



September 2016

# St. John's Eagle

The Newsletter of St. John's Episcopal Church

## A Fruitful Time To Be a Part of St. John's Episcopal Church

By The Rev. Barb Schmitz, Interim Rector

As we have rounded second base and the halfway mark of the interim, I want to give you a sense of what will be happening for the rest of the "green season" and as we move into Advent.

The Search Committee has conducted small focus groups as part of their self-study. This will lead into preparation of the materials needed to put out the call for a new rector. At the appropriate time (but not yet), you will be invited to submit names of potential candidates who might match the profile created.

We will continue the plastering, painting, and other renovations begun over the summer, including upgrading the office space and the phone system.

As usual in the fall, we will conduct an annual stewardship program. It will be an especially important time, if you have not recently assessed your percentage giving to St. John's, to prayerfully consider increasing your financial commitment to your parish.

### Save These Dates!

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| September 4  | Return to regular service times of 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.   |
| September 11 | 190th anniversary of the consecration of the first St. John's Church by Bishop Hobart<br>extra hymns at the 10:30 service and Blessing of the Backpacks at the 8:00 and 10:30 services. |
| September 11 | Bells rehearsal resumes at noon.  |
| September 15 | Chancel choir rehearsal resumes.  |
| September 18 | Rally Day at Stewart Park Large Pavilion, ONE service at 10:30.<br><b>The church will supply entrees and drinks. Parishioners should bring dish-to-pass sides/desserts.</b>             |
| October 22   | Celebration for Bishop Adams (in Syracuse).   |
| October 29   | Harvest Dinner.   |

Plans are underway for a new season of Christian Education; Rally Day and the Harvest Dinner will be held as usual.

In the fall, the Search Committee will receive names of candidates for rector, and interact with them via email, phone, and in-person interviews. We'll have a better sense of when a call might be issued as we get closer to the end of the year.

If you have questions about the remainder of the interim time or the search process, please do not hesitate to ask me, one of the wardens (Susie Backstrom and Eric Weinhold), or the chair of the Search Committee (Marcia Fort Baum). Let me say again, thank you for your kindnesses and support to me as your interim rector. Keep praying, keep being faithful, and in good time, the next phase of St. John's journey will arrive.

Finally, we will say our goodbyes to Bishop Skip, and welcome a new bishop to the Diocese. It is a fruitful time to be a part of St. John's Episcopal Church. ✚

# The Diocese of Central New York Elects a New Bishop

By Michael Roman and Lisa Tatusko

The Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe (currently rector of St. Peter's in the Woods Church in Fairfax Station, Virginia) was elected August 6 to be the 11th bishop (and first female bishop) of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York. She was elected from a slate of five candidates on the second ballot, receiving 87 lay votes and 42 clergy votes. Seventy-five lay votes and 37 clergy votes were needed for an election. Duncan-Probe will succeed Bishop Gladstone B. "Skip" Adams III, who served the Diocese of Central New York for more than 15 years and has been called to serve as provisional bishop of the Episcopal Church in South Carolina. The Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry will preside at a service of ordination and consecration on December 3 at the Holiday Inn in Liverpool, New York, pending confirmation by a majority of the House of Bishops and by a majority of the diocesan standing committees in the church.

Duncan-Probe, a priest in the Diocese of Virginia, has served as the rector of St. Peter's in the Woods Church since 2009, guiding the parish through significant growth and revitalization. Previously, she served at All Saints' Church in Stoneham, Massachusetts, St. John's Episcopal Church in McLean, Virginia, and Holy Comforter in Vienna, Virginia. Prior to her ordination to the priesthood in 2004, she served as a youth director and as an educator, and co-founded an engineering consulting firm with her husband.

"The thing I'm looking forward to at the Diocese of Central New York is continuing their ministry of reaching out to the local communities, of making a difference in the lives of all people, gathering people together for strength and support, and really living the message of Jesus Christ," says Duncan-

Probe. "In the 21st century I view the role of bishop as a return to this level of personal, social, and religious engagement, actively responding to societal and individual needs through relationship and by proclaiming the love of Christ in transformative and life-giving ways for all people." For more information about our 11th bishop, visit [www.bishopcny.org/index.php/candidates/bio-duncanprobe/q-a-duncanprobe/](http://www.bishopcny.org/index.php/candidates/bio-duncanprobe/q-a-duncanprobe/).



Bishop-Elect, The Very Rev. DeDe Duncan-Probe. Photo provided by The Episcopal Diocese of Central New York.

Duncan-Probe is dean of Region VII of Diocese of Virginia, a member of the diocese's Committee on Congregational Missions and board member of The Diocesan Missionary Society. She also serves on the Board of Regents of The Goodwin House, a nonprofit care organization for aging adults, and is an adjunct professor at Virginia Theological Seminary. She holds a B.S. in education from Stephen F. Austin State University, an M.A. in psychology from Pepperdine University, a Master of Divinity from The General Theological Seminary, and a Ph.D. in theology from The Foundation House/Oxford University.

## ***Diocese of Central New York Bishop Transition Timeline***

July 31	Bishop Adams' sabbatical term begins; last day in diocesan offices.
Aug. - Dec.	Bishop-elect Duncan-Probe transitions to CNY
Sept.	Bishop Adams begins term as Provisional Bishop of The Episcopal Church in South Carolina.
Oct. 22	Bishop Adams' Farewell celebration ( <a href="http://www.cnyepiscopal.org">www.cnyepiscopal.org</a> , click "Current Events" tab).
Oct. 31	Bishop Adams' term as Bishop of Central New York ends; Standing Committee takes up ecclesiastical authority.
Dec. 3	The Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe consecrated (for details, visit <a href="http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens/2016/08/08/central-new-york-elects-dede-duncan-probe-as-next-bishop/">episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens/2016/08/08/central-new-york-elects-dede-duncan-probe-as-next-bishop/</a> ).

The Diocese of Central New York was established in 1868, and is made up of 87 congregations and chapels, including one college chaplaincy in the center of New York State. The diocese includes 14 counties: Broome, Cayuga, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, Seneca, Tioga, and Tompkins. ✚

# Saint John's Search Committee Report

By Marcia Baum and Michael Roman

In early June, the search committee launched the process for the selection of a new rector for St. John's. The committee has been meeting weekly, working on the self-study phase to identify and describe St. John's, its ministries and the Ithaca community. The committee will conclude this first phase by producing a parish profile in September. The profile will be based on a "spiritual genealogy" (the story of St. John's corporate journey of faith) conducted in mid-August, and in larger part, on input received in focus-group sessions, primarily with parishioners, but also with community groups

that have a relationship with St. John's (e.g., Loaves & Fishes, ACT, Kitchen Cupboard, Episcopal Church at Cornell, Episcopal Peace Fellowship, etc.). Focus groups were chosen over surveys, since in addition to gathering data, they also help build relationships and community by encouraging people to talk to each other. The committee expects to complete the profile in September and will then present the profile to the St. John's Vestry and the diocesan Office of Transition Ministry. When approved, the profile will be published on the church website and available to potential rectors for St. John's.

## Self-Introductions from the Eight Members of St. John's Search Committee

**Marcia J. Baum (Committee Chair):** It makes me proud, and it feels good, to say that St. John's is my home church! The church my family began attending in 1965, when I was 7 years old. The church where my siblings and I were members of the Sunday school and youth group, were acolytes and were confirmed. The church where I raised my two daughters and introduced three grandboys-of-my-heart to the Episcopal church. St. John's feeds my soul with the teachings and Word of God and the fellowship with my church family.

**Peg Coleman:** I transferred my membership to St. John's from St. Matthew's Liverpool in 2011 after I married a man from nearby Groton, NY. I had served on one rector search committee in the Diocese of Washington many years ago, and I look forward to working with this search committee. Here at St. John's, I serve as a lay liturgical Eucharistic minister (LLEM) and participate regularly in adult formation and fellowship activities. In 2012, I began serving as co-mentor of Education for Ministry (EfM) with Jim Johnson, and in 2015, I began serving as EfM Coordinator for the Diocese of Central NY. I am pleased to be working on broader issues of parish life this year as the committee begins the work of self-study, developing a profile, and discerning who from a pool of candidates is called to lead St. John's into the next phase of our journey.

**Dean Hawthorne:** I came to St. John's in the early 1990's after the pain of a high pressure academic life and its consequences literally brought me to my knees. The Lord showed me how to have a meaningful life with a better relationship with Him. St. John's has been my home every since: I've served here, met my wife here, and been married here. And if I die a rich man, this church is getting air conditioning!

**Hugh Hurlbut:** I first came to St. John's with my parents in the early 1930s; when my parents left Ithaca, obviously I left with them. I came back to Ithaca in the early 1950s to attend Ithaca College, and I started coming back to St. John's. Shortly after that, I was married in the Episcopal Church in Addison NY, but then my wife and I lived here in Ithaca, and I have continued since the mid-1950s to attend St. John's. I go to church to pray, because I think I need it.

**John Jackson:** From childhood, I grew up as part of a couple of parishes of the Philippine Episcopal Church community for four decades. When I came to Ithaca, participating in the Episcopal Church at Cornell and St. John's faith communities came pretty naturally to me. My spouse belongs to another faith tradition, and for some years our family worshiped at Christ Chapel, a church that welcomed, loved, and embraced us as family and neighbors. But I missed my deep Episcopal roots, and I eventually settled at St. John's.

**Stephanie Nevels (Vestry Liaison):** I came to St. John's in 2003 just after moving to Ithaca with my then-husband, and our two little ones. Over the last 13 years, the St. John's family has supported me through many changes--including shaping those little ones into caring adolescents. I am honored to give back to the parish by serving on this search committee.

*Continued on page 4.*

**Michael Roman:** I was baptized in my father's Roman Catholic church, but since my mother was an Episcopalian and the one who went to church, I grew up going to the Episcopal church. After some time away from the church (and some prompting from God), I decided to shop around for a church. I tried St. John's first, because I grew up Episcopal, and I thought I should try to get some not-Cornell into my life. I never left. I met my wife Margaret at St. John's, we got married here, our children were baptized here and have grown up here. Some years ago, someone asked me why I went to St. John's, and my reaction, before I could think, was "I belong here." I will do my best to understand what St. John's wants and needs in its next rector, and to represent the parish as fairly and completely as I can.

**Cora Yao:** In 2009, I was a registered nurse living in Owings Mills, Md. When I retired that August, I decided to move to Ithaca, NY, because my daughter's family lived here. She had two boys in elementary school, and I wanted to get to know them better. I joined the Episcopal Church in 1985, after I met my future husband, who was reared in Shanghai, China, as an Episcopalian. I especially found the liturgy to my liking, although I had been reared as a southern Baptist I found St. John's shortly after arriving in Ithaca, and have been involved ever since. I want to strengthen the worship experience at Saint John's and support growth of each person in Christ. ✚

## Vestry Highlights Summer 2016

By Susie Backstrom and Russell Bourne

Our Vestry supports the church's mission by word and deed, helps define and articulate the mission of the parish, helps ensure effective organization and planning in the parish, and manage resources and finances of St. John's. Much of this work is done by committees of the Vestry. Since May, the following Vestry committees have been hard at work:

**Capital Campaign (Susie Backstrom):** Gifts received halfway through the campaign: \$516,716 (almost half of the \$1,100,000 pledged).

**Finance (Mary Arlin):** Developing a 2017 annual operating budget.

**Communications Committee (Michael Roman):** Improving and updating our website, publishing newsletters, and planning for future newsletters.

**Search Committee (Marcia Baum):** Gathering information from the spiritual genealogy and focus groups for the parish profile which will be used in our rector search.

**Property (Brett Oakes):**

- Proceeding with Vestry-approved building projects including painting and new cabinetry.
- Landscaping - The Vestry agreed to spend up to \$10,000 from capital-campaign funds for landscaping, primarily at the front entrance to the church and in the small plot next to the kitchen steps. Hardy shrubs, flowering perennials, and ground-covers will be used. Parishioners will be encouraged to help with soil

preparation and installation. Work will start and plantings will be in place as fall progresses.

**Mission (Aaron Wagner):** Donated funds for 30 solar calculators and 3 Science DVDs, to be sent to Myanmar.



St. John's Mission Committee sends calculators and DVDs to Burmese school children.

*Continued on page 5.*



*Vestry Highlights Summer 2016, continued from page 4.*

At its August 15 meeting, the Vestry appointed Sara VanLooy to serve out the unexpired term of Linn Henry. Sara and her family regularly attend the Sunday 10:30 service. We welcome Sara to the Vestry and look forward to her contribution during this exciting time at St. John's. Following is a little bit about Sara, in her words:

"I was born in mid-Michigan and attended the University of Michigan, where I met my husband, Owen. We moved to Ithaca in 1998 after he completed graduate school in Missouri, and I attended St. John's from 1999 to about 2004. I returned in 2012 and despite my long absence, it felt like a homecoming. I attend the 10:30 service, often with one or both of my children, Will and Charlotte, and I have enjoyed participating in the bell choir and serving as a greeter and lay reader. I'm also entering the second year of the EfM program. Weekdays, I work as a research and publications assistant at the ILR school, helping conduct studies and write reports about disability in the workplace." ✝



Vestry members and wardens with Rev. Barb.

## St. John's Capital Projects Update

By Susie Backstrom

I am delighted to tell you that St. John's is in the midst of completing a number of long-planned repairs, renovations and capital improvements! These are funded in large part by the generous support of parishioners and friends of St. John's through our recent capital campaign. Below is a summary of work done to date, in the process of being done, or planned for completion this year. Much of the earlier work was fairly invisible to everyone, since it was done in the attic of the church or underground. Recent work, however, is right out there for everyone to see and be proud of.

Many thanks to Parish Administrator Sarah Richtmyer, Rev. Barb and Property Committee Chair Brett Oakes for their significant contributions of time in organizing, supervising, and, in some instances, executing this work. Also, many thanks to all of the other parishioners who have volunteered their time and talent in so many ways, including scrubbing walls and woodwork, hauling trash, moving the contents of cabinets or lending a skilled eye to landscape design and other improvements.

**Work completed during the years 2013-15:** (1) garth drainage remediation; (2) steeple work (clean, repair, coat and paint); (3) church and parish hall roofs (clean, repair, coat and paint); (4) church and parish hall exterior walls (repair and paint); (5) removal of overgrown and encroaching Cayuga Street shrubbery; (6) sidewalk repairs; (7) gutter replacement;

(8) engineering design and construction supervision for nave truss reinforcement; and (9) nave truss reinforcement.

**Work completed in 2016 so far:** (1) engineering design and construction supervision for nave ceiling repairs; (2) nave ceiling repair; (3) replacement/installation of gutters above garth; (4) interior painting (walls and woodwork in narthex, walls and woodwork in lower portion of steeple, front doors to church sanctuary, walls and woodwork in hallway between sanctuary and parish hall, cabinets and benches in parish hall, walls and woodwork in large guild room); (5) replace all cabinets in the kitchen; (6) replace cabinets in upper and lower sacristies; (7) install cabinets in rear church office; and (8) replace carpeting in narthex.

**Work scheduled for completion in 2016:** (1) repair and paint damaged walls in entrance hall to parish hall and church office\*; (2) repair and paint damaged window surrounds and adjacent damaged walls in church office\*; (3) repair and paint damaged walls in Children's Chapel\* (4) replace floor covering in portion of Children's Chapel; (5) replace floor covering in entry to Parish Hall and Office; (6) paint kitchen\*; (7) paint sacristy and vesting room; and (8) landscaping in front of church on North Cayuga Street and next to kitchen steps.

\*This work is presently being performed. ✝

# Food Pantry Advocacy Ministry Welcomes Parishioners as Volunteers

By Scott Russell

The community feeding ministry located at St. John's, Loaves & Fishes (L&F), is now welcoming new volunteers for its Advocacy Program. A fresh training session cycle is planned for September. As advocates, John Jackson and I derive many benefits from our association with guests at mealtimes. Many times just being present to listen compassionately or participate in the social moment is rewarding to both of us and to the guests. Specifics of roles are defined with the advocacy coordinator based on volunteer skills, interests, and availability. Volunteering includes training over 4-6 weeks administered by Loaves and Fishes Executive Director Rev. Christina Culver and the program's volunteer coordinator, J. R. Claiborne. If this service opportunity is of interest to you, please contact me (via the church office) or the L&F office at 272-0803. ☩

## Parishoner Profile: Libby and Peter Hedrick

**Libby:** I am a cradle Episcopalian. I was baptized, confirmed and married in the Episcopal Church (at St. John's in Charleston, WV), and I expect the Episcopal church to bury me . . . not in the immediate future, I hope. When I was in the sixth grade My Roman Catholic friend, Joan, invited me to attend her catechism classes, which I loved to pieces and which convinced me that I wanted to be a nun. Having expressed this goal to my mother, I was immediately pulled out of the classes! Looking back, I can see that this child was completely taken with the rituals of the church - symbolic of the mystical, that over the years have made me realize how important a role the arts play in my spiritual life, whether I am treasuring our beautiful liturgy, looking at wonderful stained glass windows, or listening to or performing a glorious mass by Bach. All these draw me out of myself and beckon me to the Holy. For me, worship is High Holy Drama, a feast for the senses: our eyes drink in the artistic appointments, the music pitches us right out of ourselves, and tasting the Blessed Elements brings God directly to us while it connects us with our neighbor. I think if people had a true understanding of what church is all about, they would come in droves. How do we tell them? I have been thinking about this for a long time . . . stay tuned!



**Peter:** I experienced Presbyterian, Baptist-like and Unitarian churches during my childhood as my mother sought good preaching. During my time at Yale University, I converted to the Episcopal Church. What an introduction! I attended Christ Church, very Anglo-Catholic, and sang in its all plainsong Evensong and Benediction Choir - yes, every week! There I learned how high churchmanship can meld with liberal theology, and gained the same appreciation of how the arts enhance worship.

Wherever we have lived or traveled we have sought worship services in Episcopal churches. After our marriage, we lived in East Lansing, Michigan, where we attended All Saints Church and welcomed our first-born into the world. When we moved to Ithaca in 1963 (!!), without hesitation we came right to St. John's. We both appreciate the stimulation from the diversity of thought represented in the congregation at St. John's, and it proved an ideal place to raise our (by then) two children. For us it has been an ideal home base; this way, in our travels, we can connect with spiritual communities throughout North America and much of Europe, be they part of the Anglican Communion or, on occasion, Roman Catholic or Lutheran. We have also befriended (or rather have been befriended by) numerous clergy people around the world - they have supported us in many ways, and we pray that that is a two-way street. There have been some funerals (sadly), and (more happily) we have also attended and participated in three clergy same-sex weddings, all with bishops present and all giving us the feeling that we were witnessing history in the making. And so our community is truly worldwide, but St. John's Ithaca is home. ☩

# Musical Notes

By Karen A. Hindenlang, Director of Music & Organist

## Open Choir

On Sunday, September 11, we mark the 190th anniversary of Bishop Hobart's consecration of St. John's Church. Our Chancel Choir will return to the 10:30 service with extra hymns for all to sing! In addition, interested parishioners can give choral participation a test drive that day: no rehearsal and no anthems, but plenty of fellowship and song. Speak with me or any choir member for information about singing with us in the chancel that morning.

## Ambassadors Needed

If you meet new attendees at St. John's with musical interests, please introduce them to me or one of our volunteer musicians. There is always a place for more singers and ringers in our ongoing program, especially with the turnover we experience as part of an academic community. Welcoming personal contact is our best recruitment tool, and participation in the music program can offer a meaningful connection to parish life.

## Rehearsals Resume

Chancel Choir meets Thursday evenings, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., starting September 15. Practice for Balcony Bells starts Sunday, September 11, at noon, in preparation for Rally Day. Both multi-generational groups actively assist and warmly welcome new members as we work together to offer God's gift of music in worship; please consider joining us!

## Support Invited

Our new Choral Scholars program helps to sustain our musical heritage, strengthen our worship life, support our volunteer singers, and develop a new generation of church musicians. Select music students from Ithaca College assist in our services, gain experience in liturgical music, and receive a small stipend. Thanks to generous sponsors, the initiative will continue this fall, but additional donations are needed. Gifts to St. John's marked "Choral Scholars" are placed in a special non-budgetary fund dedicated to this successful program. Your support would be greatly appreciated by all involved. ✚

# New Beginnings

By Lisa Tatusko

Calling all middle schoolers! How would you like to spend a weekend with like-minded kids from around the diocese and share your faith, hopes, and dreams? New Beginnings might be just what you're looking for. This really is a fun weekend, and I would love to see a large group of us attend the event this fall. The Fall 2016 Retreat Weekend will be September 23-25 at Grace Episcopal Church in Baldwinsville. And it's FREE this year. You can monitor the diocesan website or the bulletin for further information. If you have any questions, please see Lisa Tatusko.

New Beginnings is a weekend retreat for middle school youth focusing on the two greatest commandments: loving God with all of our heart, mind, and strength, and loving our neighbors as ourselves. The event is a unique experience designed specifically to respond to the needs and concerns of junior high youth. The retreat is led by a team of youth and adults from around the diocese. ✚



# Christian Education

By The Rev Barb Schmitz and Lisa Tatusko

The summer is quickly drawing to a close, and while we anticipate the school year with excitement, it is also time to begin our program year here at St. John's. Here are a few things you can expect from Christian Education. If you have any questions, please see Muriel Everhart or Lisa Tatusko.

## Church School

Our class for pre-k through 5th grade will be held at both 8:00 and 10:30. Children will meet their families in the nave at the peace. This year, we will use a curriculum put out by the Episcopal Church that follows the lectionary, so children and parents will hear the same message each week. Classes begin on September 11. Please report to the parish hall for registration. Look for updates in your bulletin. Our high school offering will also be held at 10:30.

## Youth Group

New this year, St. John's will offer a youth group for our youth, 5th grade and up. The group will initially meet once a month at the church. We will incorporate matters of faith, service, and fun activities. Our first meeting will be September 11. Please look for any updates in the bulletin.

## Adult Formation

This group is a combination of book study and bible study. This fall, we have the added pleasure of including people interested in Confirmation. This fall, will incorporate material appropriate for those interested in being Confirmed at a later date when the Bishop visits St. John's. We will once again be meeting between the services in the Chapman Room at 9:15. Lisa Tatusko will lead the group and Rev. Barb will participate. The first meeting will be September 11, at 9:15 a.m.

## Interested in exploring Confirmation in the Episcopal Church?

This fall, the adult study group that meets between the two Sunday morning services will incorporate material appropriate for those interested in being confirmed at a later date when the Bishop visits St. John's. Lisa Tatusko will lead the group and Rev. Barb will assist. The first meeting will be September 11 at 9:15 a.m. in the Chapman Room on the lower level. If you are 14 years or older and interested in Confirmation, please speak to Rev. Barb by September 4, so that we can order the appropriate materials.

## For Your Information

Confirmation is the sacramental laying-on of hands by a bishop and signifies an adult commitment to being a disciple of Jesus in the Episcopal Church. It presumes the person has been baptized. If you have not been baptized, see Rev. Barb.

The visitation schedule of the bishop-elect is not known at this time but would most likely occur sometime in 2017.

The canons of the Episcopal Church require that wardens and delegates to Diocesan Convention be confirmed communicants.

If you have questions, please contact Rev. Barb. 

## Contributors

The following people on the St. Johns' Communications Committee contributed to this newsletter:

Susie Backstrom (Senior Warden), Russell Bourne, Libby Hedrick, Karen Hindenlang (Music Director), Margaret Johnson, Jamie Parris, Michael Roman (Chair), Matthew Sanaker, The Rev. Barb Schmitz (Interim Rector), Lisa Tatusko, Eric Weinhold (Junior Warden).

Marcia Baum (Search Committee Chair) and Peter Hedrick also contributed.