

August 2017

# St. John's Eagle

The Newsletter of St. John's Episcopal Church

## An Ordinary and Extraordinary Season

We are in the season after Pentecost, also known as "Ordinary Time," where we live out our Christian faith and the meaning of Christ's resurrection in ordinary life. This is also an "Extraordinary Time," where we continue our process of searching for our next rector, and we continue the discernment that accompanies that search.

In ordinary times, we would have Holy Eucharist as our central act of worship every Sunday, and thanks to Sarah Richtmyer, our stellar parish administrator, we will continue to do so - she has arranged for priests to celebrate Eucharist with us and preach the Gospel for us through Christmas Day! Many of us have already worshipped with Fr. Richard Sauerzopf and Rev. Linda Leibhart this summer; this autumn, Fr. Richard will serve in September and November, and Rev. Linda will serve in December. Additionally, we get to welcome Fr. Thomas

Margrave back - he will lead our worship in October and on Christmas Eve. Our own Fr. Richard Strauss is scheduled for some Sundays this fall, as well. We also have seven parishioners who are ready, willing, and able to lead non-Eucharistic services - Susie Backstrom, Melissa Gallison, John Jackson, Jim Johnson, Michael Roman, Matthew Sanaker, and Lisa Tatusko (Lisa can also preach). Thanks to these lay worship leaders, the 12:10 service on Tuesdays has returned, the Wednesday evening Contemplative Prayer service continues, and there is backup in case one of our supply priests can't make it on one of their scheduled days. Karen Hindenlang, our excellent and diligent music director, continues to work with whoever is leading us in worship, to integrate music into our church services.

*Continued on page 2.*

## Save These Dates!

- September 7: Chancel Choir resumes rehearsals at 7:00 p.m. See the Music Notes article on page 3.
- September 10: Holy Eucharist Rite II begins holding services at 10:30 a.m.
- September 10: Last day to register for Education for Ministry. See Jim Johnson for information.
- September 12: Education for Ministry resumes classes at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapman Room.
- September 17: Rally Day! One service will be held at 10:00 a.m. at Stewart Park in the large pavilion. Bring a dish to pass.
- September 24: Adult Formation classes begin at 9:15 a.m. in the Chapman Room. Details coming soon!
- October 1: Dedication celebration for the Lift Every Voice and Sing II (LEVAS II) hymnal at the 10:30 a.m. service. See the article on page 3.
- October 5: Harvest Dinner with Loaves and Fishes
- November 4: Annual Empty Bowls fundraiser at Loaves and Fishes
- November 10-11: Diocesan Convention



### *An Ordinary and Extraordinary Season, continued.*

This is also an "Extraordinary Time," where we continue our process of search and discernment. We have continued our self-study that we began last summer with the Parish Forum on the Day of Pentecost at the end of this past June. We tried to learn from events of our recent past, as we move forward toward finding our next rector. The next step was recommissioning the Search Committee. The committee has begun meeting again; plans are for the Parish Profile to be updated before the end of August, followed by four weeks where the committee advertises for candidates and receives candidate names. Interviews and reference checks can start as soon as the committee receives any names of viable candidates and will continue for a time after the application deadline. After the interview process is complete, the committee will deliberate, then make their recommendation to the Vestry. We hope to have our next rector late this year or early next year. Your prayers will help make that come true.

We are not just marking time until our next rector arrives. Part of getting ready to welcome our next rector is presenting

ourselves as we are to that person - we present ourselves in our Parish Profile and in the parish representatives that the candidates interact with. Part of getting ready is living our communal life well - we live our life well by attending to our ministries, to others, and to ourselves, and by being faithful stewards of the resources we can employ in our ministries. Part of getting ready is continuing to grow. Our Vestry plans to have a retreat in September which will be centered on discussion of the book, "Creating a Healthier Church," and Vestry members will be attending the Boundaries, Borders, and Better Relationships Workshop offered by the diocese. These are good ways to get started; we will keep making progress by actively talking to each other, supporting all voices being heard, and being respectful of each other's opinions, thoughts, and feelings.

Fittingly, the color for this season of "Ordinary Time" is green, a color associated with growth and new life.

Stephanie Nevels, Senior Warden  
Michael Roman, Junior Warden

## **A New Wheelchair is Available at St. John's!**

Thanks to the efforts of Libby and Cece Hedrick, Sarah Richtmyer and Chuck Merrill, and the folks at Wonderful Wheelchairs, a nonprofit organization that refurbishes used wheelchairs, walkers and scooters, St. John's now has a "new" wheelchair for parishioners who need it. The wheelchair has been placed by the lift at the Buffalo Street entrance of the building. The old wheel chair has been turned over to Wonderful Wheelchairs to be refurbished.



## **Contributing to the Eagle**

The St. John's 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.

# Music Notes

by Karen A. Hindenlang

**The Chancel Choir** returns to our 10:30 worship service on Sunday, September 10. New singers are welcome! Please speak with me or any member for more information or visit the Music Page on the parish website at <http://stjohnsithaca.org/music/>.

**The Choral Scholars program** continues this fall, as Ithaca College students assist in our services and gain professional experience in sacred music. Donations are welcome and needed; gifts to St. John's marked "Choral Scholars" are placed in a dedicated fund which sustains our musical heritage and encourages a new generation of church musicians.

**Our new hymnal** (see below) will be dedicated to the Glory of God on October 1. Join us for special sing-a-long preludes to the 10:30 service that month, as we begin to share the

music of the wonderful Lift Every Voice and Sing II (LEVAS II) collection that will supplement the beloved Hymnal 1982 in our parish pews. See the article "'Lift Every Voice and Sing' Hymnal Coming Soon!" for information about this new material and how you can contribute. MEMORIAL MUSIC for All Saint's Day will be featured in worship on November 5, in tribute to the faithful departed we remember in our hearts and honor in our song.

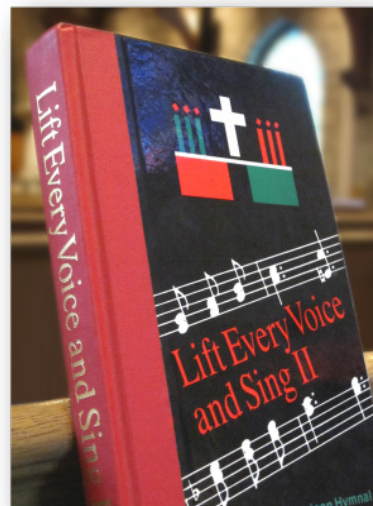
**The Advent Musical Service** of Lessons and Carols will be offered this year on the second Sunday in Advent, December 10. In this special service, Anthems and Scripture bring the message of the season to prepare us for the Coming of Christ. Mark your calendars!

## "Lift Every Voice and Sing" Hymnals Coming Soon!

Coming soon to our pews is the "Lift Every Voice and Sing II" (LEVAS II) hymnal. LEVAS II, which is used widely by Episcopal congregations across the country, is a collection of 280 musical pieces from the African American, Folk, Evangelical, and Gospel traditions compiled under the supervision of the Office of Black Ministries of the Episcopal Church. It includes service music, hymns, spirituals, psalms, and gospel songs.

This new cultural resource will supplement our Hymnal 1982 and will help enrich the ongoing worship life of St. John's Episcopal Church, broadening the musical experience for all members of and visitors to our congregation.

You have an opportunity to be a part of this important addition to our church by making a donation to the St. John's Memorial Fund to have a book dedicated in memory of a loved one or in honor of a loved one, friend or program. Book plates will be placed in the front of the dedicated books. Use the form below to submit your dedication request; and thank you!



Please consider making a \$20 donation to the St. John's Memorial Fund. Please write LEVAS II in the memo of your check or money order.

Using this form, you may specify a dedication bookplate in Memory of a Loved One, or in Honor of a Friend or Program.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one:      In Memory      In Honor

of: \_\_\_\_\_

## Parishoner Profile: Stephanie Nevels

By Stephanie Nevels

I was brought up in an all Black church on the south side of Chicago. Greater Bethesda Baptist Church is where my grandfathers were deacons (more like vestry than episcopal deacons), my parents met as kids, and I got pinched by Mrs. Priester, the same Sunday school teacher who pinched my mom, thirty years earlier! I tended to ask her questions like, "If Adam, Eve, Cain, and Abel were the original people, then who did Cain find to marry once he fled home after killing his brother?" Totally pinch-worthy, I know, to call into question the literal accuracy of the Old Testament. But I kept asking, because my inquiring mind wanted to know. There were a couple of youth leaders at Greater Bethesda who were up for those types of questions. I have fond memories of Mrs. Sandifer and Deacon McDaniel, who actually encouraged me to question those little things, but also to look for the bigger messages of scripture, which often means the literal-ness isn't so important.



In college, I attended the non-denominational chapel services sporadically, but learned lots more about religion and faith in deep conversations with my then-and-still best friend in the world—who is a very devout Jew. We took some classes on Judaism, and others on Christianity together. Again, questioning what I had learned growing up was a big part of that experience.

In my twenties, I started attending Episcopal churches, largely because my then husband had grown up in this tradition, but I have found that one of the things I most appreciate about the Episcopal church is that we're allowed the space the question, doubt, and struggle with what it really means to be a Christian, right along with having faith in and celebrating Christ's love for us. I've been happy to bring my children up in a tradition where they were never pinched for questioning!

As for St John's parish, what keeps me here? Definitely that same spirit of questioning and reflection, but more than that, it's the community of loving brothers and sisters I get to be a part of in this parish. This community has held me (and my children) through painful times, and rejoiced with us in good ones. At St. John's, we take the work of Christ seriously, without taking ourselves too seriously.

I remember the first time I went down to the church office, many years ago, and saw the red sign that reads, "Look busy, Jesus is coming!" and thinking "Yeah, this is a good place to be." Turns out I was very right. No question. :)

Love you, St. John's Ithaca.

## Re-landscaping Plans for St. John's are Taking Shape

By Jamie Parris

You may have noticed that a new seating bench has been added to the landscape at St. John's, on the front lawn. The addition of the bench is part of a plan to re-landscape our parish lawn and garth. The plan is being lead by Jane Mead with the help of Margaret Johnson, Kathleen O'Neill, and Sara, Owen, Will, and Charlotte VanLooy. The bench is dedicated to Loaves and Fishes. More changes are on the horizon, so stay tuned!





## Committee Profile: The Mission Committee

By John Jackson

Our parish profile claims that “[i]n June of 2001, St. John’s was declared a Jubilee Center by the Episcopal Church, honoring the work of the church with Loaves and Fishes and the education classes for adults with special needs.” This is a great honor. One of the ways the Episcopal Church addresses domestic poverty is through its Jubilee network, which consists of over 600 jubilee ministry centers. These centers empower the poor and oppressed in their communities by providing direct services, such as food, shelter, and healthcare, and also by advocating for human rights.

Cora Yao, a member of St. John’s Mission Committee, recently took specific actions that align with our being a Jubilee Center. “I volunteered with Loaves & Fishes in preparing vegetables for cooking an evening meal,” Cora shared. St. John’s feeding ministry includes not only Loaves & Fishes but also the Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard or IKC. Cora described an action she took on behalf of IKC not too long ago. “I prepared the volunteer calendar twice a year for those at St. John’s who work at the Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard from 1-3 PM every third Friday and every time there is a fifth Thursday in a month,” she explained. “I distribute it to volunteers and also volunteer at IKC four to five times every six months,” Cora specified. Every month parishioners bring non-perishable food items and toiletries to St. John’s, which are included with the offering and blessed by the priest. In support of this ministry, Cora recalled, “I picked up non-perishable food items and toiletries donated during Sunday Services and delivered these to IKC on a weekday morning when the pantry is open for stocking shelves.”

Last July 22, Margaret Johnson participated with many others in the Food Bank of the Southern Tier’s (FBST) “ride to end hunger” around Keuka Lake. In an email to friends at St. John’s, Margaret wrote, “I hope to raise a total of \$1,000 together with you, my friends... Because of the Food Bank’s greater purchasing power, a \$1 donation to the Food Bank buys three meals.” FBST is a major source of food of the Loaves & Fishes ministry, the Kitchen Cupboard, and other food pantries in Tompkins County. By the way, it’s never too late to write a check to FBST.

And on July 27, several of you from St. John’s created – in the words of J.R. Clairborne of Loaves & Fishes – “the best ice cream bar in Ithaca” and served 18 gallons of ice cream to guests at the Loaves & Fishes dinner. Parishioners and vestry members and the wardens of St. John’s, and guest and staff of Loaves & Fishes partook in table fellowship around an evening meal, awesome dessert, and guitar music of local talent Larry Real. During a beautiful summer evening, St. John’s and Loaves & Fishes celebrated their long ongoing relationship and shared ministry.

Food preparation, scheduling, delivering donations, fundraising, table fellowship, and bringing joy (through ice cream!) are a few examples of tangible and doable and significant actions taken by Cora, Margaret, and collectively by parishioners. These are the practices and rituals and communities that vitalize and breathe life into our Jubilee Ministry. They are the mustard seeds that grow into the Kingdom of God. With what little or much that we have, together let us be a “ministry of joint discipleship in Christ with poor and oppressed people, wherever they are found, to meet basic human needs and to build a just society” (mandate of Jubilee Ministries).

The Mission Committee 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.

We would like to welcome several new members this fall. If you’re interested in serving on the Mission Committee, contact John Jackson.

# My Loaves & Fishes Experience

By Scott Russell

Approximately two years ago, I began serving as an advocacy volunteer for the Loaves & Fishes (L&F) Community Kitchen. Our parish has hosted the Christian ministry for the last 34 years, by providing to the organization the use of our building and facilities. I served weekly from August 2015 until January 2017. It was the most rewarding personal experience of my life as a parishioner at St. John's, over 32 years. I regret taking so long to become actively involved.

I believed over most of these 32 years that we, the parishioners, were doing our part by "housing" the community kitchen. As most of you know, L&F provides free, home-cooked meals, five days a week for anyone coming through their doors. In the first few months of my volunteer advocacy work, I realized how wrong I had been. The guests at L&F offer their own gifts to each other and to those of us who dine with them -- gifts that are as important as the gift of food for the hungry. I have provided an ear and some advice, and I have been rewarded with amazing life stories, motivation to "keep at it," and thanks for just listening.

Becoming an advocate includes excellent initial training conducted by L&F Executive Director, Rev. Christina Culver and Advocacy Coordinator J.R. Clairborne, in company with other new advocacy volunteers. Then a monthly meeting of advocacy volunteers offers continued training and educational opportunities and, more importantly, the sharing of mealtime experiences. The mealtime (kitchen) staff also provide on-the-job learning experiences. In my brief experience as a L&F volunteer advocate, I have learned of homeless persons who have moved to permanent housing, addicts who have entered rehabilitation programs, and those down on their luck who have found meaningful employment or the confidence to seek a better personal outcome. All of these accomplishments coming as a result of their relationships experienced at L&F.

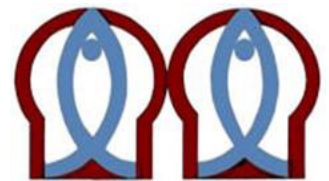
I invite any curious parishioner to explore the various L&F volunteer opportunities by simply sharing a meal and talking with Christina or J.R. or any of the regular St. John's L&F volunteers, including John Jackson (St. John's representative on the L&F board and L&F volunteer advocate), Muriel Everhart (regular L&F kitchen volunteer and St. John's Vestry member), Bill Clay, Kang Hsien-Meng and Vaughan Behn (regular L&F kitchen volunteers), Dale Johnson (L&F board vice president), Ted Clark and Charlie Ciccone (L&F board members).

## A Loaves & Fishes Message

By Rev. Christina Culver, L & F Executive Director

I hope all of you had a refreshing, fun and relaxing summer.

We had lots of fun sharing dinner and ice cream sundaes with you in July. Our guests really enjoyed having all the ice cream they could eat with yummy toppings of their choice. Thank you for providing the ice cream and hard-working volunteers who helped us prepare and serve the meal and clean up afterwards. We were also happy to see many of you simply enjoying the delicious meal with our guests. Your presence was very meaningful to us.



This ice cream social and dinner was one of three annual dinner events that Loaves & Fishes and St. John's look forward to sharing throughout the year. The other events are: a Harvest Dinner on October 5th and a Maundy Thursday Dinner on March 29th. We also hope to walk next to each other again in the Ithaca Festival Parade in June.

As the leaves begin to change this fall, remember that you and your family are always welcome to join us for a meal – Monday, Wednesday or Friday at noon or Tuesday and Thursday at 5:30 pm. Also volunteers are always needed. We rely on 25 community volunteers each day! Daily we are serving about 150 free nutritious meals. If you are interested in volunteering at L & F, either as a kitchen volunteer or as an advocacy volunteer, please contact our office: 272-5457 or [info@loaves.org](mailto:info@loaves.org).

*"...through love, be servants of one another." (Galatians 5:13)*

# Diocesan News

By Jamie Parris

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> . In addition, the diocesan blog is a great source for the latest news. Visit <https://cnyepiscopal.org/news-events/blog/> .

## Bishop Duncan-Probe Issues Statement after Charlottesville

Source: The Episcopal Diocese of Central New York

On August 18, Bishop DeDe Duncan Probe issued a statement in the aftermath of the violence that took place in Charlottesville, VA. In the statement titled, "Hatred, racism, anit-Semitism, and dehumanization of others have no place in our common life," the Bishop states, "As Christians, we begin with repentance, returning to the way of God. It is too easy to insist that racism, anti-Semitism and dehumanization are sins belonging to others. Indeed, as last week's events unfolded, many of us felt the sting of hatred and blame rising in our own hearts alongside grief. But our savior is a Middle-Eastern Jew who commands us to love our neighbors as ourselves, to forgive our enemies, and to serve one another. As Episcopalians, we have taken vows to resist evil, to seek and serve Christ in all persons, and to honor the dignity of every human being. We cannot profess to be faithful to the God of love if we do not address the sin in our own hearts."

The full statement is available on the Diocese of Central New York website at <https://goo.gl/Lo1d5j> .

## Episcopalians Respond to Hate and Violence in Charlottesville

Source: The Episcopal Diocese of Central New York

Episcopalians in Central New York and throughout the United States are speaking out and standing up for human dignity after the deadly racist, anti-Semetic protests in Charlottesville, Virginia on August 12.

A sampling of our Church's response through social media posts and sermons and letters, as well as appropriate prayers for your use are available on the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York website at <https://goo.gl/DR2Bbw> .



## All Saints Movie in Theaters August 25

Source: The Episcopal Diocese of Central New York

It is not often that big box office movies are made about Episcopal churches, so when they are, we let you know! *All Saints* is a movie about a struggling Episcopal parish in Tennessee that experiences new life through a common ministry with the Karen immigrant community.

Watch the trailer and learn more about All Saints at <https://youtu.be/laMflvCTY-o> .

## Bishop DeDe Joined the Youth Pilgrimage in El Salvador

Source: The Episcopal Diocese of Central New York

In July, Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe joined Deacon Chuck Stewart of St. James' Skaneateles in El Salvador on the youth pilgrimage to our companion diocese there. Bishop DeDe, Deacon Stewart, and the youth met with Bishop David Alvarado, toured the land, and worshiped together.

Photos and an article about the pilgrimage are available on the diocesan website at <https://goo.gl/Bmsqew>.



## National Church News

### Presiding Bishop Curry Invitation to the Good Book Club

Source: The Episcopal Church

Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has offered an invitation to Episcopalians and all Christians to join the more than 25 partners presenting the Good Book Club, an opportunity for reflection and prayer.

The Good Book Club is a churchwide program that invites the reading of the *Gospel of Luke* and the *Acts of the Apostles* during the liturgical seasons of Lent and Easter 2018. Led by Forward Movement, the Good Book Club readings begin the Sunday prior to Ash Wednesday (February 11, 2018), and finish on Pentecost (May 20, 2018).

See the full article and a video from Presiding Bishop Curry on the Episcopal News Service website at <https://goo.gl/DUvR3P>.

### New York Bishop Gives 'Full Support' to Church Providing Sanctuary to Immigrant, Child

Source: Episcopal Diocese of New York

A statement on sanctuary by the bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, the Rt. Rev. Andrew ML Dietsche, and on the August 17 widely-publicized announcement that Holyrood Parish in Manhattan had provided sanctuary to an undocumented immigrant. In his statement, he said, "It is our conviction that decisions made to offer sanctuary must be made at the local, parochial level, and we know that what "sanctuary" means will differ from community to community. I have made it clear that I will in every case respect the pastoral decisions and judgments made by the clergy and leaders of our parishes in their care of their people. Providing safe refuge inside the church is only one of those possibilities, but it has a long and noble history in the Christian church. In America, government agencies have generally respected the sanctity of the church threshold.

The full statement is available on the Episcopal News Service website at <https://goo.gl/UBUBRn>.

### Presiding Bishop Michael Curry Preached a Powerful Sermon at the Union of Black Episcopalians

Source: Episcopal News Service

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry preached at African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas during a July 25 Eucharist commemorating the 225th anniversary of the black presence in the Episcopal Church.

Read the full article and watch a video of the sermon at <https://goo.gl/LPWVFY>.