



Cornerstone

November 2024

Newsletter of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church

107 State Street, Albany, New York

Beloved of God,

We're moving toward a special day this month. On November 24, we'll be observing a Celebration of Friendship Sunday and All-Parish Breakfast. And, you have the most important role in preparing for this day. You're in charge of the guest list.

Is there anyone in your life: a close friend, a relative or a neighbor who you'd like to invite to church for a delicious breakfast and a beautiful time of worship that reflects on friendship with God and others? (A special blessing on friendships will be a part of the services that day).

Our plan is to have a Sunday especially focused on welcoming visitors to St. Peter's. If you've considered inviting a friend who is looking for a church or someone who is un-churched, this is one of the best Sundays to do it. We'll be doing everything possible to make your guest feel welcomed, including the All-Parish Breakfast at 9:30 that will provide delicious food for everyone who comes between our 8:30 and 10:30 am services. We'll also still have coffee hour after the 10:30 service for those who want to come later.

November — if you think about it — is a month that celebrates many different kinds of friendship. It begins with All Saints' Day (Nov. 1), a special reflection on the great stories of heroes of our faith. The next day is All Souls' Day, which sometimes gets combined with All Saints. It's a day to remember the faithful saints in our own lives who have passed into larger life.

But November is bookended with Thanksgiving and Christ the King. At Thanksgiving, many of us gather with either family or friends (or both) to share a festive meal and to give thanks to God for his faithfulness. And that leads us to Christ the King, the end of the church year and an acknowledgment that Jesus — our King and our friend — sits in glory on his throne, and his reign has begun.

Part of being a Christian is being a friend. We find friendship with God, and that friendship extends to others in the family of faith. I know that many of you enjoy decades-long friendships here at St. Peter's that have shaped, upheld, and enriched your lives. We want to invite others into that love — to welcome them into friendship with us and with Jesus, who is the love who holds us all together.

This past week, we heard this reading from Sirach in the Daily Office:

- 14 Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter:
whoever finds one has found a treasure.
- 15 Faithful friends are beyond price;
no amount can balance their worth.
- 16 Faithful friends are life-saving medicine;
and those who fear the Lord will find them.
- 17 Those who fear the Lord direct their friendship aright,
for as they are, so are their neighbors also.

So many people in our city are hungry for this kind of friendship. Loneliness is rampant in our culture, despite how pervasive technology is in connecting us in perfunctory ways. Although they experience relentless connectedness, people long for friendships that have honesty, generosity, steadfastness, and love. We'll be reflecting on each of themes during Sunday sermons this November as we consider what friendship is supposed to look like in the family of faith and what it means to us.

I'd ask you to begin now to prayerfully consider who you will invite to our Celebration of Friendship Sunday. Remember that your invitation won't only satisfy your friend's hunger with a good breakfast. It could potentially satisfy a much deeper hunger that only God can fill.

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus,

Mtr. Christina+



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 begins Monday, November 4th to augment the ministry of the Capital City Rescue Mission to Albany's homeless. 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, tea, sugar, popcorn and snacks, peanut butter, bread, 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.



St. Peter's News

All Saints' Day Service: On Friday, November 1st at 12:05pm, there will be an All Saints' Day celebration of the Holy Eucharist to commemorate all the saints of the church. The Holy Communion service will be held at the St. Mark's Chapel. All are welcome to attend.

Memorial Service Scheduled for Col. George Munro on 267th anniversary of his death

At 6 pm on Saturday, Nov. 2, there will be a memorial service at St. Peter's Church honoring Col. George Munro, the unsung hero of Ft. William Henry who died in 1757 in Albany. Col. Munro is interred at St. Peter's alongside Lord Howe. The service is the capstone of a day of learning titled "The Siege of Fort William Henry, 1757: Friends, Foes and Danger in the Wilderness." The event begins at 2 pm at the Albany Institute of History and Art. For more information, visit the museum website at www.albanyinstitute.org.

Teen Breakfast Club "Horror and Holiness"

The Teen Breakfast Club will meet on Sunday, Nov. 3, to discuss "Horror and Holiness -- Halloween and All Saints' Day". The club meets the first Sunday of each month from 9:30 to 10:10 am in Mtr. Christina's office for food, a spiritual discussion, and prayer. All teens are welcome to attend.

Vestry Meeting

The November Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 19th at 5:15pm.

Walking with Peter in November

Our Adult Education course, Walking with Peter, will meet both Sunday, Nov. 10 and Nov. 24 at 12 pm for about 45 minutes. This month, we'll be reflecting on the stories of Peter depicted in two windows at our church. The Transfiguration window on the west side of the church will figure into the Nov. 10 discussion, and Peter's Charge will be the topic of discussion on Nov. 24. Using these symbols and images as points of reference, we'll explore how Peter's story intersects with our own stories of faith.

Take a Hike!

On Sunday, Nov. 17, the Rock and Root Hikers will explore a moderate trail at the Fox Preserve, described on the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy website as a "rolling, 2-mile walk in the woods along Shaker Creek." We'll meet at the Latham-area park at 1:30 pm. Contact Mtr. Christina at (518) 423-4891 with questions.



Daylight Savings Ends

We "fall back" on Sunday, November 3rd so don't forget to set your clocks back 1 hour Saturday night before you go to bed.

Blessing Bags: The Julia Chapter of the Daughters of the King will be organizing Blessing Bags immediately following the 10:30am service on Sunday, November 24th in the Meeting Room on the second floor of the Guild House. All are welcome to join us with the preparation of 25 Blessing Bags. In previous years, those in attendance had an enjoyable time volunteering alongside the DOK members. There is a quote which is perfect for our mission, "Many Hands Make Light Work!"

The Apostle Weekly!

This weekly email goes out each Thursday and contains the latest church news. If you'd like to sign up for *The Apostle Weekly*, email Ruth Manss at: reception-ist@stpeterschurchalbany.org. You can also submit items to be included in *The Apostle Weekly* – the deadline for each issue is 12 noon on Wednesdays.

CHURCH COMMUNICATION

If you haven't already, please update your contact information, so we know how best to communicate with you. And if you already have, we thank you!

ALL SAINTS' WEEKEND

- November 1st - Holy Communion Service at 12:05pm
- November 2nd - Memorial service for Mari Bennett at 10:30am
 - Remembrance service for Col. Munro at 6:00pm
- November 3rd - Holy Communion service at 8:30am
 - Holy Communion service at 10:30am
 - Funeral service for John Cerniglia at 3:00pm with a reception to follow

Thanksgiving



Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Peter's

Saturday, November 16th

Beginning at 5:00pm

Dinner Served at 5:30pm



Please join us for our Annual Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner as we celebrate the holiday together. St. Peter's will again supply the turkeys and we are looking for volunteers who are interested in cooking a turkey and bringing it already sliced to the dinner. For those who cannot help with the turkeys we ask you to please sign-up to bring one of the other many Thanksgiving side dishes or desserts. There are two sign-up sheets located in the Pumpelly Room: one sheet is to let us know what side dish or dessert you will be bringing and the other sheet is to let us know how many of you are coming. You may also call Janice Chenot at (518)786-1070 to be added to the list. We ask you to please bring a donated food item (canned goods, rice, cereal, etc.) to be included in our traditional Thanksgiving Altar display. These items will then be donated to our local food pantries for distribution. For more information or to help with the dinner (cooking or clean-up), please contact Janice Chenot at (518)786-1070 or jechenot@hotmail.com.

Thanksgiving Altar Donations



Again this year for Thanksgiving, we will decorate the Altars with a bounteous display of food – cans, boxes, jars or packages (No fresh foods that can spoil, please). These food donations will be distributed to the following destinations: The South End Children's Café Cabinets, Albany Mission Overflow Shelter (here at St. Peter's church) and Riverview Missionary Baptist Church. We are asking for contributions from the whole parish family so that our altars may truly reflect our dedication to community outreach. Your food donations may be brought to: the Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner on Saturday, November 16th, the Church on Sunday morning or Monday - Friday between 12:00pm - 2:00pm when the Church is open. There will be an area in the back of the Church for the food donations. If you need to make different arrangements for drop off, please call Ruth in the office at 518-434-3502 ext.2. All donations must be received **before** Saturday morning, **November 23rd**, when the Flower Guild will be decorating the altars with the donated food. The Thanksgiving altars are given in memory of Jan D'Agostino, beloved leader of the St. Peter's Flower Guild, whose idea for this decoration has become a fine tradition.

Thanksgiving Eve Service - On Thanksgiving Eve Wednesday, November 27th there will be a Noonday Prayer service at 12:05PM



Youth Formation & Sunday School

ABCs Bible Memory Challenge -

The Sunday School children continue to share the ABC's Bible Memory Challenge! Mother Christina brings the children up to the front of the church to challenge and teach the children a new Bible verse each week. Come and join the fun.

NOVEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENTS!!

November 17: Making pumpkin baked goods during Sunday School. We are changing it up this year. Please make sure the children are in old clothes so they can enjoy this baking experience. The baked goods will be blessed by Mother Christina on **November 24th**. Please come and take some home to share with your family on Thanksgiving day.

November 24: Making Advent Wreaths during Sunday School.

December 1: Advent Wreaths and candles available in Pumpelly room.

****** Please keep an eye out for information in the bulletin and December newsletter for upcoming news, and how to help the families of our community during the Christmas Season.

Outreach

St. Francis Mission Saturday, November 9th and November 16th~ 11am to 1pm

On the 2nd & 3rd Saturday of every month St. Peter's Church is committed to preparing and serving lunch to the people at the St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen, located at 498 Clinton Avenue in Albany. This ministry has hit another record of serving 471 meals on the 3rd Saturday in October. If you or a friend want to volunteer for this great community service, Laura is there the second, third and many times the fourth Saturday of the month from 9am -1pm. This is also a great opportunity for your teen to earn some community service hours. Anyone interested, please contact Laura for more information, or to let her know you are coming (518) 368-4284. Thank you all for always supporting this ministry.

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 the St. Francis Mission. 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. 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: The outdoor food cabinets are now open! We are looking for canned or dried goods to put in cabinets to supplement the food supplies of many families with children. The list is at the front of the church, on the box for your donation.



November 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p><i>Give Thanks to the Lord, for He is good. Psalm 107:1</i></p> 			
<p>3 Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost All Saints' Sunday</p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 9:30am - Teen Breakfast Club 10:30am - Holy Communion w/First Communion 3:00pm - John Cerniglia's Funeral Service</p>	4	<p>5</p> <p>4:00 - 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal</p>	<p>6</p> <p>12:05pm - Holy Communion</p>
<p>10 Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer 12:00pm - Walking with Peter</p>	<p>11 Veteran's Day (observed)</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>12</p> <p>4:00 - 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal</p>	<p>13</p> <p>12:05pm - Holy Communion</p>
<p>17 Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion Baking Pumpkin Bread 1:30pm - Hike at Fox Preserve</p>	18	<p>19</p> <p>4:00 - 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:15pm - Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>20</p> <p>12:05pm - Holy Communion</p>
<p>24 Celebration of Friendship Sunday (Christ the King Sunday)</p> <p>8:30am - Holy Communion 9:30am - Friendship Breakfast 10:30am - Morning Prayer Blessing of the Pumpkin Bread 12:00pm - Walking with Peter</p>	25	<p>26</p> <p>4:00 - 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal</p>	<p>27</p> <p>12:05pm - Holy Communion Thanksgiving Service</p>



Count Your Blessings



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 All Saints' Day 12:05pm - Holy Communion	2  10:30am - Mari Bennett Memorial service 6:00pm - Col. Munro Memorial Service
Holy Communion	7 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	8	9 11:00am - Angels in Training
Monday Prayer	14 5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir	15	16 11:00am - Angels in Training 5:00pm - Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner
Monday Prayer	21	22	23 9:30am - Harvest Altar Decorating
Monday Eve Service	28 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed 	29 Office Closed	30 St. Andrew the Apostle

St. Peter's Choir

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.

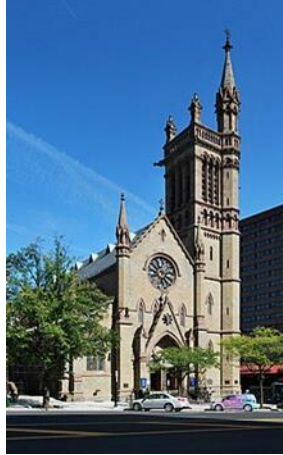
Festival of Lessons and Carols

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. Please join us for this festive day.



From the Archives

Welcome to St Peter's Church



St. Peter's Church is a historic edifice. It was the first house of worship of the Anglican Communion north of New York City and west of the Hudson River. Its beginnings are rooted in the history of the English settlement of the territory, with the first services held in 1712 and the first edifice opened for worship on November 25, 1715. The second edifice was designed by Richard Hooker and was built in 1803, and the third and present edifice, was opened in 1859. It was designed by Richard Upjohn and was designated by Congress as a National Historic Landmark in 1980.

The church contains duplicates of the original Queen Anne silver, a gift given to the early church by British Governor Hunter, (the original silver is stored in a safe location). The church also contains the burial vault of British Lieutenant General Viscount Lord Howe, as well as the vault of Colonel Munro. The flags above the church nave are those of the colonies that were represented at the early meeting, the Albany Congress in 1754.

Episcopal worship is focused on the Bible, including the Old Testament, the Psalms, and the New Testament. These readings are listed at the Lectionary at the back of the Prayer book, ensuring that much of the Bible and the Psalms are read in years A, B and C. The liturgical colors follow the church year, with white signifying Christmas, Easter, marriages and funerals; purple for Advent and Lent; red for Pentecost and ordinations; and green for ordinary times after Epiphany and Pentecost. On Good Friday, as we remember the crucifixion of Christ, the altar is stripped and crosses are covered in black cloth.

Worshippers traditionally kneel for prayer and for receiving Holy Communion. Worshippers stand to sing hymns, to sing the chants and to recite the Apostles Creed. We stand when the alms are brought to the Altar. We sit for instruction, including the sermon and for music by the choir or organ. To show our devotion, we may bow to the cross or make the sign of the cross before or after the service.

Respectfully Submitted, Connie Powell, Archivist

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

September 10th, 2024

Present: Mtr. Christina, J. Chenot, D. Spath, C. Gordon, S. Hartt, M. Holden, M. Lundberg, W. Pettit, J. Russom, G. Scala

Absent: P. Benson

Opening Prayer Led by Mtr. Christina.

Approval of the Vestry Meeting Minutes, August 13th, 2024

The vestry minutes from the August 13th, 2024 meeting were approved on a motion by D. Spath, seconded by M. Lundberg, then unanimously approved by the vestry.

Rector Report – Mtr. Christina

Pastoral updates:

- 1 Did planning/scheduling for Christian education/outreach programs that kicked off this month.
- 2 Officiated a burial service for Margaret Dickson (a parishioner's aunt) at a funeral home on Aug. 26.
- 3 Concluded leading Noonday Prayer in the Garden that met most Wednesdays in the summer.
- 4 Participated in the first "Walk with Peter" class that began on Sept. 8 – an adult education course that I'll co-teach with John Davis throughout the academic year.
- 5 Began our ABCs Bible Memory Challenge program for kids (and adults!) on Sept. 8.
- 6 Resumed the fall Wednesday worship schedule in the church with a celebration of Holy Communion on Sept. 4.
- 7 Led the Vestry retreat at Christ the King Center on Sept. 7.
- 8 Ongoing work with music department for chorister recruitment efforts and for organizing a "Come and Sing Evensong" event for a weekend in October or November.
- 9 Organizing St. Francis Day Animal Blessing and Hot Dog Roast Benefit for Oct. 4, with half of proceeds going to benefit the PAWS program of the Damien Center.
- 10 Continuing work on Narthex Revamp and updating some of our promotional materials for that area.
- 11 Continuing work on our web redesign.
- 12 Will be adjusting my office hours this fall to allow me to assist in homeschooling my daughter this year. I'll be teaching her on Thursday mornings, but we'll probably be in the church office most Thursdays so that I can get some office work done while I assist her with her schoolwork. I'm also moving my weekday off for the rest of 2024 from Monday to Tuesday (I promise to still come to Vestry meetings).
- 13 Took a second week of summer vacation in mid-August.
- 14 Resumed monthly meetings with my spiritual director.
- 15 Am taking "Spiritual Direction as Christian Vocation" as my continuing education this academic year, a class meeting monthly at Christ the King Center from August through May.

Big Picture and Mission/Vision work:

- 1 See handout that outlines Mission Initiatives

SAVE THE DATE:

Parish Picnic – September 22

St. Francis Animal Blessing and Hot Dog Roast Benefit – Oct. 4

Friendship Sunday and All-Parish Breakfast – Nov. 24

Sr. Warden's Report –J. Chenot

It is a great feeling when starting my Senior Warden report with a great sense of optimism and excitement. We just started off our church calendar beginning this past Sunday, September 8th. We started the season off with our choir reassembling from summer break, including the Sunday school beginning their season with our Sunday school leader Laura Safaris. Our young children in our Sunday school also prepared and baked prayer pretzels for all of us to enjoy. During the summer months, many shopped for backpacks and school supplies that were donated to the Children Café and the St. Francis Mission in Albany. We are extremely blessed to have such a caring congregation able to help these organizations in the downtown area with their needs. Thank you again Laura, for coordinating all these outreach programs where so many benefit in our local community.

Our vestry met in August and had a retreat at the Spiritual Life Center this past Saturday. These meetings continue to produce many new ideas and programs that could possibly be implemented moving forward soon. We pray this work will help us continue to build on our momentum moving forward. With that said, Mother Christina has been working on a master calendar for some time now. The master calendar of events lists all our major events scheduled out to the end of next year - yes 2025. This list includes many of the traditional events i.e. our Pre-Thanksgiving dinner, the Messiah, and many other special events and services added in as well. This snapshot of the next 16 months gives us a pretty good idea of what we will be up to, but it is a great sign of growth and commitment from Mother Christina and others in the congregation as we move forward growing our church family. Thank you so much for all your effort and commitment put forth in scheduling this very busy schedule.

Looking forward to our next event coming up, our annual church picnic on Sunday, September 22nd, at the Church Rectory, following the 10:30 morning service. This is a great time for all of us to come together to enjoy great food, drink and friendship.

Hope to see you there,

Jim

Sunday Attendance – The Average Sunday Attendance is 83.9 (as of October 4, 2024).

Finance – G. Scala - Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report Highlights/Summary – Aug 2024

	AUG	YEAR-TO-DATE
OFFERINGS	\$34,254	\$159,758
EXPENSES	(\$43,173)	(\$376,780)
GAIN/(LOSS)	(\$8,919)	(\$217,022)
WITHDRAWALS FROM ENDOW- MENT TO FUND SHORTFALL	\$8,687	\$202,593

Endowment Return (Merrill Lynch)

August: +1.96%

Index Calculated Return: +1.36%

Updated 2024 Pledges:

32 for a total of \$123,937YTD Offerings through Aug '24 are \$7,892 higher than '23

Property –

A parishioner has purchased and donated a grill to be used and kept in the garden between the Church and the Guild house. We look forward to using it for the first time for our Hot Dog Roast and Pet Blessing on October 4th.

At the rectory, some landscaping and electric work has been completed. Also, the Dishwasher and stove are being replaced.

The sprinkler system has been inspected. The furnace in the church will also be checked to make sure it is in working order for the upcoming colder months.

Outreach –

We had a great turn out for the Damien Center Labor Day Barbecue. Thank you to all those who volunteered their time to help.

Old Business –

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

In an effort to continue our budget reduction efforts, the vestry voted to eliminate 2 of our 4 spots that we currently rent on a yearly basis across the street. This vote was made on a motion by M. Lundberg, seconded by J. Russom, then unanimously approved by the vestry.

New Business –

There was a conflict with the updated date for the November meeting. The Vestry has voted to change the November meeting to Tuesday November 19th.

Moses Kamyia attended the meeting and presented to the vestry about the US-Uganda Orphans Education Fund. St. Peter's outreach has been sponsoring yearly scholarships to this organization for many years.

The vestry voted to increase the Assistant Organist stipend due to the increased responsibilities M. Moran has taken on. This vote was approved on a motion by D. Spath, seconded by W. Pettit, then unanimously approved by the vestry.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by C. Gordon and seconded by M. Lundberg, 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

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

