



March 2018

St. John's Eagle

The Newsletter of St. John's Episcopal Church

St. John's welcomes new rector, Mother Megan Castellan

It is with great joy that we announce that The Reverend Megan Castellan has accepted the call as our next rector! Mother Megan's first Sunday will be Palm Sunday, March 25. She is coming to us after having served as the assistant rector of St. Paul's, Kansas City, Missouri, and the Diocesan Network Coordinator for Youth in the Diocese of West Missouri. Prior to that, she also served in Flagstaff, Arizona and Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Her writing is now widely read and enjoyed, which continues to mystify her. Her word constructions have appeared in such publications as Episcopal Cafe, Fidelia's Sisters, The (late, lamented) Toast, McSweeney's, and her own blog: Red Shoes, Funny Shirt. She has appeared in print alongside the presiding bishop in his book Following the Way of Jesus and in the liturgical reference Planning for Rites and Rituals. Most notably, she blogs for Lent Madness, so should you have strong opinions on the elimination of your favorite saint, please let her know.

On a personal note, she enjoys singing, knitting, and throwing things at politicians on television when they make her angry. She is very happy to be joining St. John's and the Diocese of Central New York.



See Mother Megan's message to St. John's on our website at stjohnsithaca.org/rectors-corner/.

See the video of our announcement on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/8fJShw4mdds>.

Save these dates!

- **March 24** March for Our Lives, a peaceful protest of gun violence with the Episcopal Peace Fellowship. Meet at 1:30 p.m. in the St. John's parking lot.
- **March 25** Palm Sunday services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
- **March 27** Holy Tuesday at 12:10 p.m.
- **March 28** Holy Wednesday, Tenebrae at 7:00 p.m.

Continued on page 2.

Save these dates, continued from page 1.

- **March 29** Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Parishioners are invited to a modest supper with Loaves & Fishes at 5:00 p.m. Dinner is served at 5:30 p.m.
- **March 30** Good Friday at 7:00 p.m.
- **April 1** Easter Sunday:
 - Easter Vigil with Holy Eucharist at 6:15 a.m.
 - Holy Eucharist Rite I at 8:00 a.m.
 - Festal Choral Eucharist Rite II at 10:30 a.m.
- **April 4** Commemoration of the life of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with the Episcopal Peace Fellowship at St. John's at 7:00 p.m.

Trust development in a new priest-parish relationship

Source: The Episcopal Diocese of Central New York, The College of Congregational Development – The Rev. Alissabeth Newton – The Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent, September 1, 2017

God has called you together as parish and priest. God has been active in this parish, is moving amid you now, and will be there into the future. No place in this earthly kingdom is “perfect”, but know that even though there may be rough spots and problems, this parish and priest relationship is imbued with the Holy Spirit and you will be equipped by God for your work and ministry together. God will speak to your priest about God’s hopes and dreams for this parish, and God will speak to the parishioners as well.

Your first task, as a parish and priest in a new relationship, is to develop trust with each other. The most important work of your ministry right now is developing relationships. Free yourselves from the pressure of trying to grow the parish, “fix” the structures or change big things – especially in this first year. Your primary task is to build trust and relationships together.

- Choose curiosity over judgment. Lead with praise, hope, and invitation. Avoid negativity and criticism whenever possible. (Though healthy feedback is part of any strong relationship.)¹
- Give each other the benefit of the doubt; practice a generosity of spirit.
- Try to see your parish through your new priest’s eyes.

Continued on page 3.

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:

Libby Hedrick, Margaret Johnson, Jamie Parris (chair), Michael Roman, Matthew Sanaker, and Sara VanLooy.

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjohnsithaca/

Stewardship minute

There are three kinds of conversion. First is the conversion of the head. Second is the conversion of the heart. Third is the conversion of the wallet.

-Martin Luther.

Ring the bells!

Bell choir rehearses most Sundays following the late coffee hour and performs on special occasions during worship throughout the year. The multi-generational group welcomes additional ringers: the more, the merrier! For more information, email the church office at stjohns@clarityconnect.com or speak with Mike Roman or Karen Hindenlang, director of music. Also see "Music notes" on page 7.

- Speak appreciatively about your priest. (i.e., Offer appropriate and authentic praise, be willing to share what you are appreciating about your new priest with others, inside and outside of your congregation.)
- Be aware of how it may sound to others any time you mention your previous priest(s).
- Establish regular ways to feel connected to each other and included in the life of the community:
- Host interactive coffee hours, social events, dinners;
- Find ways for people to socialize before/after events.
- Model openness and appropriate self-disclosure. Allow your new priest to get to know you. This may involve some risk and vulnerability.
- Be a trustworthy person of integrity.
- Maintain appropriate boundaries with grace.
- Resist the urge to expect or allow the priest to do all the work. This is a partnership and good communication is key. Prayerfully listen for ways you may be called to participate, to share in building up the church. If you have felt an interest in serving in new ways, explore the possibility with your new priest or a colleague or friend.
- If you have an issue, problem, or conflict with your priest, go to the priest first before talking about the situation with others (that includes: the Senior Warden, Junior Warden, or Vestry members)
- Avoid sharing an issue, problem, or conflict with others who are not able to assist in finding a solution.
- Abandon the “need” to be right all the time, or to “do it the way we’ve always done it.”

Celebrating a time of transition

By Susie Backstrom

For over two years St. John's has been in a time of transition. We said farewell to our rector, Rev. Rich. We called an interim rector, Rev. Barb, whom we welcomed, who guided us and ministered to us, and to whom we said farewell last year. Over this period of time, we also have welcomed supply priests to fill in, some of whom already were familiar to us and some of whom were not.

Over this period of time, it is fair to say that many of us have experienced uncertainty, perhaps some have experienced a fear of change of what the future holds, or of losing momentum as a congregation.

But we have also experienced many exciting and uplifting things.

During this time, for the first time in my life I heard the Rite One Eucharist spoken by a female celebrant's voice. It was very moving for me, since I grew up at a time when women could not be priests and had only heard Rite One spoken by male celebrants (the 1928 version of the Eucharist in the Book of Common Prayer, which I grew up using, is nearly identical to Rite One).

In fact, all of us have heard different voices (literally) and different forms of preaching over the past couple of years...

all celebrating God's love for us. For me, this has been refreshing because it has linked the Gospel to its actual words and message, not to a particular person at the altar.

As a congregation, we have used this time of transition (sometimes intentionally and sometimes unintentionally) to break old habits of worship and ministry and to embrace some of the real world in our sanctuary and our worship. Think of our prayer wall, the Black Lives Matter and rainbow flags in our sanctuary, the Lift Every Voice and Sing hymnals in our pews, our prayers each Sunday for Loaves & Fishes. We have trained and engaged our own parishioners to lead Morning Prayer services in our sanctuary and at Kendal. Instead of losing momentum, by doing so we have deepened our identity as a Christian community.

The earliest Christian communities were not led by ordained priests; they relied on each other to sustain their faith and bring the Good News to others. Those early communities performed the ministry of the all baptized...the unique ways in which each of us and our gifts are used by God to further God's dream for us. In many ways, I believe we have risen to, and met, the same challenges over the past two years. This is a gift we should be proud to offer to Rev. Megan and continue, with her help, to share with others.

Stewardship, Capital Campaign progress: Room for improvement!

By Susie Backstrom

As we look forward to the completion of the most significant renovation project seen at St. John's in decades (the restoration of the stained glass windows in our sanctuary), let's recap where we stand concerning the capital campaign that has funded this project.

In 2014, many in St. John's parish collectively pledged \$1,053,305 toward an initial campaign goal of \$1,000,000. Through the end of 2017, St. John's has received \$697,818 of those pledges for the five-year pledge period. This amounts to approximately 70 percent of our original goal and 66 percent of the actual pledges made.

Below is a chart showing capital campaign pledges versus payments:

\$1 million vs. \$697,818, as of December 31, 2017 = 70% (final year)

2013: \$6,000

2014: \$256,616

2015: \$156,201

2016: \$147,461

2017: \$131,540

Total Received: \$697,818

The generous contributions already made to the capital campaign have enabled your Vestry to make significant improvements to our church's physical structure. The 2017 Annual Report contains a list of improvements to the buildings and grounds for each of the past five years that were made with capital campaign funds.

As many of you recall, approximately \$200,000 of the \$1 million in capital campaign pledges was to be earmarked for parish ministries. The shortfall between actual payments and pledges likely will result in reduced funds needed to carry out the planned support and expansion of parish ministries. Some parishioners who pledged to the capital campaign either have moved away or have passed away without fulfilling their pledges. That is to be expected. However, the Capital Campaign Committee hopes those parishioners who remain at St. John's and who may be behind in pledge payments, for reasons other than personal financial challenges, will renew their efforts to make up the difference. Every dollar helps!

For parishioners who are new to the parish since the capital campaign, we encourage you to reach out to a warden or vestry member and find out how you can begin your participation in this wonderful effort to continue and expand upon St. John's ministries!

Laundry Love as modern-day foot washing

By John Jackson

I first heard about Laundry Love from an article in the Episcopal Cafe regarding an initiative of Thad's* church in Santa Monica, CA, to facilitate for free the laundry of people in need. What caught my attention was Thad's approach to Laundry Love as the modern-day foot washing. This is doing laundry with a stress on love, which entails being present and loving to both guests and volunteers. Thad's recognizes that God is present outside the walls of the church and actively at work and intimately engaged in the day-to-day lives of our neighbors. Church size doesn't matter, says Thad's, any church can do Laundry Love.

Laundry Love presents exciting ministry possibilities for St. John's that coincide with our Jubilee Ministry and the Jesus Movement. We can reach out to people who may not share our love for the worship services in the sanctuary. St. John's can be a "love spreading difference" in our locality through a tangible activity. Through Laundry Love, like Loaves & Fishes, we can continue to be a community open to everyone. According to the people at Thad's, there's something about washing machines and dryers that bring people face-to-face. As the Eucharist relates to the everyday practice of a eating together, we can practice modern-day foot washing through the ordinary practice of doing laundry.

In 2017, the Rotary Club of Ithaca, the Social Service League of Ithaca, and The Episcopal Church awarded St. John's three separate small grants. With these starter funds, we will address in 2018 the electrical and plumbing work that will enable us to install a couple of washers and dryers in the basement. Earlier, Brett Oakes graciously provided St. John's with two washers. We still need to raise the resources for a couple of dryers.

Continued on page 5.

Laundry Love, continued from page 4.

In Laundry Love, the liturgy or the work of the people is love.

*On their website, Thad's claims, "We're a movement of people who've made a choice to leave the relative safety of the traditional church to form an experimental faith community in the Episcopal diocese of Los Angeles. Our calling is to bring the transforming love of Jesus into people's lives in positive, transformative and practical ways."

Watch a video about Thad's Laundry Love project: <https://vimeo.com/99275167>

Thad's Church website: <https://thads.church/>

St. John's stained glass window restoration project

By Susie Backstrom

Haven't we all really enjoyed the brightness inside the church on Sunday mornings? The words in the hymnal and prayer book are easy to read and the whole space seems larger and airier. Our sanctuary hasn't been so bright since, well, ever!

In the middle of March, the sanctuary will become even brighter. As you may have seen, Bovard Studio Inc., the stained glass window studio handling the repair and restoration of St. John's windows, returned March 16 to remove the three stained glass windows above the high altar. These windows depict St. Peter (on the left), Jesus (in the center) and St. John (on the right). The work is taking several days. Bovard will take the windows to the studio's headquarters in Iowa for cleaning, repair, and re-leading.

As the stained glass windows are replaced in May or June, also being replaced is the existing, 40-year-old Plexiglass that had been covering each window in the sanctuary, the narthex and the bell tower. The acrylic sheets will be replaced with state-of-the-art protective glass that will not become cloudy and discolored. This will be done even for the stained glass windows that have not needed to be restored. We expect the completion of this work to leave our beautiful windows in good shape for the next century. In the meantime, feel free to wear sunglasses in church!



Parish feature: The east window of St. John's sanctuary

By Susie Backstrom

One of the most beautiful windows in St. John's sanctuary is one that few of us may look at regularly. This window was given in memory of John Charles Gauntlett (1842-1915) and Mary Celestia McGraw Gauntlett (1848-1931). It is located on the east wall, high above the nave's floor. The next time you are in the sanctuary, turn around from the altar and look up at it. It rises above the balcony. Luckily, it is in good condition and so did not need to be removed for restoration.

Most of the images in this window are traditional symbols of the disciples and apostles they represent. You often will see the disciples and apostles represented by these same symbols in churches worldwide. There are several other symbols often used for each of the four evangelists (St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke and St. John). The three apostles not included in the window are St. James the Less, St. Jude (also called Thaddeous), and St. Matthias (who was chosen to take the place of Judas).

To help you understand the meaning of the images and to appreciate them when you see them in other churches, following is a key to them. To use this key, begin with the image (#1) at the top of the window (in a section appropriately called a "kite") and follow the images in clockwise fashion.

#1. IHS set in a circle at the center of a cross: The IHS (often represented as IHC) is one of the many symbols of Jesus. It is an abbreviation of the Greek "IHCOYC", meaning "JESUS".

#2. ST. MARK "The Lion": His gospel tells of John the Baptist as the "Voice in the Wilderness".

#3. ST. JOHN "The Eagle": Because his gospel "Soars to the Throne of Heaven".

#4. ST. SIMON "Oar, Battle Axe and Saw": He was known as "Fisher of Men". The axe and saw are instruments of his martyrdom.

#5. ST. JAMES (THE GREATER) "Three Shells": He is known as a great pilgrim. The shells are common symbols of pilgrims.

#6. ST. PETER "Crossed Keys": Representing Jesus' words



"...I will give unto thee the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven."

#7. ST. PAUL "Bible with Sword": The Word of God with St. Paul's "Sword of the Spirit".

#8. Memorial dedication to Mary Celestia McGraw Gauntlett.

#9. Memorial dedication to John Charles Gauntlett.

Continued on page 7.

Parish feature, continued from page 6.

#10.ST. ANDREW “Diagonal Cross”: He is supposed to have been crucified on a diagonal cross.

#11.ST. PHILIP “Cross and Carpenter’s Square”: Because of his missionary work as Builder of Christian Men.

#12.ST. BARTHOLOMEW “Bible and Flaying Knife”: He had great faith in the Word of God and supposedly was killed by the knife.

#13.ST. THOMAS “Carpenter Square and Spear”: He is known as the patron saint of builders and was killed by a spear.

#14.ST. LUKE “The Winged Ox”: Because he described so well the sacrificial death of Jesus.

#15.ST. MATTHEW “The Winged Man”: His gospel traces the human descent of Jesus.

Music notes

Karen A. Hindenlang, Director of Music

In Lent, the St. John’s music program gives up descants, those festive, decorative melodic lines sometimes sung above familiar hymn tunes by choir sopranos and high-flying altos. Our descants shall return in full force on Easter Sunday, along with all of our stored-up Alleluias.

In addition to organ and choir, our Lenten services will include music by oboist Nancy Siemon and the Balcony Bells. We welcome Instrumentalists to contribute to our worship. As an organist, I’ve worked with everything from bag-pipes to harp, from tuba to harmonica. So, what do you play? (And, when can you play it?)

Our service music changed for Lent, and will change again on Easter Day. True, the S-music settings at the beginning of the Hymnal 1982 can be repeated for months — or even years — on end. But since coming to St. John’s, I’ve asked to vary our service music periodically to mark the changing liturgical seasons. Rest assured: our friends Mathias and Schubert (a.k.a. S-278 and S-164) will be back with us soon.

Since October 1, when our new hymnals were blessed, we have sung hymns from the Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS) collection nearly every Sunday. Some parishioners have given me lists of personal favorites for inclusion in our 10:30 services. Thank you! Others have promised to do so, but have not yet produced. Alright, now — it’s high time to turn in your list!

Easter is early this year. That gives us 10-week spring “shoulder-season” during which new singers can give Chancel Choir a short test-drive with no concern for the extra effort of Lessons & Carols, Christmas Eve, or Holy Week. (Well, there is Pentecost, but we can worry about that later.) Please speak with me anytime for more information.



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 cnyepiscopal.org/news-events/blog/ .

Members of 33 congregations kick off Learning Communities initiative

Source: The Episcopal Diocese of Central New York

The Learning Communities Initiative is off to a great start! 140 people came together in Skaneateles last weekend for the initiative kick-off. Consultants Dwight Zscheile and Michael Binder trained participants to lead spiritually enriching activities and exercises in their own congregations. Participants will take these skills home, seeking to deepen their communities' spirituality and walking with their fellow church members into a new period of discernment about God's leading.

Handouts and slides from the day are available on the diocesan website at cnyepiscopal.org/learning-communities .



Watch: Service of Lamentation for Gun Violence

Source: The Episcopal Diocese of Central New York

On Wednesday March 14, the one-month anniversary of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, cathedrals and churches across the country held services of lamentation to pray for the victims of the Parkland shooting and all victims of gun violence.

Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe hosted a Service of Lamentation on Facebook Live. Watch the video at cnyepiscopal.org/2018/03/watch-service-lamentation-gun-violence/.

The bishop also encourages clergy and parish leaders, especially those holding services on Wednesdays, to observe this day using the liturgical resources available from Bishops United Against Gun Violence: bishopsagainstgunviolence.org/liturgical-resources/ .

The Question Before Us: Facebook Live with Bishop DeDe - Seeking Jesus in the issues that divide us

Source: The Episcopal Diocese of Central New York

Jesus prayed for us “that they may be one”—but he never had to deal with a Facebook comments section. Can we have Christian unity AND real conversation on divisive topics like politics, sexism, gun violence and racism?

Join Bishop DeDe for monthly discussions—from a Christian perspective—on controversial topics. We’ll consider the issues for the sake of building relationships, not winning arguments.

Join the conversation on Facebook Live at Bishop DeDe's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/bishopdede .

Tuesday, March 20, 8:00 p.m.: How can Christians respond to gun violence?

Tuesday, April 3, 8:00 p.m.: Why would white Christians care about racism?

National church news

Update from the House of Bishops

Source: The Episcopal Church

The House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church concluded its retreat meeting at Camp Allen in Navasota, TX on March 9.

Offering an overview are Bishop Ian Douglas of Connecticut and Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe of Central New York.

Watch the video and get more information at www.episcopalchurch.org/library/video/update-house-bishops-march-2018 .

House of Bishops pledges advocacy to end gun violence, sexual violence

Source: Episcopal News Service

The Episcopal Church's House of Bishops said March 7 its members will support two major social movements, one to end gun violence and the other to end sexual harassment, violence and gender bias.

The bishops said they "wholeheartedly support and join" young people who survived the deadly Feb. 14 school shooting in Parkland, Florida, in their call for an end to gun violence.

In the other statement, they said they knew the "church has fallen short of our responsibility to listen and respond" to "the reality of sexual harassment, gender-based violence, and the cultural stronghold of gender bias and inequity." The bishops "invite the church to a deeper examination of what God intends for our relationships," including at the July meeting of General Convention.

Read the full story at www.episcopalchurch.org/library/article/house-bishops-pledges-advocacy-end-gun-violence-sexual-violence .

Episcopalians, Anglicans to join push for rural women's empowerment at United Nations

Source: Episcopal News Service

Women and girls in remote, rural pockets of the world will stand in the forefront of the minds of Episcopal delegates heading to a two-week session at the United Nations in one of the most populous cities in the United States — New York.

The 62nd United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) is taking place March 12-23. For 2018, the theme zeroes in on the challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls.

"This is the second-largest UN event in New York City every year. It's all very dramatic and exciting," Lynnaia Main, Episcopal Church representative to the United Nations, told Episcopal News Service. The largest event is the United Nations General Assembly, held in September.



The 2017 United Nations Commission on the Status of Women included 45 member states plus accredited nongovernmental organizations such as the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. Photo: UNCSW

Read the full story at www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2018/03/09/episcopalians-anglicans-to-join-push-for-rural-womens-empowerment-at-united-nations/ .