

**February 2023**

**Today I am going to change the world. I am going to make it a safer place, a more hopeful place, than when I awoke this morning. By sunset I will have done all I can to bring love to this small corner of the universe that has been entrusted to me. I will be mindful of all I can do to help and heal where I live, praying that others are doing the same where they live. Together, we will change the world.**

The Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston, Native American elder  
Citizen of the Choctaw Nation,  
and retired Episcopal Bishop of Alaska

# St. Peter's News

## A Message from our Rector

Dear St. Peter's

It is hard to believe that Lent is right around the corner. This year, I am struck by the way that February holidays express the full range of human emotions—we celebrate love & devotion on a day that began as a feast day for a martyr who died for his faith; we eat, drink and revel on Shrove Tuesday; and then we remember our death and begin to walk with Jesus toward the cross on Ash Wednesday. There are days of joy, sorrow, a little revelry, somber reflection, and a bit of hope. Sometimes we focus so much on the penitential side of Lent that we forget that this journey is not just one of sorrow but of deep love. Perhaps this year, we can imagine that our forty days are reflective of the love and devotion we often associate with Valentine's Day. If that concept sounds odd, we can think of it this way: the forty days of Lent can become a time for us to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ. Rather than giving up chocolate, we can take up practices that draw us closer to Jesus. These practices can even be things that are suited to our temperaments. Perhaps this means that you will read though a gospel during Lent, or practice Ignation contemplation with stories from the scriptures about Jesus' life and death, or get out and walk with Jesus (listening to devotional material or imagining him walking by your side). There are so many ways to engage in this practice —I would love to hear what you might try. I think about what the last days with Jesus would have been like for the disciples if they had truly grasped what he was trying to tell them and had understood that these were times to cherish. Since we do not know, perhaps we can take the time to grow, in our love and understanding of our God and spiritual brother, Jesus Christ.

May your Lent be holy,

## Members of our Congregation



### Ken Craig

Ken Craig has been working with the St. Peter's Finance committee. Before joining our church, he worked as founder and CEO of Housing Visions, an organization that has been combating poverty and deplorable housing in Syracuse and other cities for years. Ken is quite a remarkable person who was active in the Anti-Racism Association of Cazenovia, and who then started writing a book on anti-poverty matters in Syracuse. Soon he decided not to write a book about it, but to do something about it instead. He is well on his way, and has met with Syracuse and Onondaga County movers and shakers. He is now preparing to take the next steps, and will be engaging more of the community in our area and in Washington D.C.

He really is an extraordinary leader; his Burton Street Housing Project for seniors and families, The Landing at Burke Meadows, will be breaking ground soon and will be an important part of our Cazenovia Community.

## Lent

Even though it seems that the season of Epiphany has barely begun, this year, Lent will begin in February. Ash Wednesday is February 22, 2023.

The dates for the Lenten season are determined by the liturgical observance of Easter Sunday, which is a moving Christian holiday. The date can't be fixed, because Easter always occurs on the first Sunday after the Paschal full moon, which is the first full moon on or after the spring equinox.

Early Christians observed “a season of penitence and fasting” in preparation for the Paschal feast, or Pascha (BCP, pp. 264-265). The season now known as Lent (from an Old English word meaning “spring,” the time of lengthening days) has a long history. Originally, in places where Pascha was celebrated on a Sunday, the Paschal feast followed a fast of up to two days. In the third century this fast was lengthened to six days. Eventually this fast became attached to, or overlapped, another fast of forty days, in imitation of Christ's fasting in the wilderness. The forty-day fast was especially important for converts to the faith who were preparing for baptism, and for those guilty of notorious sins who were being restored to the Christian assembly. In the western church, the forty days of Lent extend from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, omitting Sundays. The last three days of Lent are the sacred Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Today, Lent has reacquired its significance as the final preparation of adult candidates for baptism. Joining with them, all Christians are invited “to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word” (BCP, p. 265).

Lent this year at St. Peter's will be special. We all now gather together again and sing!

We will have a **Shrove Tuesday pancake supper at 6 pm** on February 21.

On **Ash Wednesday** we'll start Lent with a **7 pm service**.

The Rev. Rebecca will lead us in a Lenten Study on Sundays after our church service, beginning on February 26 with a five-week study of A. J. Levine's *Entering the Passion of Jesus*.

In addition, we will have a book study & simple soup supper at 6:30 on Wednesday evenings during Lent. The book we'll be reading in this group is *People on the Way* by Dwight Zscheile.

# Music Ministry

## Report from the Music Gallery

We just celebrated a glorious Christmas season—The Rev. Rebecca’s first Christmas with us—filled with glorious music as we celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ. Christmas services were preceded by the Advent Lessons and Carols Service. We started the New Year with a Sunday Service on January 1st. On January 2nd, Elena Nezhdanova and Roman Placzek, had their piano-cello recital. Our parish hall was filled with music from little children and their families.

Now in Epiphany season, we have special music coming up every Sunday. Our musicians, Meredith, Steve, Amy, Beverly, are offering their talents and performing sacred music for various instruments and ensembles.

February: Piano recital from Ida’s piano studio.

**March 19th:** during the Sunday service we will be telling a Bible Story through a **Liturgical Dance**, choreographed by our own Suzanne Evans.

**March 19th: St. Peter’s Concert Series** with Ghanaian organist and Eastman School’s DMA candidate Augustine Sobeng.

We are slowly preparing for Ash Wednesday on February 22nd and the following Season of Lent.



## Annual Meeting

On Sunday, January 29, we elected our new vestry. The Nomination Committee presented a full slate which was elected without contestation.

Tim McCay was newly elected to the vestry, while Tod Leggat stepped down after his second term as warden, and McEwan van der Mendele was elected for the position.



Our brand-new Vestry:  
Front row, L to R: Betsy Moore, Sandy Petroff, Rev. Rebecca

Back row, L to R: John Limmer, Tim McCay, Bob Conway, Suzanne Evans, Cynthia Maxwell-Curtin (Sr. Warden), McEwan van der Mendele (Jr. Warden)

How wonderful was our hustle and bustle at this year's annual meeting! After a challenging but auspicious year, we are so grateful for the faith, work, and love of our great congregation. Special thanks to the search committee and vestry for inviting Rev. Rebecca to be our rector. **Congratulations to our new vestry!** We are ready for 2023.

## News of St. Peter's and the Greater Community



## The Key Consignment Shop

### News from the Key

On January 21, Caroline left her position as Executive Director of The Key to return to work full time in the fashion industry. Thank you, Caroline for all your hard work!

Some changes are now being made at The Key. A job description for Executive Director is being written and recruitment for the position will begin soon.

Beginning in February, new store hours have been set.

If you have any questions regarding changes at The Key, please talk with Rev. Rebecca.



I've loved every minute of my job as director but it's time for me to head back to my career within the fashion industry!

I want to thank all the supportive customers, consignors and new friends I have met along the way.



Congratulations to both Rzgar and Evan (members of our first New American family to relocate to Cazenovia) for becoming United States citizens!

St. Peter's Church will host the Extending the Table fundraiser scheduled for May 6 with seatings at 5:00 and 6:45. This year the meal will feature wonderful Vietnamese cuisine, cooked by chef Ngoc Huynh. Volunteers from our church, the Presbyterian Church, the school, and CWR will prep the food, set up the tables, be the waiters, and do clean-up, etc.

Tickets are \$50, and will be available at 20 East and J. S. Hight & Sons. Details for making reservations and purchasing tickets will be forthcoming.





CazCares is our local food pantry and clothing closet and is open 3 days a week. In January of 2023, CazCares's food pantry and clothing closet served 231 different households. The pantry provided 545 individuals of the Cazenovia area with food and handed out fresh foods to 115 families to feed 273 individuals during the monthly drive-by pickup (every 2nd Tuesday of the month).

Your regular food donations are greatly needed and very much appreciated! St. Peter's food item for Caz Cares in February is **SOUP**. Please put all your donations in the basket in the parish hall.

CazCares also accepts donations of seasonal clothing, household items, hygiene and cleaning products, and disposable baby diapers.

During Back to School, Thanksgiving, and Christmas times special collections are organized. St. Peter's Church has donated all sort of monthly items to CazCares for years!



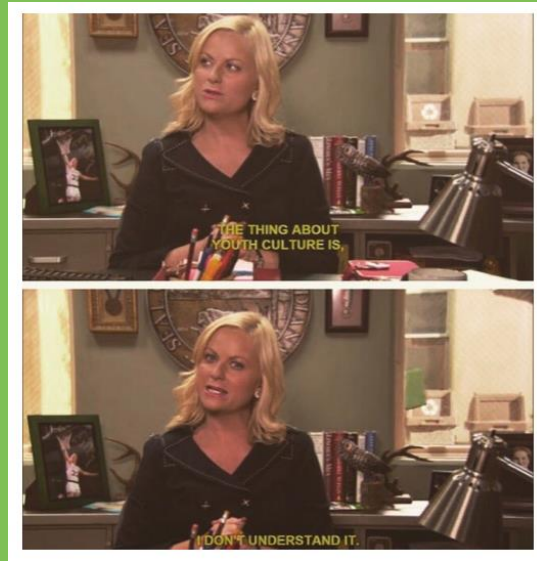


CRIS is now putting together 200 February goody bags, that will be distributed to seniors in Madison County who receive Meals on Wheels or Kinney Drugs medication home deliver, and to patients in the Crouse Community Center in Morrisville. CRIS needs donations of individually wrapped candy, cookies, sweets, notepads, small lotions, flowers, or handmade crafts from little helpers. If you would like to make a donation to these goody bags, please put it in the bin by the CRIS door, in our Parish Hall. Thank you!

In collaboration with Caz Library and St. Peter's, CRIS will be presenting a 6-part lecture series on death and dying. Speakers from various legal, religious, funeral planning and health care support services will share their thoughts. The series will be held monthly at the library and will be free and open to our community. The schedule will be announced soon.



# Diocesan News



We don't understand youth culture. Is this a GIF? A meme?  
Is using it even cool anymore? Was it ever?  
Help us, youths. We're begging you.

## Gen Z Communicator Needed!

You may know that in December, our Diocese will joyfully welcome Presiding Bishop Michael Curry! As we prepare to welcome him and find ways to involve the entire Diocese in his visit, we are looking for one or more members of Gen Z to be part of a dynamic team of communicators to help with the preparations. No specific skills are required beyond a willingness to help and participate. **If you or a young person in your Parish is interested, please email Rachel today! 315-407-4542**

## Calendar

### Events in February

- 5 10:00 am Sunday Service, followed by Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)
- 6 10:00 am Bone Builders (Parish Hall)
- 8 7:00 pm Vestry meeting
- 9 10:00 am Bone Builders (Parish Hall)  
7:00 pm Choir Practice
- 12 10:00 am Sunday Service, followed by Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)



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