



THE Cornerstone

September 2024

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

Eve of St. Bartholomew, 2024

Beloved of God,

What words do you know “by heart”?

As a kid, I had to memorize my “times tables” in grade school to learn multiplication. I recited poems by Robert Frost and William Ernest Henley. And, I learned Scripture. The 23rd Psalm (King James Version, of course). Verses from Philippians and John’s gospel and more. I’m sure some of you have your own list of things you had to commit to memory.

Isn’t it interesting that the idiom for memory work is to learn words “by heart” instead of “by head”? Obviously, we’re drilling the words deep into our brains so that they stick. But, to learn “by heart” acknowledges a deeper truth: words that we commit to memory make an imprint upon us, especially the holy words of Scripture. These Spirit-breathed words – once memorized – can be carried anywhere and can come to mind right when we need them in moments of fear, temptation, sorrow, doubt, and even joy.

Learning “by heart” can be intimidating, but I can tell you that it’s worth the effort. Memory work is something even young children can do. And at St. Peter’s this fall, our kids are going to be our leaders.

Starting on Sept. 8, we’re going to embark on the St. Peter’s ABCs Bible Memory Challenge. This challenge was inspired by a viral YouTube video of a 4-year-old Texas boy named Tanner Hemness, who rattles off 26 Bible verses – one for every letter of the alphabet. (You can easily find the video online – I highly recommend it because it’s both inspiring and adorable).

Every Sunday, we’ll have our memory verse of the week printed in the leaflet. And at the start of 10:30 am service, I’ll call our children up front to go over the verse and to talk over it (think of it as a reconstituted children’s sermon time). If a child can recite a month’s verses for me from memory, I’ll track it on a reward chart.

And did I mention ice cream? A month of verses earns a Stewart’s gift card for a frozen treat (and yes adults, I’ll give you ice cream too, if you can memorize all of these – I’ll be trying myself!). If any of our kids can recite all 26 verses in March when the Challenge ends, a Grand Prize will be awarded.

Will you try to meet this challenge with our kids? If you learn some or all these 26 Bible verses “by heart,” I think you’ll be surprised by the way God uses them to speak into your daily life.

See you somewhere between “A” and “Z”!

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus,

Mtr. Christina+

St. Peter's ABCs Bible Memory Challenge

Below are the verses for our memory challenge. Remember, anyone who can recite a month's worth of verses for Mtr. Christina receives a Stewart's gift card! Memorizing the Scripture citation of each verse isn't required to earn rewards.

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find. [Matthew 7:7](#) (Sept. 8)

Be kind one to another. [Ephesians 4:32](#) (Sept. 15)

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you. [Psalm 55:22](#) (Sept. 22)

...Do not be anxious about anything.... [Philippians 4:6](#) (Sept. 29)

Every good and perfect gift is from above. [James 1:17](#) (Oct. 6)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith.... [Ephesians 2:8](#) (Oct. 13)

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. [Psalm 46:1](#) (Oct. 20)

He alone is my rock and my salvation. [Psalm 62:2](#) (Oct. 27)

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. [Psalm 139:14](#) (Nov. 3)

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. [Hebrews 13:8](#) (Nov. 10)

Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us. [Psalm 100:3](#) (Nov. 17)

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.... [Mark 12:30](#) (Nov. 24)

My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. [Psalm 62:1](#) (Dec. 1)

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. [Hebrews 11:1](#) (Dec. 8)

O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you. [Psalm 63:1](#) (Dec. 15)

Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being praise his Holy name. [Psalm 103:1](#) (Dec. 22)

A Quiet spirit....is of great worth in God's sight. [1 Peter 3:4](#) (Dec. 29)

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! [Philippians 4:4](#) (Jan. 5)

Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne. [Revelation 7:10](#) (Jan. 12)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. [Proverbs 3:5](#) (Jan. 19)

...Under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield.... [Psalm 91:4](#) (Jan. 26)

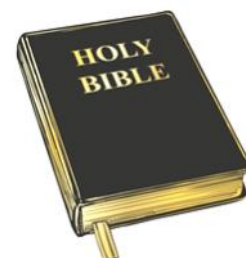
Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. [John 6:47](#) (Feb. 2)

...We are more than conquerors through him who loved us. [Romans 8:37](#) (Feb. 9)

...May I never boast, eXcept in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. [Galatians 6:14](#) (Feb. 16)

You are the light of the world. [Matthew 5:14](#) (Feb. 23)

Zion hears and rejoices. [Psalm 97:8](#) (March 2)



St. Peter's News

Blessing of the Backpacks

We invite the youth of St. Peter's to bring their backpacks to church to be blessed for the new school year. This will happen on Sunday, **September 1st**, during the 10:30am church service.

Wednesday Noon Worship Returns

Beginning on **Wednesday, Sept. 4th**, St. Peter's will offer a said Holy Communion service at 12:05 pm in St. Mark's Chapel. Communion will be offered on the first Wednesday of each month only. On the other Wednesdays of each month at 12:05 pm, a short service of Noonday Prayer will be said in St. Mark's Chapel. All are welcome!



Backpacks & Supplies for Back-to-School

Every year the Sunday School collects backpacks (new or lightly used) and back-to-school supplies to be donated to the children at the St. Francis Mission. Please pick up an extra backpack, notebook, pack of pencils or pens, loose leaf paper, or markers and place the items in the bushel baskets located in the back of the church and upstairs near the Sunday School rooms. These supplies and backpacks will be delivered to St. Francis Mission on Saturday, **September 7th**. Thank you all for your support. Your donations are greatly appreciated!



Prayer Pretzels/Sunday School Registration

On Sunday, **September 8th** Sunday School registration will take place and the children will be busy making prayer pretzels. Please take a moment to stop upstairs to complete a registration card for your child(ren).

St Peter's coffee hour resuming in September

St. Peter's volunteers are looking forward to resuming the very popular activity of after service (10:30) coffee hour on September 8. Volunteers are always welcome and needed and we offer "free training" so that all are comfortable and confident to provide this important stewardship that spans from September 8 through December 29. Please feel free to sign up and if you would like more information and perhaps instruction on how to proceed, please reach out to Michele Vennard at mlvennard@gmail.com or at 518-858-0525. There are sign up sheets in the church kitchen

Thank you,
Michele



Vestry Meeting

The September Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, **September 10th** at 5:15pm., in the second floor meeting room.

Walking with Peter

Adult Education beginning in September

There are symbols and images of the Apostle Peter throughout our church: in the chancel windows, in the mosaic floor, even on the cover of the weekly leaflet. They are part of our shared history as a parish family; an artistic backdrop to our weekly services; a silent witness to our baptisms, weddings, and funerals. We have grown accustomed to looking at them, but do we really see them? Are they simply beautiful pieces of art, or do they have a deeper spiritual significance for our parish and for each one of us as disciples of the Lord?

Using these symbols and images as points of reference, in this study we will closely examine the events of Peter's ministry as revealed in the Scriptures and historical documents of the faith, and together we will explore how his life – like those glorious windows in our chancel – can shed light on our own journey.

Beginning September 8, we will meet at 12 pm on the 2nd Sunday (and occasionally the 4th Sunday) of each month for about 45 minutes.

Take a Hike!

This fall, we're launching a new hiking group. All ages are welcome to join the Rock and Root Hikers in exploring trails in our area. We'll usually meet the third Sunday afternoon of each month, weather permitting. Our first hike of the season – rated "easy" – begins at 1 pm on Sept. 15 at the Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center at: 195 New Karner Road in Albany. We'll hike the 0.2 mile Discovery Trail and the 0.9 mile Blue Trail, so this is a perfect hike for young children and beginning hikers. Contact Mtr. Christina at (518) 423-4891 with questions.



Annual Parish Picnic September 22nd!

Please join us for the St. Peter's Church Annual Parish Picnic on Sunday, **September 22nd** immediately following the 10:30am service at the Rectory, 8 Loudon Heights South, Loudonville, NY 12211. Chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass for the meal or a dessert. You may sign-up on the board located at the back of the church. Driving directions to the Rectory will be available in the front of the church.

Carly's Cards

As we continue into the fall season, I would like to inform the church community that Dean Tessitore has expressed a desire and graciously agreed out of the goodness of his heart and fondness of St. Peter's Church to become the sole custodian of Carly's Cards. Monthly, parishioners will receive a birthday or anniversary card generated by Dean.

Please thank Dean for this enormous undertaking which he manages with delight and pride as he continues to share God's love within our parish.

Susan J. Smith

St. Peter's Music

St. Peter's Summer Music Adventure

St. Peter's first Summer Music Adventure for kids was a great success! Kids gathered for a week to learn about music, singing, musical instruments, play games, and have lots of fun.

My thanks to everyone who helped make this possible, especially Diana Martin, Maria Holden, Malcolm Moran, Patrice Malatestinic, Katie Brillat, Emerson Fang, and Mtr. Christina Hunter.



Parish Choir is Starting Up Soon!

St. Peter's Choir will begin having regular rehearsals and singing on Sundays beginning in September. The full choir will return on Sunday, September 8 at 9:30am, and our first rehearsal of the season will be on Thursday, September 12 at 5:30pm.

If Anyone is interested in joining the choir, please contact Daniel Romero at ddorganman@gmail.com.

Treble Choristers

Do you know a child who loves music?
St. Peter's Choir School is for them!

St. Peter's Treble Choristers is starting up again after a multi year hiatus. Children ages 8-18 who participate benefit from the following:

Free Music Instruction
Opportunities for Singing Services and Concerts
Kids Get Paid To Sing

We believe that music helps make children into good whole people and sets them up for success. Won't you join us?
Begins this September 2024

The Church Narthex

The north side of the Narthex of the 3rd edifice of the church contained a baptismal font of an earlier date. It was directly below Henry Holiday's stained glass window depicting the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist with the inscription underneath reading, "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased." The Baptismal Font was of white marble and very ornate. It contained the inscription "He shall gather the lambs with his arms." The placing of the font followed the early tradition that baptism preceded entry into the church.

The font was moved to the front of the church during the rectorship of Laman Bruner when a mosaic floor plaque was created in the floor. It was created to honor Dr. Bruner by his wife, friends and family. for 25 years of rectorship. The mosaic banner reads as follows:

*This Tablet is offered
In thanksgiving
for the Ministry of
Laman H. Bruner Jr. M.Div, D.D., JU d, LAD
Honorary Canon, Chaplin New York State Assembly
By His Wife, Children and Friends
On the occasion of the twenty-fifth Anniversary
Of his call to St, Peter's Church in 1952 as its
Twentieth Rector*

On the wall beside the floor plaque there is a cabinet of wood paneling holding replicas of the Queen Anne Communion Silver. On the wood paneling are the names of those who served in the world wars and poems in their honor. Also on the West Wing of the Narthex are two plaques: one for the Rose Window and its lancets, given by Sarah Talcott Pruyn, and one for the outside Stone Cross given by John De Witt Peltz, Vestryman, 1896.

In the east end of the Narthex is a War Chapel of oak paneling. Above it are stained glass windows of David and St, Michael. All of this was contributed by Arthur Stein in honor of his son Arthur Stein Jr. who was killed in the Second World War. During the war, prayers for loved ones fighting in the war were offered at the War Chapel. The Columbarium holding the ashes of deceased members are stored in the east wing of the Narthex, as well two important wall plaques, of white stone, one for John Tweddle whose bequest and family contributions made possible the tower, and Elizabeth Brandt Wilson wife of Orlando Meads, Church Warden, 1861 to 1869.

E. Constance Powell, Archivist

September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
1 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion w/ Backpack Blessing	2 Labor Day Office Closed	3	4 12:05pm - Holy Communion
8 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer Sunday School Registration/ Prayer Pretzel 12:00pm - Walking with Peter	9	10 5:15pm - Vestry Meeting	11 12:05pm - Noonday Prayer
15 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion 1:00pm - Hike at Albany Pine Bush	16	17 4:00 - 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal	18 12:05pm - Noonday Prayer
22 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer Church Picnic @ The Rectory following the 10:30 Service	23	24 4:00 - 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal	25 12:05pm - Noonday Prayer
29 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer 10:30am - Children's Chapel	30 Saint Michael and All Angels		



Day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Communion	5	6	7
y Prayer	12 5:30pm - Full Choir Rehearsal	13	14 Holy Cross Day 11:00am - Angels in Training
y Prayer	19 5:00 - 6:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir Rehearsal	20	21 St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist 11:00am - Angels in Training
y Prayer	26 5:00 - 6:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir Rehearsal	27	28

LOOK WHAT'S NEW

Coming Soon!

Teen Breakfast Club starting in October

Beginning on Sunday, Oct. 6, a Teen Breakfast Club will have its first meeting. All teens are welcome. The Club meets in Mtr. Christina's office from 9:30am to 10:05am. We'll enjoy breakfast, a short spiritual discussion, and end with prayer. The Club will meet the first Sunday of each month unless otherwise announced in church communications.



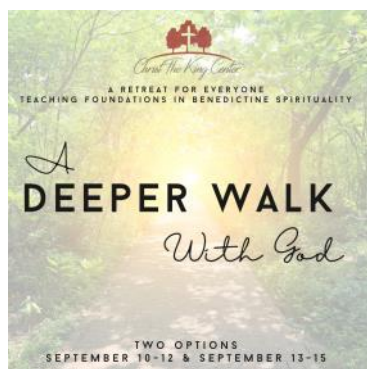
Christ the King Center

Foundations of Benedictine Spirituality: For New and Returning Retreatants

Fall Retreats

Weekday: Tuesday - Thursday, September 10 - 12, 2024

Weekend: Friday - Sunday, September 13 - 15, 2024




SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Confusion, worry, and darkness are all around us still. If you yearn for more of the quiet depths of God's love below the anxious, stormy waves of life, join us. In an environment of refreshment, rest, prayer, quiet, and fellowship, you will learn and develop values, principles, and practices that you can build into your life right now, so that you can begin and continue to enjoy a deeper walk with God.

This retreat will feature the teaching of Bishop Michael Smith and Pat Stone of the Diocese of Dallas.

For more information go to: [Foundations of Benedictine Spirituality - Christ the King Center \(ctkcenter.org\)](https://ctkcenter.org)

SCHOOL OF HEALING PRAYER



LEVEL 1: TOTALLY ZOOM
All invited to attend from the comfort of your own home
2 Weekends: September 6-7 & 13-14

LEVEL 2: St. George's, Clifton Park
All are welcome!
2 Weekends: October 4-5 & 11-12

LEVEL 1


Introduction to the foundations for healing...

- The History of Healing in the Church
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Becoming a Prayer Minister

LEVEL 2

How to pray into particular life situations...

- Healing in Marriage
- Healing the Wounds of Divorce
- How to Pray for Inner Healing
- Depression and Mental Illness



Go to ctkcenter.org/events for details or scan the QR code

Men's Retreat 2024

We are living in a season of uncertainty and polarization with no easy solutions, a moment with a lot of conflicting “facts” in a rapidly changing landscape. Places that once offered respite from the world like our homes and faith communities are also filled with tension. As we live our lives it is hard not to just perpetually scroll through social media and become cynical about everything. This September, lay aside your cynicism for a weekend and let us ponder the question: What relevance does a first century, crucified, Jewish Rabbi named Jesus have for my life today?

For more information go to: [2024 Men's Retreat - Christ the King Center \(ctkcenter.org\)](https://2024Men'sRetreat-ChristtheKingCenter(ckcenter.org))



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

June 11th, 2024

Present: Mtr. Christina, J. Chenot, C. Gordon, S. Hartt, M. Holden,

M. Lundberg, W. Pettit, J. Russom, G. Scala

Absent: D. Spath, P. Benson

Opening Prayer Led by Mtr. Christina.

Approval of the Vestry Meeting Minutes, May 14th, 2024

The vestry minutes from the May 14th, 2024 meeting were approved on a motion by M. Lundberg, seconded by M. Holden, then unanimously approved by the vestry.

Rector's Report – Mtr. Christina

Pastoral updates:

Led first session of St. Peter's Prayer School class "Riches of the Prayer Book" on Sunday, June 9.

Did one home visit and two nursing home visits.

Did last rites for Fred Hershey on June 5.

Concluded St. Peter's Nine Days of Prayer and Morning Prayer on Zoom from Ascension to the Eve of Pentecost.

Celebrated the final Wednesday Eucharist before summer on June 5. We'll have noon prayer in the garden in the summer months and resume Wednesday services in St. Mark's Chapel in September.

Presented our three confirmands and served as the bishop's chaplain during the Regional Confirmation service held at St. Peter's on May 16.

Have begun work on redesigning our web page and am coordinating with our web team for a smooth transition once the new page is ready to go live. Will probably be working on it for at least another month.

Led Children's Chapel on Sunday, May 26.

Hired Juron Green to work with our Safety team on Sunday mornings.

Co-wrote and co-led a workshop at Diocesan Convention with John Davis titled "Morning & Evening Prayer: Tools for Lay Leaders." We provided training for over 20 people in how to lead a group in praying the daily office and provided a list of musical resources to them that Daniel Romero put together.

My family and I attended Diocesan Convention, along with our parish representatives, on May 31 and June 1 at YMCA in Silver Bay. During the meeting, I was elected to serve on the Diocesan Disciplinary Board (my 3-year term begins on Jan. 1).

Big Picture and Mission/Vision work:

Continuing missional planning for Fall 2024. Updates forthcoming.

SAVE THE DATE:

Awards Sunday – June 16

Scavenger Hunt/Pizza Party – June 23

Choir Summer Camp – July 8-12

Sr. Warden's Report – J. Chenot

With great sadness I begin my report with the sad news of the passing of our beloved servant, Fred Hershey. Fred entered eternal rest on Wednesday, June 5th. Fred was very instrumental involved in many projects throughout his time he was with us at St. Peter's. His gift as an interior decorator kept all of us on our toes when there was a need to spruce up in areas in the church. Whether it was picking out colors for a particular room or ordering furniture for our coffee hour, he was always there to help us out. His input was immeasurable and when the projects were completed, they ended up becoming beautiful in all ways. When elected to the vestry, he continued to help with his expertise and vision right up till the beginning of this year, still serving on the Vestry. Fred will be sorely missed. We also would like to send our love and support to Fred's family, his wife Donna and sons David and Jeff. Please know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers. Funeral Services for Fred will be this Friday, June 14th at 1:00, and will be brought to his final resting place in St. Peter's columbarium in our tower chapel.

Last month on May 16th, we hosted regional confirmation at St Peter's with our Bishop Jeremiah officiating. Congratulations to Cole Cehowski, Nathan Douglas and Christopher Spath, confirmands from St. Peter's, as well as others from other churches in our diocese.

The first weekend in June our annual diocese convention was held. Mother Christina reported back that the convention went very smoothly. We again want to thank Katie Brillat and Sam Haynes both delegates, and John Davis as alternate for representing St. Peter's Church during that time. Just this past Sunday afternoon, we had an organ recital performed. Daniel, our choir director has had two guest organists visit St. Peter's the past two Sundays performing two incredible organ recitals. The recitals were well attended and would like to thank Daniel for adding these musical performances for all to enjoy. Daniel has also been working tirelessly, getting the word out regarding our choir camp which will be for one week, starting July 8th through July 12th. The choir camp has been very well planned out and all detailed information regarding the camp can be found on our website and newsletter. Thank you, Daniel, for taking this new ministry on and for all the time and effort put forth ahead of time. We pray that the camp may find some interest in some that may want to pursue possibly making music with us in the choir on a regular basis.

This coming Sunday, June 16th Father's Day, the choir and Sunday school will be ending their season, marking the successes in milestones with awards on the service the Sunday school will be hosting their annual ice cream social at coffee hour.

As we begin to wind down from our regular church season and move towards the summer months, please keep in mind we are still here worshipping every Sunday, and we look forward to seeing you here, as well as others in the congregation. There will also be an opportunity to join in and sing with our summer choir each Sunday during the summer. If interested, please reach out to Daniel for more information.

Thank you all for a great church season; hope you all have a wonderful summer.

Sunday Attendance – The Average Sunday Attendance is 87.0 (as of August 12, 2024).

Finance – G. Scala - Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report Highlights/Summary – May 2024

	MAY	YEAR-TO-DATE
OFFERINGS	\$13,146	\$75,117
EXPENSES	(\$43,296)	(\$245,369)
GAIN/(LOSS)	(\$30,150)	(\$170,252)
WITHDRAWALS FROM ENDOW- MENT TO FUND SHORTFALL	\$8,687	\$174,292

Endowment Return (Merrill Lynch)

May: +3.71%

Index Calculated Return: +3.87%

Updated 2024 Pledges:

32 for a total of \$123,937

YTD Offerings through May '24 are \$4,153 higher than '23

Property – None

Outreach – None

Old Business –

Mother Christina and the Vestry have completed updates to the Employee Handbook. The updates were approved on a motion by M. Lundberg, seconded by W. Pettit, then unanimously approved by the Vestry.

New Business –

Vestry member S. Debonis has chosen to resign from her vestry seat. The vestry will discuss candidates to appoint to finish out the remainder of her term. Mother Christina and J. Chenot thank S. Debonis for all her contributions during her time served.

The Vestry has decided to add an additional meeting on August 13th. This will help us better prepare for the Fall Season.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by W. Pettit and seconded by J. Russom, 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, Christie Gordon, Samuel Hartt, Maria Holden,
Mark Lundberg, William Pettit, Jeff Russom

How to Contact Us

Office Hours: Monday - Friday
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Telephone: 518-434-3502
Fax: 518-462-4419

E-Mail:
Receptionist@stpeterschurchalbany.org
Website:
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

Wednesday

Holy Communion - 12:05pm
(1st Wednesday of the month)
Noonday Prayer - 12:05pm
(All other Wednesdays)

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

