



# Cornerstone

## Summer 2024

Newsletter of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church

107 State Street, Albany, New York

Beloved of God,

Want to play a game?

Since last fall, our parish Family Disciple groups have been meeting each month. Our last session was June 23, and we had so much fun, we wanted to invite you to play a bonus round.

Below you'll find a list of clues (just a sampling) of the Great St. Peter's Treasure Hunt, which was skillfully assembled by our parishioner, Katie Brillat. Although there won't be candy and prizes when you play, hunting for some of these clues around our lovely church is a prize in itself.

(I should also mention that Family Disciple was a delightful experiment in growing in Christ. Each month, we met together to either learn about God, serve others, or play together. Our meetups included age-appropriate Bible teaching, a fall hot dog roast, joining the CROP Walk, serving at Loaves & Fishes, taking a winter hike at Five Rivers, throwing a Valentine's Party for the Damien Center, and strawberry picking. Our theme for 2023-2024 was based on Micah 6:8.)

That said, on to the game! Happy Hunting!

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus,

Mtr. Christina+

## The Great St. Peter's Treasure Hunt (a sampling of clues):

### Windows

In the Lancet Windows (over the main altar), you will find various scenes from the life of St. Peter. Fill in the blank:  
“\_\_\_\_\_ me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

In the Corning Windows over the St. Mark's Chapel (smaller altar to the right) are several windows showing acts of mercy: feeding the hungry, giving water to the thirsty, clothing people, welcoming a stranger, visiting the sick, and burying the dead.

How many acts of mercy are shown? \_\_\_\_\_

The Owens Window, in the back of the church, depicts Jesus' baptism. Fill in the blank, “This is my beloved son, in whom I am well \_\_\_\_\_.”

David (of David and Goliath fame) was just a teen when he fought the giant with his slingshot and a stone. Where is the window depicting David's conquest?

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## Floor

What symbol is located between pews 102/103 and 62/63?

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What nautical symbol is between pews 96/97 and 68/69?

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What special set of rules did God give to Moses? Can you find where on the floor these are?

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What mode of transportation is seen by the communion rail in the side chapel?

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## Miscellaneous

Can you find three bench cushions that depict the three St. Peter's churches throughout our history? On what date was each church built?

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Who is pew Number 56 reserved for?

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When St. Peter made his profession of faith, Jesus told him, "I will give you the keys to heaven." Find an image of keys somewhere in the church (they are depicted in multiple places). Where did you find them?

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## St. Peter's Family Disciple Group Treasure Hunt



# Happenings



## Vestry

There will be no vestry meeting in the month of July. The next vestry meeting will be August 13th.

## Summer Wednesdays in the Garden

Our normally scheduled Wednesday worship will move outside for the summer months into the garden between the Church and Guild House. The gates 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 began on June 12th and will continue through Wednesday, August 28th, with the exception of July 10th.

## Child Care/Sunday School

Child care and summer Sunday School will continue all summer. Please bring the children upstairs to the air conditioned rooms for a short lesson and a snack.



## Coffee Hour

Thanks to all our volunteers that have provided us all with great treats and outstanding hospitality. However, it's time to provide a summer break for all. Coffee hour will resume in September. Enjoy your summer!

### AWARDS

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL, CHOIR, AND VESTRY RECOGNITIONS

Sunday School, Choir, and Vestry Recognitions were given out on Sunday, June 16th. All of the Sunday School Children received a pin and the Sunday School Teachers and Nursery Caregivers were thanked and recognized for their service and dedication to the youth of St. Peter's: Laura Saffares, Ariana Saffares, Sharon Vardabash, Kelly Welch and Ava Cehowski, who helped out all year with her three baby cousins.

Although no choir medals were given out this year, all members of the choir were thanked for their service and dedication and the following members were recognized for milestone years of service: Ruth Bridgham for 15 years, Tim Murphy for 15 years, Kathy Keenan for 25 years, Patrice Malatestinic for 40 years, Janice Chenot for 50 years and Jim Chenot for 55 years.

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

Sharon DeBonis was recognized for her service and dedication on the Vestry and was presented with a framed picture of St. Peter's Church.

**CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU TO  
ALL!**

## The Summer Choir

Come join the Summer Choir at St. Peter's, July through September 3. Everyone ages 8-88+ is welcome. Just come to the choir room for rehearsal at 9:45 a.m. to prepare an easy anthem, service music and hymns for the 10:30 a.m. service. No experience is necessary and there are no mid-week rehearsals. Just sing on the Sundays that are convenient for you. It's rewarding, fun, and an opportunity for the whole family to sing together. If you can sing in the shower, you can sing in **the Summer Choir**. Contact Daniel Romero at: [ddorganman@gmail.com](mailto:ddorganman@gmail.com)





Thank you teachers



Children's Chapel

## Outreach

### South End Children's Café

**Thanks** to all who have been leaving canned food and non perishable items in the back of the church for me to fill the cabinets for our downtown community. I will be keeping the box in the church year round.

Thank you, Laura



Laura presenting awards ~ June 16th

## Outreach

### St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen - Saturdays, July 13th & 20th ~ August 10th & 17th 11:00am to 1:00pm

On the 2nd & 3rd Saturday of every month, Laura Saffares our Director of Christian Education and Chairperson of Outreach, along with other volunteers, get together to help serve the families of our community. You are welcome to come and witness this amazing outreach program anytime you can, we are there from 9am-1pm, For more information or if you would like to volunteer, even for just a couple of hours, please contact Laura at (518)368-4284.

### Damien Center ~ Memorial Day BBQ



### **Thank You Volunteers!**

Laura, Sharon, Cathy, Debby, Diana, Maria, Jeff  
and Martha

# St. Peter's Summer Music Adventure for Kids



Lunch Provided!

**July 8-12, 2024**  
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Sunday, July 14**  
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon



Participants will:  
Learn about singing  
Sing in a choir  
Play handbells and chimes  
Play fun games  
Make new friends  
Sing and play music at a church service



Registration fee: \$75  
Scholarships Available  
Lunch Included

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


St. Peter's Episcopal Church • 107 State Street • Albany, NY, 12207



# July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 12:00 - Noonday Prayer in the Garden	4 Independence Day Office Closed 	5	6
7 The Seven Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion	8 9:00am - 1:00pm Kids Music Adventure	9 9:00am - 1:00pm Kids Music Adventure	10 9:00am - 1:00pm Kids Music Adventure 12:00 - NO Noonday Prayer Today	11 9:00am - 1:00pm Kids Music Adventure	12 9:00am - 1:00pm Kids Music Adventure	13 11:00am - Angels in Training
14 The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer w/ Kids Music Performance	15	16	17 12:00 - Noonday Prayer in the Garden	18	19	20 11:00am - Angels in Training
21 The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion	22 St. Mary Magdalene	23	24 12:00 - Noonday Prayer in the Garden	25 St. James, Apostle	26	27
28 The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer	29	30	31 12:00 - Noonday Prayer in the Garden			

# August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 <b>The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost</b> 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion	5	6 The Transfiguration of our Lord	7 12:00 - Noonday Prayer in the Garden	8	9	10 11:00am - Angels in Training
11 <b>The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer	12	13 5:15pm - Vestry Meeting	14 12:00 - Noonday Prayer in the Garden	15 St. Mary the Virgin Mother	16	17 11:00am - Angels in Training
18 <b>The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion	19	20	21 12:00 - Noonday Prayer in the Garden	22	23	24 <b>St. Bartholomew</b>
25 <b>The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer	26	27	28 12:00 - Noonday Prayer in the Garden	29	30	31

## From the Archives

### Saint Mark's Church of Green Island



Saint Mark's Church of Green Island was closed to consolidate village churches. It was sold to the Village of Green Island in 1979. But this left the 115 year old white marble altar to be used for public hearings. Because parishioners did not want that to happen, they requested Trinity Church of Lansingburgh, St. Mark's mother church, to dispose of the altar. Trinity Church offered the altar free to any church who wanted it with an additional gift of \$1,000 for moving it.

Since St. Mark's Church had been designed by Emylan Lyttel, junior architect to Richard Upjohn, the designer of St. Peter's Church, both churches had the same architectural design and style. It was felt that St. Mark's altar would complement St. Peter's Church.

The altar was moved in 1980 and now sits in the east isle of St. Peter's Church, in an area called St. Mark's Chapel. Both Reverend Bruner of St. Peter's Church and Reverend Donald Gardner of Trinity Church were pleased with the move. The altar was dedicated at St. Peter's Church in June 1980.

During Reverend Bruner's era, Paris Northrup, Dr. Bruner's secretary, conceived the idea of making the mosaic floor symbols on the east side of the church into hanging banners. When the project was complete there were banners mostly depicting each of the various mosaic floor symbols. These included Lions, (symbols of strength); an Anchor, (a symbol of stability); a Ship, (a symbol of the church); a Pelican, (a symbol of redemption); the Phoenix (a symbol of the resurrection); three fishes (indicating baptism); and a pair of stags, (symbols of constancy). On the back wall also is a government emblem, (a symbol of our nation).

This section of the church is devoted to quietness. It is used for a small Communion Service at noon on Wednesdays, for an early service on Sundays, and for daily quiet contemplation. It is an important part of the church.



## BEAVER CROSS YOUTH MINISTRY



Beaver Cross is a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany and our mission is to build community in Christ. Located in Greenwich, NY Beaver Cross Ministries is a year round youth ministry program. Our focus is to be an active youth ministry with retreats and break camps during the school year and summer camp during summer break. Across our ministries, we provide youth and young adults opportunities to explore and deepen their faith through dynamic Biblical teaching, fellowship in a Christian community, and awesome camp activities; new friendships are created and old ones rekindled as Beaver Cross campers laugh and learn together in an environment devoted to faith, friendship and fun! For more information on Sonshine Youth Retreats and Beaver Cross Day/Night Camp please visit:

<https://www.beavercrossministries.org/summer-camp.html>



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

**May 14th, 2024**

**Present:** Mtr. Christina, J. Chenot, D. Spath, C. Gordon, M. Holden, J. Russom, G. Scala

**Absent:** P. Benson, S. DeBonis, S. Hartt, F. Hershey, M. Lundberg, W. Pettit

Opening Prayer Led by Mtr. Christina.

**Approval of the Vestry Meeting Minutes, April 9th, 2024**

The vestry minutes from the April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting were approved on a motion by D. Spath, seconded by P. Benson, then unanimously approved by the vestry.

**Rector's Report – Mtr. Christina**

**Pastoral updates:**

Led two sessions of St. Peter's Prayer School on healing prayer on April 10 and 14.

Led one session of the Prayer School on May 8 on prayer walking.

Concluded premarital preparation sessions with Jordan and Christianna and officiated their wedding on May 11.

Did one hospital visit and two nursing home visits.

Led prayers at the wake for Earl Stafford on April 24 – services will be scheduled at a later date.

Participated in increased singing during Morning Prayer on Sundays in Eastertide.

Worked to get temporary emergency housing for a family in May.

Organized and began Zoom Morning Prayer on May 10 as part of St. Peter's Nine Days of Prayer from Ascension to the Eve of Pentecost.

Celebrated the Eucharist in observance of the Ascension of Christ on May 9.

Have concluded preparatory instruction with our three confirmands, who will be confirmed on May 16 at St. Peter's.

Doing the groundwork to see what would be required for a web redesign.

Working on hiring an "Ambassador" from the City Mission to work the door on Sunday mornings and help with our Safety team

Opened the church during opening ceremonies of the Tulip Festival on May 10 (along with Daniel and Emerson), chatted with visitors, and handed out bottled water.

Visited Siena College on May 2 and had breakfast with one of the friars and one of our parishioners.

Attended a de-escalation training on May 14 put on by Albany Downtown BID and Albany PD.

Represented St. Peter's at the Hearts of Hope women's luncheon that was put on by the Capitol City Rescue Mission on May 3 (East Greenbush Tape and Label is a sponsor and donated the tickets to myself and a few parishioners).

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

See ideas in master calendar.

**SAVE THE DATE:**

Regional Confirmation – May 16, 2024

Diocesan Convention – May 31-June 2

Choir Summer Camp – July 8-12

**Sr. Warden's Report –J. Chenot**

As mentioned in the last report we had started off the month of April with a grand celebration of the installation of Mother Christina, becoming our next rector at St Peter's. Again, what a wonderful day for all. Fortunately, after finishing the Easter season and Mother Christina's installation, we caught a bit of a break from the busy year we have experienced so far.

During the past few months, Mother Christina has been preparing candidates for confirmation and preparing for a wedding that took place this past Saturday. We would again like to thank Mother Christina for all the additional work necessary put forth with additional classes and services over and above her daily duties. It's quite impressive reviewing the past few months what has been accomplished at St. Peter's, many a time including helping the needy and tending the sick. Thank you, Mother Christina, for all you do for all of us.

So, moving ahead, this Thursday evening, May 16th, St Peter's will host the regional confirmation service with Bishop Jeremiah officiating. Following the service we will have a small reception. We hope many will attend the service and celebrate with us the new candidates for confirmation.

The choir has been quite busy keeping up with many of these events which include choral music and would like to thank them for all their hard work this past season. On Father's Day, June 16<sup>th</sup>, the choir will officially end for summer break. Daniel, our choir director, has also been working on putting a few additional musical programs together. Two organ recitals have been scheduled in June, the first on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and the second one on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Daniel has been promoting a Choir Camp at St. Peter's for one week in July. The workshop will be set up for those interested in learning more about singing choral music, reading music, musical instruments, with many workshops in store. All the detailed information regarding all these programs is available in our Cornerstone newsletter

The first weekend next month in June is our annual Diocesan Convention. Thank you to Kaitie Brillat and Sam Haynes, our delegates representing St. Peter's at the convention, along with John Davis as our alternate representative.

As mentioned above, June 16<sup>th</sup>, Father's Day, the Choir and Sunday school will be ending their season, marking their successes and milestones with awards. Following the service, the Sunday school will be hosting their annual ice cream social at coffee hour.

**Sunday Attendance** – The Average Sunday Attendance is **95.4** (as of June 10)

**Finance – G. Scala - Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer's Report Highlights/Summary – April 2024

	APR	YEAR-TO-DATE
OFFERINGS	\$10,168	\$60,392
EXPENSES	(\$48,824)	(\$202,073)
GAIN/(LOSS)	(\$38,656)	(\$141,681)
WITHDRAWALS FROM ENDOW- MENT TO FUND SHORTFALL	\$4,562	\$165,605

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Endowment Return (Merrill Lynch)

April: -3.54%

Index Calculated Return: -4.01%

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Updated 2024 Pledges:

32 for a total of \$123,937

YTD Offerings through April '24 are \$128 higher than '23

**Property** – None

**Outreach** – S. Debonis

St. Peter's continues to be well represented at the St. Francis Mission (Loaves and Fishes) and at the Children's Cafe. We also continue to be well represented at the Albany Damien Center. On May 27, Memorial Day, we will once again host a cookout for the members, friends, and neighbors of the Center. You are all most cordially invited to attend.

The rector is arranging for Moses Kamyia to speak to the vestry on behalf of the girls' school in Uganda that the church has been supporting for many years. The purpose of the presentation is to provide the current generation of vestry members with a history of the relationship and the work of the school.

**Old Business** – None

**New Business** –

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

**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, Christie Gordon, Samuel Hartt, Maria Holden,  
Mark Lundberg, William Pettit, Jeff Russom

## *How to Contact Us*

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## *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

### **Wednesdays**

**Summer in the Garden**

**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**107 State St.**

**Albany, New York 12207**

