

June 2017

# St. John's Eagle

## The Newsletter of St. John's Episcopal Church

### A message from The Rev. Barb Schmitz

By The Rev. Barb Schmitz, Former Interim Rector

"Transition is a ripe time to experience and recognize the work of God in our lives."

We live in a time of unprecedented change and innumerable transitions. Whether work, home, country, church, parish, diocese, or world, we are in transitional times.


A number of years ago, William Bridges wrote a book called "Managing Transitions." But the Rev. Roger Owens cautions us about the word "managing." He writes that thinking about transitions as something we "manage" can give us the false assurance that we are in control of our lives and the transitions in our lives. Rather, writes Owens, "Transition is a ripe time to recognize the work of God in our lives."\*

I can certainly affirm that; especially having moved my household and changed ministries seven times in ten years.

Transition has increased my faith. It has helped me to be more at ease with enjoying the present moment, letting things go, embracing the new, and most importantly, trusting God.

As we move through our last Sunday together on the Day of Pentecost (June 4), through the summer months with guest preachers and celebrants, and occasional Morning Prayer, I invite you to see this transition time as a particularly sweet time, and to pay attention to the work of God in our lives and in our parish of St. John's. As a wise rabbi once said, "Exercise holy curiosity, and open yourself to the unfolding of God's mystery in your lives."

Thank you and may God bless you.

\*Weavings, Volume XXX, Number 2, page 16. 

### Save These Dates!

- June 4: Day of Pentecost. See a special message from the diocese at <https://goo.gl/rreQKL>.
- June 7: Interfaith Worship Service at the First Presbyterian Church, at 6:00 p.m. See <https://goo.gl/gCEsRI>.
- June 17: Feed My Starving Children Bake Sale. See <https://goo.gl/BgCbml>.
- June 18: We begin 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services.
- June 25: Parish Form. Rev. Canon Carrie Schofield-Broadbent will be celebrant. See the "Discernment and Search" article on pages 2 and 3 for more information.

Join us every Wednesday evening 7:00 p.m. for Meditation and Contemplative Prayer. See the "On Contemplative Prayer" article on page 5 for more information.

**REMINDERS:** Tuesday Eucharist **will not** be held in June. Kendal services **will not** be held in June.

# Discernment and Search: A Message from the Wardens

Greetings, good people of St. John's! No doubt, many of us are still processing the unexpected news that Father Clark West will not be joining St. John's as our new rector after all. Like you, the wardens, vestry, search committee, and even Father Clark were all very surprised by this turn of events. We were feeling so hopeful and sure in our discernment of a mutual call between St. John's and Father Clark. It seems we had done everything right:

- As members of our search committee, we know firsthand how much good and faithful work, prayer, and discernment went into gathering information from the congregation and associated groups, writing the parish profile, interviewing candidates, and finally, deciding to recommend that the vestry call Father Clark.
- You, our wonderful congregation, have been so patient, prayerful, and supportive these past two years.
- Father Clark has been (and is) such a loving, cheer-leading presence for St. John's and Loaves and Fishes. He was feeling that St. John's was a natural and exciting next step in his ministry. He knows us well, and sees this parish's potential.
- Bishop DeDe even said that she first thought this match-up was, and we quote, "a slam dunk!"

So, with all that hope and hard work as our base, it is completely normal to ask "What the heck happened here?!" "Did we do something wrong?" or even "Who's to blame?"

As many of you have heard me say, God blessed us with having Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe join the vestry here in Ithaca to sort out answers to such questions, and she said something that really helped. Bishop DeDe told us that "Discernment is a funny thing. It isn't always a straight path. Sometimes it turns in very unexpected ways."

Almost all of us have had that literal experience of thinking someone is calling us from one direction, and upon a second (or third) listen, we realize they are actually calling from another. And what we are learning here is that it's our job, as the people of God, always to listen closely for the direction in which God is calling us, through all the twists and turns, even when we have reached what we think is an obvious end to the path. Sometimes getting to the place God wants us to be takes a few more steps.

This twist in the path may be especially hard to wrap our minds around because two things are very true in all this: (1) Father Clark loves us, and (2) we love Father Clark. Neither of these things have changed. We both thought, for a time, that we were done with our search. But as people of faith, as we talked and prayed and listened for God's call, walking a little further down the path together, we found that God had placed a little fork in the road. We now understand that God is calling us in similar directions; so similar, that it really did look like a mutual call, but actually, God is calling St. John's and Father Clark to minister to our community in separate ways. We wish Father Clark peace and faithfulness as he continues on, and know that he will always work to spread God's love on the path set before him.

OK, so enough with metaphors of paths and calls! You may be thinking all that flowery language doesn't change the fact that many of us are feeling sad, confused, or maybe even a little angry about somebody pulling the rug out from under us. It just seems that something went very wrong here! But the thing to remember is that our metaphorical rug-puller in this instance is God (Yikes!). So it seems that rather than asking "Hey God, what went wrong?!", the more faithful question to ponder is "Dear Lord, what on earth are you up to now?"

The vestry is seriously thinking about that question as we look at next steps. Here's what we know so far:

- The wardens and vestry have worked closely with the diocese up to now to help get us through our longer-than-expected time of transition, and as we move forward through the rest of this transition, we are in active discussion with Bishop DeDe and Rev. Canon Carrie Schofield-Broadbent, the Diocesan Canon for Transition & Church Development, about all aspects of moving the discernment and search process forward.
- By the time you have read this, several vestry members and the wardens will have attended the Vestry Day: Working Well Together workshop run by the diocese. This workshop is just a beginning; your vestry will continue to study up on and pray for ways to work together better for the good of St. John's parish.

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- In its June 19 meeting, we expect the vestry to set direction for the next phase of the discernment and search process. Fortunately, almost all of the work done so far does not need to be redone, so the next phase will take much less time than the first part of the search and discernment process did.
- On Sunday, June 25, Rev. Canon Carrie Schofield-Broadbent will be celebrant, and will facilitate a Parish Forum. The purpose of the Parish Forum is to help parishioners process recent events and to get parishioner input that will be valuable as we move the discernment and search process forward. The Parish Forum should also help strengthen and unify the parish, just as last summer's focus groups and spiritual genealogy did.
- With regard to pastoral emergencies, beginning June 5, St. John's has made arrangements to have a priest on call for pastoral emergencies (sickness, death, etc.). To access pastoral care, please call the office (607-273-6532), Sarah Richtmyer, or contact one of the wardens (Stephanie Nevels or Michael Roman); please **do not** call any priest you may happen to know. The schedule of priests on call may change from one week to the next, so please contact the church office, Sarah, or one of the wardens **first**.
- Our stellar parish administrator Sarah Richtmyer has arranged for these priests to cover Sunday services through August: Rev. Canon Carrie Schofield-Broadbent (from the Diocese), our own Rev. A. Richard Strauss, Rev. Richard Sauerzopf, (from Elmira), and Rev. Linda Liebhart (from Painted Post).
- It is possible that we may need to arrange for supply priests and on-call pastoral care into the fall; we hope to have priests scheduled two months ahead of time for Sunday services and on-call pastoral care.

When the Holy Spirit comes and breaks things open, sometimes it may feel like things are breaking apart. **But...we are** moving forward. The strength of St. John's is what brought us to this point, and with the help of God's Holy Spirit, we can become even stronger as we complete the discernment and search process, and call our next rector.

*Stephanie Nevels, Senior Warden*  
*Michael Roman, Junior Warden*

## Join a St. John's Committee and Make a Difference

By Jamie Parris

Joining a committee at St. John's is just one way you can use your God-given talents to make a difference in our church and in our community. I did it, and you can, too! I joined the communications committee last year and since then, I've helped to bring you this newsletter and produce the Parish Profile. Do you have skills that you're willing to put to use or a desire to help? Check out these committees, and if you're interested, see the contact person named. You are needed!

**Capital Campaign:** Oversees the five-year capital campaign. Meets infrequently. Contact Susie Backstrom, Mindy Oakes or Brett Oakes.

**Christian Formation:** Promotes and provides Christian education for all ages, including providing guidance, developing, and supporting the leadership of nursery care, children's Sunday School, education classes for junior and senior high students, acolyte program, class for special needs adults, adult Bible study and EfM. Meets with rector as needed. Contact Stephanie Nevels or Mike Roman.

**Communications and I.T.:** In cooperation with parish office and rector, develops and supports content for parish newsletter (The Eagle), website and press releases. Designs and maintains website and recommends to vestry the information technology needs of parish such as printing/copying/scanning, Internet service and computer hardware and software needs and upgrades. Meets about once a month. Contact Jamie Parris.

**Finance and Proxy Review:** Assists and advises the vestry on financial matters (reviews monthly financial statements, monitors endowment fund, reviews insurance needs, monitors appropriate procedures for deposit of funds, arranges for the annual audit, and prepares proposed annual church budget. Examines church's investment portfolio and reviews stock proxies being sensitive to our role as a Christian community and call to be socially responsible. Recommends voting positions on proxies to vestry. Meets: Finance: 3:00 on each Thursday before monthly vestry meeting. Proxy Review: As needed. Contact Mary Arlin.

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**Hospitality and Newcomers:** (1) Shepherds and introduces newcomers. (2) oversees greeters, and (3) promotes, plans, and provides opportunities such as coffee hour, parish meals, and social events. Meets infrequently. Contact Margaret Johnson.

**Liturgical Planning:** Plans and executes special liturgical events, schedules lectors and lay Eucharistic ministers for worship services. Altar guild and acolytes falls under this committee. Meets as requested by the rector. Contact Pam Talbot.

**Mission:** Develops and promotes opportunities for outreach beyond church walls, including participation in local programs (Area Congregations Together, Kitchen Cupboard, Christmas gifts to needy persons and Loaves & Fishes) and wider-scope activities (Episcopal Peace Fellowship). Meets after the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service quarterly or as needed. Contact Matthew Sanaker.


**Pastoral Care:** Promotes an environment for parish to care for one another. Organized activities include: hospital and home visitation of home-bound and the sick, sending get-well cards, knitting/crocheting of lap robes and shawls, Eucharistic ministry which brings the Sunday Eucharist to shut-ins,

delivery of flowers after services, and (to an ever-lessening extent, due to lack of volunteers) providing receptions to families after funerals. Meets infrequently. Contact Lisa Tatusko.

**Personnel:** Reviews compensation benefit packages and job descriptions for lay employees, assists the rector with interviewing and hiring new lay employees. Meets as requested by rector. Contact Sara VanLooy.

**Property:** Ensures that St. John's buildings, grounds, and facilities are repaired, equipped, and maintained. Meets on an ad hoc basis. Contact Brett Oakes.

**Stewardship:** Educates congregation to be stewards of God's gifts. Responsible for planning and execution of annual pledge drive and for implementation of new forms of financial support. Meets infrequently. Contact Stephanie Nevels or Mike Roman.

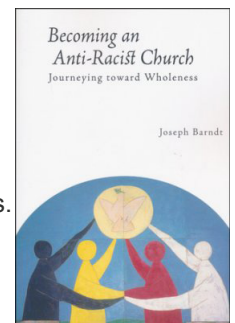
**Parish Engagement:** Seeks to match up people's skills, interests, and gifts with various things that happen in the parish with the goal of engaging more people in the life and work of the church, and build leadership development. Contact Stephanie Nevels or Mike Roman. 

## Adult Formation Reading on Anti-Racism

By Jamie Parris

In the spring, the Adult Formation group started reading a book titled *Becoming an Anti-Racist Church: Journeying towards Wholeness*, by Joseph Barndt. The book addresses how we, in Americas churches, can begin frank conversations about the issues of racism that will bring change to our churches and communities. The group's discussions were skillfully led by Marcia Baum, Stephanie Nevels, Lloyd Hall and Lisa Tatusko.

If you'd like to purchase a copy of the book, it's available on Amazon at <https://goo.gl/kD6nG0>. 



### Contributing to the Eagle

The St. Johns' Communications Committee welcomes articles and ideas for articles from the St. John's community, especially those regarding parish events, programs and services, achievements or volunteer activities, and other news of interest to our parish. Parishioners with ideas for articles they wish to write or an event or topic they would like covered, or who would like to write regularly for the newsletter are invited to contact any Communications Committee member. The committee reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, length and content.

Communications Committee Members:

Russell Bourne, Libby Hedrick (photo credit), Margaret Johnson, Jamie Parris (chair), Michael Roman, Matthew Sanaker, Lisa Tatusko, and Sara VanLooy.

# On Contemplative Prayer

By Matthew Sanaker


The Christian practice of Contemplative Prayer is a silent and wordless form of prayer that aims toward strengthening our relationship with God The Father and Jesus Christ through the power and grace of the Holy Spirit. Jesus called us to engage in a process of personal transformation, to be reborn in the Spirit. He called us to let go of our desire for and attachment to worldly things. He taught us to pray to God our Father, “not my will, but yours be done.” He also taught us to “pray to your Father who is in secret,” to engage in silent and solitary prayer, to enter into intimate communication with the Father. In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus called his disciples to pray with him, to stay awake and pray, so that when the time of trial comes, they will be prepared. In contemplative prayer we answer the call of our saviour to wake up, stay awake, and pray with him, with the aim of communion with the Father.

In contemplative prayer we let go of any other thoughts or desires other than to commune with God. Of course, this doesn't happen at once; thoughts will never cease to enter our minds, but we train in letting them go, in not getting hooked by them and being carried away by them. We focus on our love for God and His Love for us, we lovingly accept that thoughts have arisen and simply allow them to drift away. We may simply open our hearts to God and make ourselves receptive to His grace or we may use a technique from the Centering Prayer tradition of touching the thoughts with a “sacred word” that we choose before beginning our practice. When we notice thoughts, we say the sacred word silently in our mind, acknowledging that we were thinking and let the thoughts go. By letting our thoughts go we are freed from the bondage of our attachments to the lure of the material world and desires that arise from our response to that lure. It can help us to

let go of our desire for material gain, worldly prestige, the satisfaction of sensual appetites and ultimately the inflation of our egos; all of which have the potential to lead us away from God and keep us from loving our neighbors as ourselves. By opening ourselves to God, we can't help but begin the process of transformation and respond to other members of the human family with His divine love and compassion.

We gather together to pray as a way of supporting each other in our practice of regular devotion and prayer. In this particular Episcopal service, we pray in many ways. We first offer prayers of thanksgiving and adoration. After a scripture reading we offer intercessory prayers for people in our community and the world. Our silent prayer is another form of adoration and oblation, offering ourselves to God. Our closing prayer is a combination of thanksgiving, adoration, supplication and oblation. This combination of prayers reminds us that we are not praying just for ourselves, not just for our own peace and abiding in God, but we pray that we may be an instrument of God's will. That our efforts might benefit all of creation. That all of God's children might experience His love and grace and know His peace. In this way, we also answer Jesus' call to follow his two greatest commandments, to love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, and all our strength, and to love our neighbor as ourself.

Please join us in prayer at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in the nave.

If you have any questions, Matthew Sanaker invites you to reach out to him when you see him at St. John's or by email at [matthew.sanaker@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.sanaker@gmail.com). 

## Rise of EfM in DCNY

By Peg Coleman, EfM Coordinator for DCNY

Parishioners and other seekers have convened at St. John's to participate in the Education for Ministry (EfM) program for nearly three decades. You may already know that EfM is a four-year distance learning certificate program in theological education based upon small-group study and practice. You may not yet know if EfM will be part of your spiritual journey in this parish or in this diocese.

If you speak with anyone who participated in one or more of the four years of EfM (and there are more than 250 EfM alumni in Diocese of Central NY), you are likely to hear that EfM will change your life! EfM is designed to prepare lay persons to live out by word and deed the promises made at baptism: to love God, to serve Christ, and to proclaim the Gospel.

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EfM continues to evolve in its 42nd year as a program administered by the School of Theology at the University of the South in Sewanee, TN ([efm.sewanee.edu/](http://efm.sewanee.edu/)). Only four years ago, a major revision of the program was initiated: use of text books and Reading and Reflection Guides that provide the foundations for the program. One advantage of the use of texts is that EfM alumni develop an outstanding theological library that is indexed for ease of future use. It is important to remind ourselves that our spiritual journeys do not end after 4th year, but expand as we discern and respond more fully to God's call to us. Previous materials written by Sewanee faculty were not as useful after the program was completed.

Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe met with me to discuss how DCNY will continue to partner with Sewanee to offer EfM at discounted rates in our parishes, and, more importantly, to imagine what more we could do together, with The Rev. Canons John Crosswaite and Carrie Schofield-Broadbent and EfM alumni, mentors, and participants from around the diocese.

If you are curious about EfM, join us on Saturday, June 10, for a celebration with The Rev. Canon John Crosswaite, EfM graduates, participants, and mentors at St. Matthew's Moravia. We begin with Eucharist at 11:00 a.m., enjoy lunch, and engage in small group theological reflections. Invitations are available at the back of the church, on the bulletin board for EfM near the kitchen, or from me. Also, see below for the invitation text.

In August, another group of EfM participants will register with Jim Johnson and Lisa Tatusko, the EfM mentors at St. John's, and commit \$375 for the assigned readings and their time each week to study and reflect, individually and together, for 36 weeks. Note that some cost-sharing based on financial need is offered as scholarship assistance from the parish, the diocese, and Sewanee through EfM alumni.

EfM mentors in DCNY in addition to Jim and Lisa include:

- Marge Newhart and Cyndy Tkachuck from St. Matthew's, Moravia
- Dolores (Dolly) Chergosky and Susan Mahon from St. Paul's, Endicott
- Rev. Phillip Major and Dick Pilgrim from St. Paul's Syracuse

Note that annual certification is required for EfM mentors who facilitate the weekly meetings of their groups. In April, 14 people from three dioceses convened for mentor training at St. Margaret's House in New Hartford. We are grateful that some newly certified mentors plan to recruit new EfM groups in the diocese, in Cortland, New Hartford, Oswego, and Skaneateles.



Feel free to contact EfM mentors Jim Johnson, Lisa Tatusko, or me for more information. Blessings on your journeys. 



## EfM Celebration at St. Matthew's, Moravia

Join **The Rev. Canon John Crosswaite** in honoring this year's graduates, participants, and alumni of the **EfM program in DCNY** on **June 10<sup>th</sup>**. **Eucharist** begins at 11 am, followed by a **luncheon** and an opportunity to engage in small group **theological reflection**.

**DATE:** Saturday, June 10, 2017

**TIME:** 11 am to 2 pm

**LOCATION:** 14 Church Street

**DONATIONS** to DCNY for EfM scholarships of any amount gratefully accepted!

Bring friends/family and spend the day enjoying the beauty and hospitality of this lovely town near Owasco Lake southwest of Syracuse (Preble Exit 13, off Route 81).

**RSVP** to [stmatts367@gmail.com](mailto:stmatts367@gmail.com) or (315) 497-1171 by **June 5<sup>th</sup>** with your name and number participating, as well as any dietary restrictions.

# Music Notes

By Karen Hindenlang

**Fifty years ago** this month, St. John's celebrated the installation of its fourth pipe organ! The new three-manual Schlicker weighed in with 2,481 pipes, 918 of them recycled from parts of two previous instruments.

The organ was dedicated on Trinity Sunday, May 21, 1967, with a recital by The Rev. A. Richard Strauss, who was then our music director. A series of inaugural recitals followed, but the instrument wasn't fully finished. Fund-raising continued and 4 additional stops (354 more pipes!) were added over time. A decade after installation, a Choral Evensong celebrated the organ's completion in 1977. The service was played by one of the inaugural recitalists who had become the church's music director (and now our substitute organist), Dr. George E. Damp.

The first St. John's organ, built in 1830, was given away. The parish installed a balcony organ in 1892, and moved it down to the newly built chancel in 1913. That instrument was replaced in 1931. By 1959, the replacement organ was failing. Our 1967 organ has lasted longer than either of its immediate predecessors. It cost about \$40,000, a bargain at the time thanks to donated labor. Keeping this instrument in good repair and protecting it from deterioration is a wise investment in the parish's future; the replacement value is now approximately \$600,000.

I regularly give prayerful thanks for the foresight and generosity — not to mention the perseverance — of the parish leaders, benefactors and musicians who brought this instrument into existence. And every Sunday I use those late additions to the instrument; they represent some of the loveliest and most useful sounds on our organ.

**June 11** marks the last Sunday of the choral season, as we move towards a simpler musical service the following week (June 18) at 10:00 a.m., for the summer months. Please take a moment to thank our singers — new and long-term, members and guests, young and young-at heart— for their vital contribution to our shared worship life. Rehearsals will resume the Thursday after Labor Day, and new members are very welcome. ✚

## “Dress a Girl Around the World” Event

In case you missed it, an article about St. John's work for Dress A Girl Around The World was posted on the diocesan website with some lovely photos. Below are some photos from the event. See the article at <https://goo.gl/pr6fMX>.



Young parishioners love our pipe organ! Merrick and Mattison with Karen Hindenlang, Director of Music, on a Saturday morning. Photo by Melinda Oakes.





## Parish Photos

Here are some photos from recent events and activities in our parish. Enjoy!



May 14 gathering for the 2017 Offering of Letters. The Episcopal Peace Fellowship hosts an annual Offering of Letters Event to help turn faith into action through the writing of letters to our members of Congress.



Congratulations to Ed Siemon for completing four years of Education for Ministry. Ed received his certificate of completion from one of St. John's EfM mentors, Jim Johnson May 21.



The Rev. Barb Schmitz, our interim rector, added her hand print to St. John's Ithaca Festival parade banner. We sure will miss that smile! Thanks to Deb Youngling for her beautiful vision for the banner and to all who helped make it even more grand!



## Diocesan News

If you feel so inclined, we encourage you to sign up to receive *The Messenger*, a weekly email newsletter from the Diocese of Central New York. It often includes highlights of National Church news from the Episcopal News Service, as well as local news and events. Below are some highlights from those newsletters we think you might find interesting. Subscribe the *The Messenger* at <https://goo.gl/snwwej>.

### Bishop DeDe Calls for Prayers for a Mission Volunteer

Source: The Episcopal Diocese of Central New York

Bishop DeDe encourages the entire diocesan community to pray for Mr. Ben Hansknecht of St. Peter's Church in Cazenovia, who will spend a year volunteering in the Philippines through the Young Adult Service Corps of the Episcopal Church.

Prior to his departure, Ben is raising funds to make his year in mission possible. Follow his journey online, and support his fundraising as you are able.

Read a letter from Ben at <https://goo.gl/KlKlo7>.

### Happening Youth Retreat, October 20–October 22

Source: The Episcopal Diocese of Central New York

The Happening retreat weekend for teens in grades 9-12 will take place October 20-22, 2017 at Casawasco Camp and Retreat Center in Moravia.

Happening is a Christian experience by youth for youth, focusing on Jesus and what he taught the Church, in a fun, informal and loving atmosphere, with games, music, and great food. The retreat organizers are also looking for Happening Weekend parents, clergy, and guitar players.

Get more information at <https://goo.gl/BdYDKw>.

### Central New York Bishop Finds Her Spiritual Center Atop a Motorcycle

Source: Episcopal News Service

Bishop DeDe Dunan-Probe, a motorcycle rider herself, on May 13, led the annual Blessing of the Bikes at Christ Church in Jordan, NY. For Bishop DeDe, her bike has "become a tool for evangelism." She says, "It's given me opportunities to share the love of Christ in ways that are wonderful and include other people. I've just been blessed with conversations that wouldn't have happened otherwise."

A photo gallery of the event is available on the diocesan website at <https://goo.gl/nygXmN>.

Read the full article and other news about the event at <https://goo.gl/FzLQYc>.



# National Church News

## A Call to Prayer, Fasting, and Advocacy

Source: The Episcopal Church

Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in May issued a statement calling for prayer, fasting, and advocacy, opposing cuts to programs that help the hungry in the U.S. and abroad. The statement "For Such a Time as This: A Call to Prayer, Fasting, and Advocacy," calls for fasting on the 21st of each month through December 2018, at which time the 115th Congress will conclude.

The 21st of each month is targeted because by that time each month, 90% of SNAP (formerly food stamp) benefits have been used, thereby causing the last week of the month as the hungry week in America.

More information and a video message from Presiding Bishop Curry is available at <https://goo.gl/BdVpG3>.

## The Jesus Movement

By Jamie Parris

"Now is our time to go. To go into the world, let the world know that there is a God who loves us, a God who will not let us go, and that that love can set us all free," Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry said in his first address as Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church last fall. "This is the Jesus Movement, and we are The Episcopal Church, the Episcopal branch of Jesus' movement in this world."

What is the Jesus Movement? Presiding Bishop Curry said in his keynote address titled, "The Jesus Movement: Embracing Our Call," that the movement is not his own concoction with a limited shelf life, but that it is "a solemn call to reclaim our deepest origins – the deepest roots of who we are – and thereby know how to be oriented in a time of profound disorientation."

This "profound disorientation" is addressed in an article written by Pierre Whalon, bishop of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, titled "The newest wave of the Jesus Movement." He says, we as Episcopalians, during this time of worldwide, far-right political uprising, "are being called to a new level of faithfulness in the face of renewed challenges. Will we flinch, duck our heads, cultivate our gardens? Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has made it clear that we will not. A host of declarations by, among others, the president of the House of Deputies, a multitude of my colleagues in the House of Bishops, and large numbers of rectors across the United States, have said No to fear."

So, what does this mean for our parish and what do we do? According to the Jesus Movement page on the Episcopal Church website, "We follow Jesus. We are simply the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement, seeking every day to love God with our whole heart, mind and soul, and to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:36-40). Just like Jesus." There are three specific Jesus Movement priorities: evangelism, reconciliation, and creation care. Read more about these priorities and watch a video about the movement from Presiding Bishop Curry on the Episcopal Church website at <https://goo.gl/g4LfGR>.

Other resources:

- "The newest wave of the Jesus Movement," Bishop Pierre Whalon: <https://goo.gl/IPE21u>
- "Welcome to the Jesus Movement: Episcopal Church announces 2017-2018 revivals," Episcopal News Service: <https://goo.gl/zS5LJD>
- Video: Presiding Bishop on embracing the call of the Jesus Movement: <https://goo.gl/RfkJHF>
- "Presiding Bishop urges the Church to 'wake up'," Episcopal News Service: <https://goo.gl/0XF5RD>



## Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows Becomes First Black Woman to Lead an Episcopal Diocese

Source: Episcopal News Service

The Episcopal News Service reports that The Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows was ordained and consecrated the eleventh bishop of Indianapolis April 29, making her the first black woman to lead a diocese in the history of the Episcopal Church and the first woman to succeed another woman as diocesan bishop. She is a former priest from the Diocese of Central New York, having served as rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Syracuse, NY and as Episcopal chaplain at Syracuse University.



Presiding Bishop Michael Curry led the service as chief consecrator and was joined by more than 40 bishops from across the church. Nearly 1,400 participated in the service at Clowes Hall on the campus of Butler University. Diocese of Chicago Jeffrey D. Lee preached. From 2012 until her election as bishop, Baskerville-Burrows served on Lee's staff as director of networking in the Diocese of Chicago.

Read the full article and watch a video of the consecration at <https://goo.gl/25R7Sh>.

## Episcopalians, Methodists Propose Full-Communion Agreement

Source: Episcopal News Service

A group of Episcopalians and Methodists has released its proposal for full communion between the two denominations.

Full implementation of the proposal will take at least three years. The Episcopal Church General Convention and the United Methodist Church General Conference must approve the agreement, which culminates 15 years of exploration and more than 50 years of formal dialogue between the two churches. General Convention next meets in July 2018 in Austin, Texas. The General Conference's next meeting is in 2020.



The 10-page proposal, titled "A Gift to the World, Co-Laborers for the Healing of Brokenness," says it "is an effort to bring our churches into closer partnership in the mission and witness to the love of God and thus labor together for the healing of divisions among Christians and for the well-being of all."

Read the proposal in PDF format at <https://goo.gl/7OnKr1>.

See the full article on the Episcopal News Service website at <https://goo.gl/VOpzk0>.