choir for all their work during the six weeks of Lent leading up to Easter. Their schedule is a small undertaking to say the least, and we want to thank each one of the choir members for their talent and gifts they share with all of us in song. Also, we would like to acknowledge our choir Mom, Diana Martin, who coordinated the brunch in between the Easter Services for the Choir as well as making sure our Choir always look their best for the services during the year.

Looking ahead to Ascension Day, Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, we will have a service of Choral Evensong at 5:45 PM. And to jump ahead to the next month of June, on Father's Day, June 15<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating the achievements of both the Sunday school and Choir with awards and recognition.

Thank you all for your love, support and dedication to St. Peter's, we are so fortunate to have such a wonderful and loving congregation and extremely blessed.  
Jim

**4. Sunday Attendance** – The Average Sunday Attendance is 89.3 (as of June 6)

**5. Finance – G. Scala** - Treasurer's Report Highlights/Summary – Apr 2025

	Apr	YEAR-TO-DATE
OFFERINGS	\$19,540	\$64,941
MISC. INCOME	\$0	\$1,396
EXPENSES	(\$82,486)	(\$254,681)
GAIN/(LOSS)	(\$62,946)	(\$188,344)
WITHDRAWALS FROM ENDOW- MENT TO FUND SHORTFALL	\$67,807	\$137,986

Endowment Return (Merrill Lynch)

April: -0.36%

Index Calculated Return: -0.79%

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2025 Pledges:

34 for a total of \$119,136

YTD Offerings (through Apr) for 2025 are \$4,549 *more* than YTD Apr '24

**6. Property –**

- We are still working with a contractor to fix the furnace issue causing the leak in the women's bathroom in the Pumpelly Room.
- The Men's bathroom in the hall outside of the Pumpelly Room needs some plaster repair and painting.

**7. Outreach –**

Members of the Outreach Committee and the congregation will be preparing dishes and working the grills at the Damien Center for their annual Memorial Day Cookout. Thank you to all of our generous volunteers.

**8. Old Business –**

J. Chenot reported that we are working on a contract with Janitronix for their weekly cleaning assistance. This contract will include more specifics about what exactly they will be responsible for cleaning each week.

**9. New Business –**

Mtr. Christina informed the Vestry that Safe Church Training Courses will now be required for all Vestry members. These courses have already been required for many members of church.

**10. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by D. Spath and seconded by M. Holden, then was approved unanimously by the vestry.

Compline was led by Mtr. Christina.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christie J. Gordon

## *Clergy & Staff*

The Rev. Christina Hunter.....Rector  
Daniel Romero.....Organist & Choirmaster  
Malcolm Moran.....Assistant Music Director  
Laura Saffares.....Director of Christian Education  
Ruth Manss..... Office Manager  
James P. Shortall.....Sexton  
Wayne Hill.....Sexton  
Janice Chenot.....Office Volunteer  
E. Constance Powell.....Historian & Archivist

## *Vestry*

James Chenot.....Senior Warden  
Deborah Spath.....Junior Warden  
George Scala.....Treasurer

Pete Benson, Ashley Closson, Kevin Creagan, Christie Gordon,  
Samuel Hartt, Maria Holden, Robin LaPlante,  
Annette Panzironi, William Pettit

## *How to Contact Us*

**Office Hours:** Monday - Friday  
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E-Mail:

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Website:

[www.stpeterschurchalbany.org](http://www.stpeterschurchalbany.org)

## *Services*

### **Sunday**

**Holy Communion** 8:30 am

**Holy Communion** 10:30 am  
(1st & 3rd Sundays)

**Morning Prayer** 10:30 am  
(2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)

**Sunday School** 10:30 am

### **Summer Wednesdays**

**Noonday Prayer** - 12:05pm  
Outside in the Garden

## **ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**107 State St.**

**Albany, New York 12207**

