



Cornerstone

December 2024

Newsletter of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church

107 State Street, Albany, New York

*Once in royal David's city,
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that Mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.*

Beloved of God,

The nights are growing longer and darker, and our world is mired in divisions, bloodshed, and anxiety. Yet, the hope of the coming Christ child shines before us like a steady candle flame in the night. In days like these, we can sometimes learn from the wisdom of the past. I want to tell you such a story.

It was 1918, just a month after Armistice Day. Our world was shrouded in grief over the deaths of millions.

The “war to end all wars” had finally ceased on the Western Front. On what would become Veterans Day in the United States — on the “eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month” of 1918 — the fighting had finally stopped, ending the Great War which is now known as World War I.

Europe slowly began to grapple with the death of a generation of young men. One survivor was an English clergyman named Eric Milner-White. He returned from war service in Italy to Cambridge where he'd previously been chaplain at King's College. When he arrived, Milner-White was made Dean of King's College.

Christmas came hard upon the end of the war, and Milner-White decided to make an unorthodox move. Rather than sing a regular Evensong service on Christmas Eve, he instead chose to have sung “A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols” because he felt the simple yet beautiful service that extols God's loving purposes through history would be more uplifting.

The service has become a beloved institution of King's College, broadcast each year by BBC to worldwide listeners. But “Lessons and Carols didn't actually originate with Milner-White. It dates back to Christmas Eve 1880, when E.W. Benson — the first bishop of Truro and later Archbishop of Canterbury — created the service in an effort to draw people into church who otherwise spent a lot of time celebrating excessively in Cornish pubs.

Thus, “A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols” was born, designed by Benson to be a collection of carols interspersed with nine short Bible readings. He originated the tradition of designating a chorister as the first reader and the Bishop as the last. Milner-White made some notable additions to Benson's original plan, including beginning the service with a lone chorister singing “Once in Royal David's City.” He also wrote the famous bidding prayer which precedes the lessons.

“Lessons and Carols” is a yearly tradition here at St. Peter's, part of our English choral heritage. Our choir and parishioners will lead this service on Sunday, Dec. 22 at 10:30 am (followed by our annual Hanging of the Greens gathering).

One of the great beauties of Lessons and Carols is its simplicity. There is no sermon. In a sense, the readers are the sermon — drawn from across our congregation, people of many ages and backgrounds. Together, they do the work of telling the story of God's saving love, and our choir leads us into that story of love through the beauty of song.

And so as we enter Advent — this quiet and dark season of preparing and reflecting — let us remember that every day that we live is a part of that great love story that will be told again this year. May Jesus give us ears to hear it, and may our hearts become those mangers where he will be laid.

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus,

Mtr. Christina+



Teen Breakfast Club: "Do All Dogs Go to Heaven?"

The Teen Breakfast Club will meet on Sunday, Dec. 1 to discuss "Do All Dogs Go to Heaven?" – a reflection on our pets and how our faith as Christians informs how we care for animals and for our earth. The club meets the first Sunday of each month from 9:30 am to 10:10 am in Mtr. Christina's office for food, a spiritual discussion, and prayer. All teens are welcome to attend.

Advent Early Morning Prayer on Zoom:

Beginning Monday, December 2nd at 6:30am, Mtr. Christina will lead Morning Prayer on Zoom, Monday through Friday, ending Tuesday December 24th. The service takes about 20 minutes. Coffee and pajamas are just fine. Bring your Prayer Book and Bible or just come to listen. All are welcome to prepare with prayer for the arrival of the Lord! Zoom Meeting ID: 837 6018 1434. Password: 027098.



Walking with Peter in December

Our adult education course, Walking with Peter, will meet on Sunday, Dec. 8 at 12 pm for about 45 minutes. This month, we'll be reflecting on the story of Peter depicted in the Pentecost window found in the chancel. Using these symbols and images as points of reference, we'll explore how Peter's story intersects with our own stories of faith.

Children's Chapel on Dec. 29

Our children will meet for a special service of Holy Communion and musical worship in our upstairs chapel in the children's area on Sunday, December 29 during the 10:30 am service. This time of worship is led by Mtr. Christina on Fifth Sundays throughout the calendar year.

Hot Chocolate Stroll Volunteers Needed

St. Peter's will be one of the stops this year on the fifth annual Downtown Albany Hot Chocolate Stroll, and we're looking for parishioners who are willing to volunteer to greet guests and to serve hot chocolate for to up to 700 visitors. The Stroll is on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 11am to 3pm. This is wonderful way to welcome newcomers into our church, especially with our Advent and Christmas events coming up. If you're interested in helping, message Mtr. Christina at priest@stpeterschurchalbany.org or call the church office.

Vestry Meeting

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

Coffee Hour

Thanks to all who have made coffee hour so enjoyable the past few months. Well now it's time to fill up the calendar for January - March 2025. There is sign up sheet in the kitchen - Please don't be shy and help is always available. For more information please call Michele Vennard at 518-858-0525 or at mlvennard@gmail.com.

Again, thanks to all!

Rock and Root Hikers on break until January

Our hiking club, the Rock and Root Hikers, will take a break in December because of the busyness of the calendar. We'll resume our monthly hikes in January with a trek on Peebles Island at 1:30 pm on Sunday, January 19. Contact Mtr. Christina at (518) 423-4891 with questions.

The Flower Guild has extra vases and containers that we no longer use. They will be in the Pumpelly Room if anyone would like to help themselves.

Pledge Cards

Pledge cards for 2025 have been mailed out to all parishioners. If you did not receive a pledge card please call the church office. It would be greatly appreciated if you could please take a minute to complete your card and return it to the church office or place it in the offering plate during the service. Pledges can also be made on the St. Peter's website at www.stpeterschurchalbany.org by clicking on the "Get your pledge card" button. You may also call the church office and we would be more than happy to complete a card for you. Thank you to those that have promptly completed and returned their pledge card or pledged online.

Advent and Christmas at St. Peter's

Advent Wreaths, Calendars, and Candles

Will be available in the Pumpelly Room.

Sunday School Pageant Rehearsal

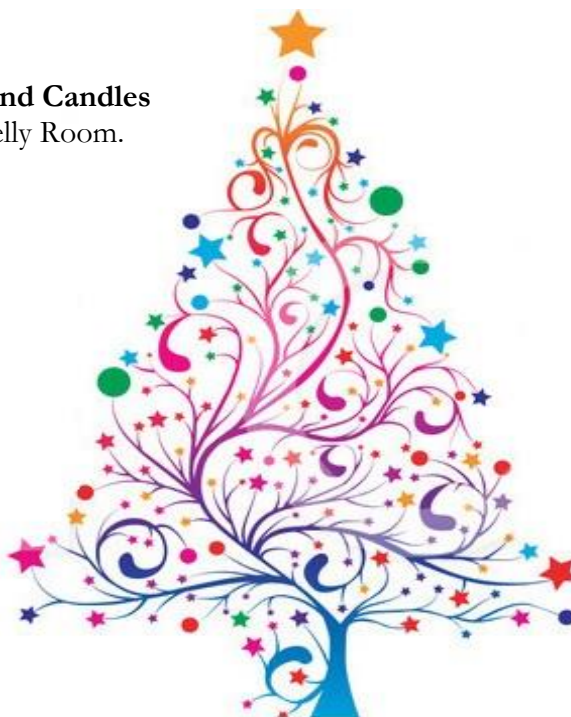
Sunday, December 8th
10:30am Service

Sunday School Pageant

Sunday, December 15th
10:30am Service

Messiah

Sunday, December 15th
3:00pm



Advent IV

Sunday, December 22nd
Lessons and Carols
Hanging of the Greens
Ham Luncheon

Christmas Eve Services

Tuesday, December 24th
4:30pm Family Service w/ Crèche
9:30pm Choral Prelude
10:00pm Choral Service with Holy Communion

Christmas Day Service

Wednesday, December 25th
9:00am Holy Communion

Christmas Pageant

On Sunday, December 8th, all children that want to participate in our Annual Christmas Pageant should report to the Sunday School rooms to get their parts, try on costumes and do a little rehearsing. **Calling out to all of the older children** of the congregation, we need readers for that day. If your child wants to read please have them present on December 8th. The pageant will be performed during the 10:30am service on Sunday, **December 15th**. Please have your children at the church by 9:30am to get in their costumes. If they come on December 3rd, we will be giving out parts and the costumes to take home. Hope to see you all for this wonderful day.

Advent IV Sunday

On Sunday morning, December 22nd, we will have Lessons and Carols at the 10:30am service. Following the service is the annual **Hanging of the Greens**, decorating the church for Christmas with pine and balsam will take place immediately following the 10:30am service. Then at 1pm the **Traditional Ham Luncheon** will be served upstairs in the dinning hall. We ask you to please dress comfortably and bring a dish to share. We need servers, set-up and clean-up help. We hope that you will join us for this long-time festive tradition.

Christmas Poinsettia & Hanging of the Greens Donation



Your special gifts for poinsettias and greens to honor, show thanks, and to remember loved ones are crucial to this beautiful display and annual parish event. If you would like to be part of this floral tribute, please complete the enclosed Christmas Flower form and send it to the church office with your donation. The deadline is Thursday, December 19th. We urge you to be as generous as you can. Thank you for your support.

Christmas Eve Family Service

We will again be having the children process to the Creche. Please encourage them to come and help stage the manger for all to see. Laura will be at church 4pm that day in the Pumpelly room to give out the items for them to carry.

Christmas Eve Services - Tuesday, December 24th

4:30pm Family Service w/ Crèche
9:30pm Choral Prelude
10:00pm Choral Service with Holy Communion

Christmas Day Service -

There will be a Holy Communion Service at 9:00am.



Outreach

Loaves and Fishes

Saturday, December 14th, 21st & 28th ~ 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.

Winter Clothing Collection:

Keep a look out for the green barrels! Once again St. Peter's will be collecting gently used or new coats for children and adults in need at Loaves and Fishes. Please drop off your donations in the green barrels located in the Pumpelly Room or at the back of the church and upstairs in the Sunday School Room. We are also collecting hats and gloves/mittens for children and adults. Laura then distributes them on each Saturday. This outreach is extremely important during this time of the year. And as always, if you need a pick up just give Laura a call at: 518-368-4284. Blessings to all that can help.



South End Children's Café:

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



Christmas Giving Tree:

Again this year, St. Peter's Church will be providing Christmas gifts for the children at the South End Children's Café. A Christmas Giving Tree is located in the Pumpelly Room and is decorated with paper ornaments. The ornaments indicate the name and gift you are to buy, and we hope you will consider taking one. The gift should be returned to St. Peter's, wrapped (with gift tag attached), no later than Sunday, December 15th. As always, we thank you for your continued support and your generosity! Questions?

Please call Laura Saffares at (518)368-4284.

CHRISTMAS DAY AT THE DAMIEN CENTER: Thanks to all who signed up early, we have our basic menu for Christmas Day covered. We welcome any additional side dishes or desserts that you may be moved to provide – perhaps something that is special to you. There are disposable pans available in the back of the church to make your presentation and delivery as easy as possible. Please take what you need. We will be collecting and delivering dishes for Christmas Day after each service on Christmas Eve – if you could put your dish in the Pumpelly Room refrigerator, or just hand it off to Laura Saffares (4:30) or me (10:00) at one of the services, we will make sure it is at the Damien Center on Christmas Day. If it's easier to bring your dish in before Christmas Eve, just let us know. Thank you for your ongoing support. Sharon DeBonis scdebonis@verizon.net, 518-669-5054 (cell and text).

A big thank you from Laura, to all that donated to the Thanksgiving Day Meal Bags that were distributed to the Café. We were able to give 25 bags to the families of the south end community. You all made a huge difference in the lives of many. A big shout out to Janice Chenot for helping me shop for all the families and to Jimmy Chenot and Greenbush Tape and Label for his generous donation to the Café. It takes a village and we all came together to give families a beautiful Thanksgiving dinner.





**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA AND
HANGING OF THE GREENS DONATION**

Your special gifts for poinsettias and greens to honor, show thanks, and to remember loved ones are crucial to this beautiful display and annual parish event. If you would like to be part of this floral tribute, please complete the Christmas Flower form below and send it to the church office with your donation. The deadline is Thursday, December 19th. We urge you to be as generous as you can. Thank you for your support.

In memory of	In thanksgiving for	To celebrate

Given by _____

In memory of	In thanksgiving for	To celebrate

Given by _____


YOUR NAME _____

YOUR PHONE NUMBER _____

**Above is the Christmas Poinsettia and Hanging of the Greens
Donation Form**

December 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
1 First Sunday of Advent 8:30am - Holy Communion 9:30am - The Teen Breakfast Club “Do All Dogs Go to Heaven?” 10:30am - Holy Communion	2 6:30am - Advent Early Morning Prayer on Zoom	3 6:30am - Advent Early Morning Prayer on Zoom 4:00 - 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal	4 6:30am - Advent Early Morning Prayer on Zoom 12:05pm - Holy Communion
8 Second Sunday of Advent 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer 12:00pm - Walking with Peter	9 6:30am - Advent Early Morning Prayer on Zoom	10 6:30am - Advent Early Morning Prayer on Zoom 4:00 - 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:15pm - Vestry Meeting	11 6:30am - Advent Early Morning Prayer on Zoom 12:05pm - Noon Prayer
15 Third Sunday of Advent 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion Sunday School Pageant 3:00pm - Handel’s Messiah	16 6:30am - Advent Early Morning Prayer on Zoom	17 6:30am - Advent Early Morning Prayer on Zoom 4:00 - 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal	18 6:30am - Advent Early Morning Prayer on Zoom 12:05pm - Noon Prayer
22 Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Lessons and Carols 12:00pm - Hanging of the Greens with Luncheon at 1:00pm	23 6:30am - Advent Early Morning Prayer on Zoom	24 Christmas Eve 6:30am - Advent Early Morning Prayer on Zoom 4:30pm - Holy Communion 9:30pm - Choral Prelude 10:00pm - Holy Communion	25 The Nativity Lord Jesus Christ 9:00am - Holy Communion 
29 First Sunday after Christmas 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer 10:30am - Children’s Chapel	30 	31 	



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Advent Early Morning Prayer on Zoom</p> <p>Communion</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:30am - Advent Early Morning Prayer on Zoom</p> <p>5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal</p> <p>5:30pm - Full Choir</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:30am - Advent Early Morning Prayer on Zoom</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11:am - 3 pm - Downtown Albany Hot Chocolate Stroll</p>
<p>Advent Early Morning Prayer on Zoom</p> <p>Sunday Prayer</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30am - Advent Early Morning Prayer on Zoom</p> <p>6:00 - 9:00pm - Messiah Rehearsal with the Orchestra</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30am - Advent Early Morning Prayer on Zoom</p>	<p>14</p> <p>11:00am - Angels in Training</p>
<p>Advent Early Morning Prayer on Zoom</p> <p>Sunday Prayer</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30am - Advent Early Morning Prayer on Zoom</p> <p>5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal</p> <p>5:30pm - Full Choir</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30am - Advent Early Morning Prayer on Zoom</p>	<p>21 Saint Thomas the Apostle</p> <p>11:00am - Angels in Training</p>
<p>Activity of our Jesus Christ</p> <p>Christmas Day</p> <p>Communion</p>	<p>26 Saint Stephen, Deacon & Martyr</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>27 Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist</p>	<p>28 The Holy Innocents</p> <p>11:00am - Angels in Training</p>

St. Peters Music

CHOIR

Choir rehearsals are on the following schedule:

Tuesdays: 4:00pm- 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal

Thursdays: 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal
5:30pm - 7:00pm Adult choristers

Sundays: 9:30am rehearsal for the 10:30am service

We are eager to welcome boys and girls age 8 to grade 8 to join the Treble section of the choir.

Handel's Messiah

St. Peter's annual performance of Handel's Messiah will be on Sunday, December 15, at 3:00pm, with St. Peter's Choir and orchestra. Please join us for this festive annual event for the holidays.

Handel's Messiah Rehearsal

Messiah Rehearsal with the Orchestra and Choir will be on Thursday, December 12th, from 6pm - 9pm.

Festival of Lessons and Carols

St. Peter's annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will be on Sunday, December 22, at 10:30am. This beautiful service is followed by the annual Hanging of the Greens and the Ham luncheon served at 1pm. Please join us for this festive day.

Christmas Eve Services

The choir of St. Peter's along with guest instrumentalists will provide music for both Christmas Eve services at 4:30pm and 10:00pm. A program of music will begin at 9:30pm prior to the service. A wide variety of music will be offered to celebrate the birth of Jesus.



Overflow Homeless Shelter

Could you consider giving up one evening this winter to offer the gift of hospitality and show another the love and mercy of God?

The St. Peter's Overflow Homeless Shelter has begun. This year, we will be housing up to 15 men each evening through March 2025. The Overflow Shelter Training was done in October, due to the early opening. But if you are interested in volunteering please contact Ruth Manss in the office

We are currently receiving donations of food items and financial support. Food items needed include: coffee, sugar, popcorn and snacks, peanut butter, fresh fruit and juice, along with fresh baked items. These can be dropped off at the church office any weekday, or brought to church on Sundays and given to Wayne or Pat. Thank you in advance for your continued prayers and support.

Christmas bells at St Peter's Church



The first edifice of St Peter's Church built in 1715 was of simple construction with no steeple. It was located in the middle of State Street. (at that time called Jonkers Street). It was not until May 6th of 1715 that funds were sought for the repairing the English Church in the City of Albany. This included building a steeple. The steeple included a clock and contained a bell.

The church fathers sent to England for the bell, which was built by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry (originally Lester and Pack), the oldest bell manufacturing company in Britain. This same bell was the first bell in Albany to announce the passage of the Declaration of Independence.

The chimes of the third edifice of St. Peter's Church, called the Tweddle Chimes after the donation by the Tweddle family, were cast and installed in 1875. That same year they were first heard on Christmas morning. People waited silently late on Christmas Eve, for the 12 strikes of the Queen Anne Bell, an older bell from an earlier period. After the 12 strikes of midnight the Tweddle Chimes were rung by Walter Marsh, Campanologist. He played "Old Hundred", "Venite Adoremus" and "O Blessed Lord Jesus", as well as selected ringing patterns, "Vesper Hymn", "God Rest you Merry Gentlemen" and "Adeste Fideles". For those who missed the midnight program, the bells could be heard again at ten o'clock on Christmas Day.

There were eleven chimes and a peal bell. The eleven bells are played from two floors below, the bell chamber on a chime clavier. This consists of levers hooked to ropes that pulled the clapper. The levers ring the bells in ascending order from left to right. As much as possible, each chime was named after a member of the Tweddle family. Persons ringing the bells in the past were, Vaughn J. Mauren, John Cerniglia, Karl Reynolds, Jim Adams, Jordan Chenot and Malcolm Moran.

May your Christmas be filled with beautiful music! Your Archivist = Connie Powell



MINUTES FOR THE VESTRY MEETING
ST. PETER'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
October 8th, 2024

Present: Mtr. Christina, J. Chenot, D. Spath, P. Benson, S. Hartt, M. Holden, W. Pettit, J. Russom, G. Scala

Absent: C. Gordon, M. Lundberg

Opening Prayer Led by Mtr. Christina.

1. Approval of the Vestry Meeting Minutes, September 10th, 2024

The vestry minutes from the September 10th, 2024 meeting were approved on a motion by D. Spath, seconded by J. Russom, then unanimously approved by the vestry.

2. Rector Report – Mtr. Christina

Pastoral updates:

1. Led our first Teen Breakfast Club on Sunday, Oct. 6. Topic was a Christian response to fear/anxiety in an age of school shootings. Good turnout for our first meeting.
2. Did one home visit.
3. Did one home pet blessing (scheduling two more).
4. Officiated at the Blessing of the Animals service on Oct. 4 and helped at the preceding hot dog roast (took in \$275 for PAWS). Big thanks to all who volunteered!! We had a little over 20 people attend the service, including three visitors, and we blessed 10 pets.
5. Led children's chapel on Sunday, Sept. 29.
6. Worked on creating a promotions checklist for future welcoming events.
7. Awarded ice cream cards to two adults and three children for September's verses for the ABCs Bible Memory Challenge.
8. Excited to see how we do with October's verses.
Participated in our first Rock and Root Hikers outing on Sept. 15 at Pine Bush. Nine of us enjoyed a hike. October's hike will be at Thatcher Park.
9. Participated in a planning meeting for the Capital City Rescue Mission Overnight Winter shelter at St. Peter's.
10. Did some work in the yard at the Rectory to prepare for the wonderful Parish Picnic that we enjoyed on Sept. 22.
11. Coordinated with Jeff for the purchase of a grill for our church garden to be used for the upcoming Hot Dog Roast and other welcoming events. Thanks to Jeff and to the Van Benthuyzen Trust for donating \$2,000 to this project.
12. Met with a representative of the St. Andrew's Society of Albany to plan a religious service of remembrance to be held on Saturday, Nov. 2 in honor of Col. George Monro, the unsung hero of Fr. William Henry who was buried at our church in 1757.
13. Did some crypt research – more from senior warden.
14. Making progress on our web redesign.
15. Continuing to pursue possible hires for a new security guy for Sunday morning.
16. Preached at my husband's institution as rector of St. Christopher's Church, Cobleskill, on Sept. 18.

Big Picture and Mission/Vision work:

1. Work on Friendship Sunday and All-Parish Breakfast (Mark, Deb, Maria, Jeff and Sam signed up)

SAVE THE DATE:

Mari Bennett funeral – Nov. 2 at 10:30 am

Col. Monro memorial – Nov. 2 at 6 pm

All Saints' Sunday and First Communion – Nov. 3 at 10:30 am

John Cerniglia requiem/burial – Nov. 3 at 3 pm

Friendship Sunday and All-Parish Breakfast – Nov. 24

Submitted by The Rev. Christina Hunter

3. Sr. Warden's Report –J. Chenot

Last month, September 8th, we officially started our church season off this year. We started off with our Sunday School Registration which included our young parishioner baking prayer pretzels for all of us to enjoy after the 10:30 service. I regularly visit our Sunday School and nursery having a few grandchildren involved each week and it is extremely heartwarming to see so many small children and young adults enrolled in our Sunday School this season. We pray and thank our Sunday School leader Laura Saffaris, for all her leadership in this important ministry teaching our young parishioners our Christian faith and love that we all hold dear to us. Thank you also to those who help work and/or volunteer their time in our nursery, taking care of the young infants.

Two weeks following on September 22nd, after the 10:30 service, we enjoyed everyone coming together to the church rectory for our annual church picnic. Many hands are needed to host this annual event. Thank you to all those who contributed and attended the picnic, especially Pat Shortall, Wayne, Deb Spath and Jeff Russom who set up things beforehand with the tables, grills, and beverages. Also, many thanks to our cooks on the grill, Sam Hartt and Jeff Russom, the chicken was cooked to perfection. The picnic has always been a great time for all of us to enjoy great food and enjoy each other's company.

Our First communion, confirmation and Bible study classes are in full swing, preparing some to receive Holy Communion on All Saints' Day. I want to thank Mother Christina for all the work and preparation putting into these programs in place as well as many new activities that have been added to our calendar. Please take the time to check our monthly newsletter which has all the dates and times needed for all the upcoming events. Also, each week a constant contact goes out via Facebook, now known as The Apostle Weekly. This information is material regarding the upcoming Sunday Service events as well as current events during the week. Please take time to visit our Facebook page and share our upcoming events.

Daniel Romero, our organist and choir director, has been with us for a full church calendar year. The choir rehearses weekly, working on the traditional music pieces we all know well, as well as newer pieces of music Daniel has introduced to us. Daniel has also been working on recruiting new members to our choir. We have an incredible music program here at St. Peter's and pray we will be able to build the choir up by everyone getting the word out regarding recruiting new choir members. The choir has already begun rehearsing for the Advent season, as well as preparing for a memorial service for John Cerniglia on Sunday, November 3rd at 3:00. The choir will sing the Requiem, by Gabriel Faure' for the service. Daniel also has been working with Malcom Moran, our organist intern during the week. Malcom has been playing the organ at the 8:30 services, as well as helping during the 10:30 services.

The third quarter statements will be sent out to our parishioners by the end of this week. The finance committee will begin working on next year's budget so the vestry can review it at the next vestry meeting. Stewardship and your pledge are an important part of the discussion at our vestry meeting during this time of year. We will continue to get the message out to the congregation of the importance of pledging and stewardship. We are truly fortunate to have an endowment that generates enough income to cover any shortfalls we may encounter, and the good news is that we have not had to invade our principal amount, due partly to the solid investments we have in place with Merrill and Key. Your support to St. Peter's financially is so important to our Vestry and finance committee for planning the budget for next year. Thank you to those who have been faithfully pledging every year and those who are not able to contribute, but able to contribute their time and talent in one or many ministries and functions we have here.

November is still a few weeks away, but there are a few events that will be taking place to take note of. First off, November 1st, we will again begin hosting the overflow homeless shelter again this year in our parish hall. We will be scheduling two orientations for members interested in volunteering their time in the evening, going over protocol, greeting the gentlemen as they come in, getting them settled for the evening with a light snack and conversation. The congregation has been very generous in the past supporting this ministry with food and momentary donations and we hope that this generosity will continue again this year for those who are in need for a safe and warm place at night during the upcoming winter nights. Also to mention, we have already begun planning for our pre-Thanksgiving dinner which will be held in early November.

Finally, I want to thank Mtr. Christina, the Vestry, the Choir, Ruth Manss and Janice Chenot for their work and support during this remarkably busy upcoming schedule. There are many events comings that lead us from musical performances to special services and dinners. All these events lead up to and prepare us for our upcoming busy Advent season. We hope that many will take advantage of all these events and please know we are always looking for volunteers for many of these events.

Finally, thank you to those who are on committees that dedicate so much of their time and talents behind the scenes each week as well as those in the office, your hard work does not go unnoticed. I want to thank each one of you for all your help and support.

Jim

4. Sunday Attendance – The Average Sunday Attendance is 84.8 (As of November 15th)

5. Finance – Treasurer’s Report Highlights/Summary – Sep 2024

	SEP	YEAR-TO-DATE
OFFERINGS	\$15,619	\$175,377
EXPENSES	(\$47,715)	(\$424,495)
GAIN/(LOSS)	(\$32,096)	(\$249,118)
WITHDRAWALS FROM ENDOWMENT TO FUND SHORTFALL	\$9,915	\$212,508

Endowment Return (Merrill Lynch)
September: +1.53%
Index Calculated Return: +1.19%

Updated 2024 Pledges:
32 for a total of \$123,937
YTD Offerings through Sep '24 are \$15,335 higher than '23

6. Property – None

7. Outreach –

Again this year, the Outreach Committee will be putting together Thanksgiving bags for the South End Children’s Cafe which will include all items needed for a Thanksgiving Dinner.

We are collecting gently used coats for the Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen. Any donations can be brought to church and put in the green barrels.

The Albany City Mission Overflow Shelter will begin in the Guild House on November 1st.

8. Old Business –

The Vestry continues to work on appointing two new members to fill the vacant seats.

Mtr. Christina continues to work on our website redesign.

9. New Business – None

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by S. Hartt and seconded by G. Scala, 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 ScalaTreasurer

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

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

