

The Shepherd's Voice

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Church of the Good Shepherd

JUNE – AUGUST

2016



SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

It's hard to believe it's time for another quarterly newsletter! The past 3 months have been "busy" to say the least. Between the Vestry, Search Committee, Sunday School, Youth Group, Outreach and Fundraising Committees (just to name a few), there's been a constant flurry of activity here at Good Shepherd. Some notable events this spring: the Ascension Day Mass and Steak Dinner was a rousing success thanks to a lovely service provided by Rev G and many pounds of prime beef procured and cooked by Rick

Vesperman. The Brotherhood committee provided a great spread for the Mother's Day Brunch during coffee hour. Megan Whalen and the Sunday School teachers did a wonderful job introducing our young people to the ins and outs of the Eucharistic Service, culminating in a joyous Communion celebration on Pentecost. Thanks to Deacon Norm Fulton and the Fundraising Committee, "The Angry Bird's Movie" fundraising event on May 21st is looking to be a big hit. Amanda Slattery, Cathy Trinidad and the Outreach Committee continued to encourage us to support worthy causes, both locally and abroad.

Looking ahead, we await the visit of Bishop Shin on Father's Day, June 19th, to confirm the members of our 2016 Confirmation Class. Also, our popular Vacation Bible School is scheduled to take place here at the church on August 23-25 from 9 am to 12 pm. We continue to be hopeful that we will call a new Rector before the fall. Fay Wright and the Search Committee have done an amazing job thus far with the Search process and we pray for their (and our) continued success.

Paul Miller's report will highlight our financial statistics for the first quarter of the year. Our expenses continue to outstrip our income but have not been insurmountable thus far. Thanks to a mild winter and decreased snowplowing and energy costs, our expenses were decreased substantially from our projected 2016 budget. We have also been blessed with a surplus of income from 2015 due to decreased rector compensation costs and the creation of a sustainability fund to aid us in times of need. Our fundraisers should also help us close the gap between expenses and income. That being said, we cannot afford to be complacent and will look forward to a strong Stewardship campaign led by John Kaprielian, our new Stewardship Chair, for the coming year.

As I close my report, I invite everyone to offer their heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Bernie Sotter for his many years of service as sexton to the church. Bernie announced his formal retirement at the beginning of May and we're pleased that Phill Pinkney accepted the position to be our new sexton at that time.

Submitted by Maria Kaprielian
May 18, 2016

Special Note: As May and June are the months to celebrate graduations - please write to the office if anyone in the family is graduating from any school, with name, school and degree.

* * * *

NOTE FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

All My Life's a Circle ... the Years Keep Rollin' By.

All my life's a circle; Sunrise and sundown;
Moon rolls thru the nighttime; Till the daybreak comes around.
All my life's a circle; But I can't tell you why;
Season's spinning round again; The years keep rollin' by.

The folks I grew up with have sung these words from Harry Chapin's "Circle" at weddings, funerals, gathered around a piano or a campfire. In our teens and twenties when we first sang them, we are now in our fifties and sixties. They continue to express our experience as friends, family, tribe. As the years go by, we find ourselves utterly transformed ... and also the same. Life has been nothing like we expected ... and everything we expected.

The song – and its message of the cyclical and eternal nature of time – has been with me the last week. What prompted it is a simple routine I have. Four times a year, at the beginning of Advent, Lent, the day after Pentecost and in early Fall, I go to the bookshelf. To the bottom corner shelf, where I keep Feasting on the Word, a twelve volume commentary on our Sunday lectionary (scripture) readings. (Four for each of our Lectionary Years, A, B and C.) I exchange the volume I have just finished for the next one. Usually I don't think much about it. This week, I did.

I wondered where I would be preaching and living in three years when I next use the Lent through Eastertide Year C. And then I wondered how much I would use it. It was cutting edge, fresh, new, when I got it nine years ago. So was another commentary that I got twenty years ago and rarely use now, so will I eventually rely on this one less as I get something new. And eventually it won't be books, but e-books, websites, blogs... and this makes me a bit sad. Because I won't be able to journey on a website as I do with real books.

This commentary on Biblical passages has become a kind of Bible for me – inspiring, teaching, challenging, disappointing, exciting. Each page is covered with my own commentary. Words and passages are underlined or circled. The margins are full of the symbols I use as shorthand. I write notes with ideas, questions, wrestling, agreeing or disagreeing with the text. Each time I use the book, I write the date and parish I am serving. So as I read I am engaged with the writer and also with the "me" of three, six and sometimes nine years ago. I see how I have grown and changed spiritually, theologically and even personally. The notes remind me of what was happening in the

parish, the culture, the world. Some issues and situations are resolved, others have gotten worse, new ones have arisen.

The folks who wrote the books of the Bible were in conversation with the Bible itself and with each other. Over the centuries, scholars, laity and clergy have wrestled with the Bible and each other ... and we are all invited into the conversation. There is something beautiful and moving about the continued conversation. The seasons spin into years.

I am of course in mind of all this because my time serving you as Interim will come to an end soon as the Vestry issues a call to your next Rector. I am so excited for this congregation and for your next Rector. She or he will lead and guide you through the coming cycle of seasons. You and your Rector will continue to create this wonderful expression of the Body of Christ here in Granite Springs, New York. And it will be the same and completely different from what it has been. And it will be everything and nothing like what you expect. Such is the mystery and wonder of the Circle of Life.

In peace and prayer, gratitude and love,
Reverend Gwyneth Rev G

* * * *

SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

The Search Committee has been interviewing Candidates to be our new Rector and we are in the home stretch! As the newsletter goes to press we are beginning to visit the parishes of our narrowed list of candidates. These Candidates will have been interviewed twice by Skype, formally in person, informally over a meal with their significant other, and all their references called and confirmed.

After the site visits, the Search Committee will prayerfully discern who are the best Candidates to be presented to the Vestry, we will narrow the field down to a MAXIMUM of 3 who we believe meet the profile criteria. The Search Committee will then give the final Candidate names to Canon Deb Tammearu, who then starts the Oxford background checks and to Bishop Dietsche, who completes bishop-to-bishop calls to further assess the Candidates' suitability for COGS.

On June 11th we will have a special meeting of the Vestry and the Search Committee with Canon Deb. The Search Committee will present the Candidates alphabetically, give

a synopsis of their strengths and give a packet with their Office of Transition Ministry profile and resume and any notes the Search Committee thinks would be helpful. The Search Committee may recommend questions for Vestry consideration, but at this point, the work of the Committee is done! The Search Committee has fully evaluated many Candidates and after June 11th it is up to the Vestry to interview and call our new Rector.

After the June 11th meeting, the Vestry invites the Candidates for 1-1.5 day visit to COGS. The interview focuses on administration and partnership. The finances are discussed and analyzed (Candidates meet with Financial Warden and Treasurer), the property walked over and discussed (Candidates meet with Property Warden), and the Candidates may ask to meet with key parish leaders (e.g., Sunday School lead, youth group lead, altar guild, music director). We will arrange this prior to the Candidates' arrival and contact you if we need to set up a time to meet.

After the interview visit, the Vestry then prayerfully discerns whom to call. If the Vestry decides that none of the Candidates is appropriate, a new Search Committee is commissioned and we begin the process again.

We ask for your continued prayers for the Candidates, Search Committee and Vestry. May God's voice and plans be ever in the lead of this journey to call our New Rector.

Peace,
Fay, for the Search Committee

* * * *

TREASURER'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

We started 2016 with \$16,513 in the church's General Operating Fund as a result of finishing in the black in 2015 by that amount. Our actual Income and Expenses for the General Operating Fund through April 30, 2016 resulted in a deficit of (\$10,345) for our net income reducing our Operating Fund balance to \$6,168 as of April 30, 2016.

When analyzing what drove this deficit of \$10,345 was it Income or Expense when you compare the actual to budget, our General Operating Income was \$2,440 worse than budget and Operating Expense better than budget by \$8,631. This results in our Net Operating Income actual of \$(10,345) to be better than budget by \$6,191.

The main drivers for the Income shortfall are Regular Envelope giving being below budget by \$1,014, Easter giving below budget by \$672 and other Special Envelope giving for Holy Days in the first four months below budget by \$846.

The main drivers for Expense are Utility savings for the church and rectory of \$4,015, Maintenance of \$3,391 as a result of no significant snow. These savings of \$7,406 I believe are real and have resulted from the mild winter we have experienced in 2016. The other savings of \$1,186 in Other Expense is just a timing difference as I budgeted quarterly \$1,250 for Search Committee expenditures during the year and as of through April there have been none.

In closing, our budgeted Income and Expense for the remaining eight months of the year shows we will probably have a deficit of (\$16,664). If this happens when you then apply this deficit to our April 30, 2016 balance of \$6,168 we will then be left with a deficit of (\$10,496) to resolve. This is all contingent on our Income and Expense budget items going as planned.

The good news is this deficit can be resolved by utilizing the income generated by our 2016 fundraisers or the funds residing in the Sustainability Fund of \$12,679. This will allow us to break even for 2016.

As we go through this transition in 2016, your vestry and myself will be monitoring our 2016 Income and Expenses very closely and appraising you in the quarterly newsletter of where we are financially.

If you would like further detail or have any other questions, please feel free to approach me at church, email me or call me at home anytime. My home number is 914-962-7048, my email is LM_PHM@Earthlink.net.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul H. Miller
Treasurer

* * * * *

FOCUS ON STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship means using everything God has given us—life, talents, possessions—to serve God with love and gratitude, and to promote the mission of His church.

As the new head of the Stewardship Committee at The Church of the Good Shepherd, I thought it would be a good idea to restart the Stewardship column that ran for many years in The Shepherd's Voice. Currently, the Stewardship Committee consists of me, my wife Maria, who is also the Senior Warden, and Rev. Gwyneth. Therefore, my first act as Stewardship Chair is to put out a call for volunteers to help formulate, guide, and execute our Stewardship programs throughout the coming year. This will be a small time commitment that will build slightly as we head toward autumn and Commitment Sunday. Please speak to me, Maria, or Rev. G if you are interested, or I'll have no choice but to come looking for you.

"The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." (Genesis 2:15).

That, my friends, is what Stewardship is all about. Taking care of the whole of creation is the job God has entrusted humanity with. It is not an afterthought, or a hobby; it is our purpose – to both take care of God's creation, and make beneficial use of it. We are also stewards of the Church, of the Body of Christ, and we are responsible for "working it and taking care of it." Very often Stewardship campaigns get caught up in discussions of budgets and pledges and dire warnings. I want to see if we can take a different approach, one that takes to heart that everything that we have comes from God; one that understands that it is our responsibility to look after His church, His people, and His creation; one that recognizes that great joy comes from fulfilling that purpose by helping others through supporting His church and its mission by giving of all your gifts back to the one who provided them all.

All of the good that we do is part of Stewardship, whether it is giving to charities, volunteering, helping your family or your neighbors, living thoughtfully and kindly and not dwelling on material things. As good stewards we are called to give of our talents wherever they are needed and can do good. Good Shepherd is a place where all are welcome to come and worship, to experience fellowship, to work together to help others and to live lives full of love, as God exhorts us to do. If that has meaning for you we know you will support the Church in any of the many ways that you can.

John Kaprielian

* * * * *

NOTE FROM THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE INTERIM EDITOR



This newsletter marks the one-year anniversary of the Shepherd's Voice converting to a quarterly format. It seems to be going quite well! I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this newsletter through words, ideas, prayers and photographs. Although I still occasionally have a few choice words for MS Word – pulling this together is getting easier and easier. Each quarter I am delighted with the information we can provide to our Parish and all of the fun and faith we have to share. That being said if anyone has any thoughts or suggestions on how to make this newsletter better please feel free to share them with me or Reverend Gwyneth.

I wish everyone a wonderful summer. Enjoy the warm weather and have safe travels. The next issue of the Shepherd's Voice will be published in early September. It will be a back to school, welcome Fall issue with our thoughts turning to our Fall Fundraisers, Blessing of the Backpacks, Blessing of the Animals, and hopefully exciting news in our search for a new rector. It will also mark the 1-year anniversary of me serving as Editor! Time sure does fly!

Sincerely,
Megan Whalen

* * * * *

NEW DIGITAL ORGAN

There is great pride in Good Shepherd in the endeavors we have engaged in. Our beloved organ, a mainstay in our services, is in its 66th year and showing its age. Recently, it has suddenly cut out during services and has a sluggish response. Replacement parts are difficult to get. The inner motor is worn, sensitive, and coming to the end of its life. For all these reasons plus the distinct advantage of having an instrument with more options, it is time to move to our next endeavor, obtaining a new organ.

Replacing the organ is a major acquisition for our parish. A new instrument needs to be researched, and a process established in order to make a selection that we will be proud of for, at least, the next 66 years. With the support of the vestry, I have suggested entrusting this responsibility to a committee made up of the music director, the pastor, and a group of interested members of the congregation. Among the tasks the committee will face will be:

- engaging the services of an organ consultant,
- planning a budget,
- deciding which characteristics are crucial and
- sensitizing the committee as to the different sounds on each instrument.

The committee's job would entail evaluating the sound and tonal characteristics, durability, reputation of the manufacturer, and the availability of the service representative for maintaining the instrument. The sole criteria by which our entire congregation judges the committee's selection will be the SOUND of the organ. Given that, the members of the committee will find themselves listening a lot more closely to organ quality, and learn to more finely scrutinize the sound of an organ. Members will need time to go to other churches to hear different organs.

I am looking for interested members to embark on this educational, musical journey with me. Though I am a musician, my knowledge of organs is limited and I will be learning alongside other volunteers of this group. The committee members should understand that this will be a long-term commitment. And though it would be advantageous to have some musical understanding, it is not essential. Ideally, I would like to have the committee formed by the end of May, start engaging consultants during June, and begin visiting churches in July, Aug, etc. Please talk to me, email me (flutistcs@gmail.com), or speak with any vestry member about joining the committee.

We have not had the opportunity to know what it means to take pride in a fine instrument for our church. In addition to the accompaniment of a sonorous organ at our services, having a well-maintained and beautiful organ can be a magnet for fine players, deepen the meaning of our services, and bring additional attention to our church.

Cecilia

* * * * *

OUTREACH NEWS

CCNW

Our food collection has received a boost from the 100 grocery bags donated by Cathy Trinidad and waiting in the narthex to be taken to the grocery store and filled with food donations. A list of items needed is attached to each bag. Next time you leave the church please pick up an empty bag and bring it back full! As at the end of May, Good Shepherd has donated 379.5 lbs of food and 3.3lbs of clothing. Our target for food for the year was set by the Youth Group as one ton (1,000lbs). Let's make a big effort to reach that goal. In addition, CCNW is asking for diapers, large size, and for school supplies to be donated in June and July in time for the start of the next school year. We also need volunteers to deliver our donations each month. There is a signup sheet in the breezeway, which has a lot of empty spaces. Please sign up for a month if you are able.

VEGETABLE GARDEN

A vegetable garden has been planted! On a sunny Saturday afternoon an energetic team from the youth group, under the guidance of Fay and Jan, prepared the vegetable garden and planted seeds and seedlings. Produce grown will be donated to the Community Center of Northern Westchester. We look forward to a terrific harvest!

RELAY FOR LIFE

Good Shepherd has been registered to take part in the event June 17/18.

SUPPORT CONNECTION

Diane Buschel is requesting donations for the Good Shepherd team which will take part in the walk on October 2. If you would like to walk with the team please see Diane.

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF JERUSALEM

Our Good Friday offering was sent to the nationwide collection for The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, which includes the church in Jerusalem.

WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER OF PUTNAM AND NORTHERN WESTCHESTER

We are now supporting the Women's Resource Center of Putnam and Northern Westchester. They welcomed the baby supplies we donated at Epiphany and our recent monetary contribution.

Amanda Slattery
Outreach Coordinator

* * * *

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Eucharist Study Complete: Summer Fun Ahead!



The best words to describe Sunday School this spring are CELEBRATE, GIVE and LEARN. First, thanks to Suzanne, our Sunday School families put together over 30 Easter Baskets for the kids at Yonkers Head Start. In addition, our Parish Family filled over 1000 Easter Eggs for our Easter Sunday Egg-stravaganza and provided for a delicious coffee hour. It was a truly glorious day celebrating the Resurrection and, of course, the Easter Bunny!



During the seven weeks following Easter all students ages K-8 studied the Holy Eucharist. We are so grateful for the dedicated team of Eucharist instructors and Reverend Gwyneth who gave their time to support this class. Both the kids and adults learned so much. As Bruce Barber said, "Preparing for the lesson has made me think about things that I have not reflected on for some time". We drew the Eucharist lessons from the book "This Bread and This Cup – Episcopal Communion Instruction for Children" and adapted the curriculum to meet the needs of our Sunday school format and the age of our participants.



We concluded our study with a joyous celebration on Pentecost. Not only did the children perform their usual Family Sunday duties but there were special musical performances and the children provided the sermon by sharing things they learned in class and participating in a special prayer with Reverend Gwyneth. Reverend Gwyneth

also used the Collect Prayers, Prayers of the People and Final Blessings that the children authored during their Eucharist classes. The icing on the cake was that the kids were able to assist with the Consecration right on the altar and were the first to receive communion that day. It was a very special day.

The Sunday School classes will spend the remainder of the school year studying their usual lessons and preparing for the Spring Concert with Ms. Cecilia. This year we will have songs, spoken word and a musical piece performed by the COGS Children's Orchestra. The Concert will be held on June 12 during the 10AM Service when we will also celebrate Sunday School Graduation. Each child will receive a certificate and special prize for his/her dedication to study all year long.

Just because the school year is over does not mean an end to Sunday School. We offer Summer Craft Sundays all summer long. Summer Sundays are very relaxed. Sometimes we just read a favorite bible passage and talk, others we create a fun craft, or we play some fun games and discuss how the rules and outcomes of the games apply to kids' lives. Please consider signing up (in the breezeway) for a Summer Craft Sunday.

Finally, we are planning to hold our 3rd Annual Summer Bible Camp August 23-25 from 9am-12 noon each day. We'll have lessons, crafts, games, activities and tons of fun. Open to children 3-12 years old. Counseling opportunities for teens 13-18 years old! We hope to invite children from many Episcopal Churches in our area so feel free to share the flyer with your friends. Please see us for any questions!

--Megan Whalen, for the Sunday School Committee (Suzanne Bracken, Arleen Flury, Glenn Hintze, Charlotte Jones, Maritza Rosso, Kerry Irwin, Fran DiBernardo, Cathy Trinidad and Reverend Gwyneth)

* * * * *

YOUTH GROUP: PEACE AND GROWTH



The Youth Group Room is a peaceful fun space for us to meet, share our thoughts and time. The walls are tea green, the accents are sky blue, peaceful and joyful at the same time! One wall is chalkboard and magnetic, to capture our artwork and notes during discussions. Soon posters and plants will adorn the room too! Thanks to the kind parishioners who donated the bean bags- very comfy! We look forward to many hours sharing our thoughts and spirit in this room! Check out the pictures in the newsletter and on our website!



The Youth group helped plant the garden. We plan to grow vegetables to share with the Community Center of Northern Westchester. Everyone needs to sign up to help water the garden. Please let Diane know what week will work for you!

Confirmation class is almost done! We meet Saturday, May 21 and Sunday, June 12. On June 12th we will have breakfast at the rectory, practice for confirmation and discuss where we are on our journey to grow as adults in our faith. We look forward to the celebration of confirmation with Bishop Shin on June 26th.

Peace,
Fay Wright and Vernon Alexander

* * * * *

CONFIRMATION AT GOOD SHEPHERD 2016



On Sunday, June 19th, our 2016 Confirmation Class will be Confirmed by Bishop Shin at the 10 AM service. We look forward to sharing this important day with the members of the Congregation. In addition to Fay Wright and Rev G, who have led the class, and Fay and Vernon Alexander, who are the Youth Group leaders, ALL of the congregation has had a crucial role in preparing our teens for Confirmation. How? Just by being who you are at the Church of the Good Shepherd. The teens have learned about community, caring, sharing, having fun as well as being serious, working together toward common goals within the parish AND serving the community. During the service, the Bishop will ask the congregation: "Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?" When the congregation says (shouts) "We WILL" you will know that this a promise you will keep by continuing to be supportive of those being Confirmed as they continue to grow into young adults.

The class has been meeting monthly since the school year began. Each of them has a full schedule with school, sports, hobbies, chores at home, social life. Nevertheless, the teens – and their parents – have made it a top priority to attend classes. This is one example of their readiness to be Confirmed. After a

year of meeting, talking, prayer, cooking, eating, sharing and service ... the teens are almost ready to make a mature commitment to being members of the Body of Christ. They have grown in faith and understanding. They have learned the value of wrestling with the difficult questions and situations that life presents, and how important it can be to share concerns and confusion with others. They listen with respect to one another, and know how to disagree with respect and without judgment. We can look forward to their continued contribution to the parish, the community, and eventually the world.

Reverend Gwyneth Rev G

* * * *

THE SENIOR GROUP



"I've learned that regardless of color or age, we all need about the same amount of love." (H. Jackson)

The senior experience in this digital world is both amazing and terrifying in many respects. Young people attached to their smart phones oblivious to their surroundings is amazing. Public telephones on street corners and places where people congregate, is history, replaced by instant communication, is baffling for us used to face-to-face

dialogue minus "FaceTime" on digital devices. And of course: "Grandad, wasn't it hard on you when there were no cell phones?"--obviously there is a disconnect somewhere.

There was much group discussion about the possibility of developing skill training in knitting and enhancing our computer skills. We will be contacting the Youth Group about the possibility of dialoging on using social media.

We will continue to reach out to social service agencies to clarify Social Security and retirement issues. Medicare and Medicaid rules have changed substantially, so we will be arranging for appointments with county representatives at the John Hart Library. The library also has a variety of programs, including beginners knitting and photography instruction.

We will have our annual picnic at FDR Park memorializing Sandra Strubbe, not only as an active congregant but a talented singer and a wonderful person who devoted her talents to Good Shepherd.

Join us on the 1st Sunday of each month.
Bill and Gwen Greene

HUMAN EQUALITY AND CHRISTIAN ETHICS

Love and empathy are basic components of Christianity. Yet many of us only share these values among our family and friends, and sometimes our nation.

Our concern stumbles when we interact with persons of different races, religion, social class and sexual orientation. Discrimination, and even racism, has been codified in the law.

People of color have not been allowed to buy homes in neighborhoods of their choice. And it took 132 years after the ratification of the U.S. Constitution to allow women the right to vote.

Yet those who often wave the flag of exclusion call themselves Christians. Many will even quote the bible to justify their prejudices. Why, then, have such onerous situations been allowed to exist? Could it be that we need to demean others to feel superior?

"There is neither Jew or Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." [Galatians 3:28]

By Bill Greene

* * * * *

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE PLANS EVENTS



We are three days away from the premier showing of the Angry Birds and, as of today, we will exceed our expectations and plan. For a 10am fund raiser on a Saturday morning, to have sold 50 tickets and generated over \$800 in sales, so far, is quite a tribute to the people of COGS, the community we serve and a very joyful way to serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

There is more to come and we would ask that you save the following dates for two more exciting events:

September 17th from 9am to 5pm will be our own Antiques Road Show

November 4th at 7:30pm will be our first "Taste of Somers" Event that will feature Wine, Non Alcoholic Beverages, Hors d'oeuvres, Cheese and Apple tasting, 50/50 raffle and Silent Auction

The committee consisting of Fran DiBernardo, Glenn Hintze, Amanda Slattery and Megan Whalen with strong support from Maria Kaprielian, Rick Vesperman, Chris Palmer, Kathleen Parsons and the Rev. Gwyneth, has done an outstanding job.

Thank you and God's blessings,
The Rev. Deacon Norman Fulton



SUNDAY SCHOOL GRADUATION AND SPRING CONCERT

Sunday June 12, 2016 10:00AM Service



Please join us to celebrate the end of the Sunday School Year and to listen to children's voices raised in song and praise. The 10:00AM Service will include the Sunday School Spring Concert in lieu of a Sermon. In addition, the Sunday School Children will receive their diplomas and some special prizes for a job well done in the 2015-2106 school year. Questions speak to Megan Whalen or Reverend Gwyneth.

* * * *

BISHOP'S VISITATION

Sunday June 19, 2016



Every two or three years, one of the Bishops makes an "Episcopal Visitation" to each parish. (It is called "Episcopal" because Episcopal is Greek for "Bishop.") Bishop Allen Shin, Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese, will join us at the 10 AM service as Celebrant and Preacher on Sunday, June 19th. He will Confirm the six teens in our Confirmation Class, and Receive one adult into the Episcopal Church. All of us will renew our Baptismal vows. Following the service, there will be a BBQ to celebrate the Bishop, the newly confirmed and received, and Father's Day. The Bishop will meet with the Vestry. This will be a wonderful celebration of our parish, our connection to the Diocese and Anglican Communion, as well as an opportunity to celebrate those making a deeper and renewed commitment to our Life in Christ. See you there!

* * * *



Church of the Good Shepherd, Granite Springs

Vacation Bible Camp

August 23-25, 9:00am-12:00pm

What will the Children Learn at VBC?

- August 23: Jesus calls us to be kind to all of God creatures, especially the animals.
- August 24: Jesus taught us to be thankful for nature and the harvest
- August 25: Jesus shared meals with his friends

Who:

- Campers Age 3-12
- Counselors Age 13-18
- Teachers: Reverend Gwyneth, Megan Whalen, Suzanne Bracken, Glenn Hintze, and Bruce Barber

How Much:

- \$30 per child
- Sibling discount \$10 each additional child

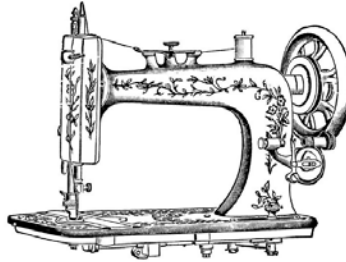
Our days will include...

- Daily Scripture Lessons
- Healthy Snack Provided
- Pirate Boat Races
- Nature Hike
- Scavenger Hunt
- Trip to Stuarts Farm
- A trip to Muscoot Farm
- Cooking in the kitchen
- Trip to Hanover Farm
- Crafts and Games
- Family Celebration Feast on Thursday



ANTIQUES APPRAISAL

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2016 9AM – 5PM



**Bring a Family Heirloom or Your Amazing
Tag Sale Find to be Appraised!
\$10/item, 3 items for \$25
Professional Appraisers
Arts Jam**

*** * * ***

TASTE OF SOMERS

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2016 7:30PM



**Wine, Non-alcoholic Beverages, Hors d'oeuvres, Cheese and Apple Tasting
50/50 and Silent Auction
\$25/person, 2 for \$45, 3 for \$60 (advance sales)
\$30/person at door**

*** * * ***

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

MELODY RUBINO
KAYLEIGH KENNY
CAROLYN BUSCHEL
ILIANA DELAHOZ
WILLIAM SIEMERLING
JUDY LYONS
MAX HOHWALD
LESLIE FULTON
JOHN KAPRIELIAN
BERNARD SOTTER
MATTHEW RUBINO
JOHNATHAN TRINIDAD
ISABELLA MANCINI
CHRISTIAN TRINIDAD

JULY BIRTHDAYS

LAURA GANNON
LINDSEY VELZY
SHEILA McCLUSKEY
RIC LARSON
BEN WHALEN
JIM RINGER
CAROL STEBBINS
SARAH CORNING
ANDREW GALLOWAY
DONNA PATERNO
LIAM KENNY
KIRSTI CORCIONE
JOHN T. RUBINO
JULIA BACAL
EMILY BARBER
JONATHAN RICHARDSON
MIKE SCJARABBA
SINDEY ROSSO
WILLIAM CONNORS
CATALINA TRINIDAD
KATIE DONNELLY
WILLIAM GREEN
KATRINA STEBBINS
DELILAH ROSSO
DENEL ROSSO
JAYNE PREISER
NANCY ANDERSON

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

LUKE PALMER
JENNIFER GARDINEER
ZACHARY PALMER
ROBERT VELZY
DANIEL GALLOWAY
LAURA CAMPO
CAROLYN (RINGER) LEPRE
SCOTT PALMER
AMANDA SLATTERY
JOYCE LEVY
JOHANNES HAENSCH
JEAN BARBER
GEORGE HARBORT
ASHLEY FETZER
SCOTT JONES

SERVER, READER & ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

JUNE 5:

CHALICE: DIANE BUSCHEL

ACOLYTES: LYNETTE MORALES
JOSEPH MORALES
JULIA WHALEN

READERS: ZACK PALMER
JANICE VESPERMAN

PRAYERS: ARLEEN FLURY

USHERS: ARLEEN FLURY
GLENN HINTZE

COUNTER: FAY WRIGHT

JUNE 12:

CHALICE: GWEN GREENE

ACOLYTES: CHRISTIAN TRINIDAD
JONAHTAN TRINIDAD
WILLIAM ROSSO

READERS: RICK VESPERMAN
GWEN GREENE

PRAYERS: BOB BUBECK

USHERS: RICK VESPERMAN
RIC LARSON

COUNTER: RICK VESPERMAN

JUNE 19:

CHALICE: JIM CORNING

ACOLYTES: CLAIRE HINTZ
ANNA HAGAN
DELILAH ROSSO

READERS: MICHAEL MARKUMAS
FAY WRIGHT

PRAYERS: JAN CORNING

USHERS: BOB VELZY
RICK VESPERMAN

COUNTER: LUIS DELAHOZ

JUNE 26:

CHALICE: DIANE BUSCHEL

ACOLYTES: EMILY VESPERMAN
ASHLEY ALEXANDER
EMILY WHALEN

READERS: CHRIS PALMER
WILFRIED HAENSCH

PRAYERS: BERNIE SOTTER

USHERS: BERNIE SOTTER
GLENN HINTZE

COUNTER: MEGAN WHALEN

SERVER, READER & ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

JULY 3:

CHALICE: DIANE BUSCHEL

ACOLYTES: SYDNEY ROSSO
JOSEPH MORALES
JULIA WHALEN

READERS: JANICE VESPERMAN
MICHAEL MARKUMAS

PRAYERS: BOB BUBECK

USHERS: RIC LARSON
BOB VELZY

COUNTER: PHILL PINKNEY

JULY 10:

CHALICE: GWEN GREENE

ACOLYTES: LYNETTE MORALES
JONAHTAN TRINIDAD
WILLIAM ROSSO

READERS: RICK VESPERMAN
GWEN GREENE

PRAYERS: ARLEEN FLURY

USHERS: ARLEEN FLURY
GLENN HINTZE

COUNTER: VERNON ALEXANDER

JULY 31:

CHALICE: GWEN GREENE

ACOLYTES: EMILY VESPERMAN
JOSEPH MORALES
JULIA WHALEN

READERS: MICHAEL MARKUMAS & GWEN GREENE

PRAYERS: BOB BUBECK

USHERS: ARLEEN FLURY & RIC LARSON

COUNTER: MARIA KAPRIELIAN

JULY 17:

CHALICE: DIANE BUSCHEL

ACOLYTES: CHRISTIAN TRINIDAD
ANNA HAGAN
DELILAH ROSSO

READERS: FAY WRIGHT
LUKE PALMER

PRAYERS: JANICE VESPERMAN

USHERS: BERNIE SOTTER
RICK VESPERMAN

COUNTER: DIANE BUSCHEL

JULY 24:

CHALICE: JIM CORNING

ACOLYTES: CLAIRE HINTZE
ASHLEY ALEXANDER
EMILY WHALEN

READERS: CHRIS PALMER
WILFRIED HAENSCH

PRAYERS: JAN CORNING

USHERS: BOB VELZY
GLENN HINTZE

COUNTER: VILMA MULHOLLAND

***THE SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL, THANK YOU**



Poets' Corner

FROM THE WRITERS GROUP: FORECAST

Not the flinty-sweet petrichor this
but green cut-grass moistness
under low gray skies.
Overburdened like
supermarket bags
filled with soda bottles
the clouds haul their cargo
one split seam away
from deluge.

Spring is here
in the lush lawns and
acid-green tree leaves
stuporously emerging
yet a hard chill still greets me
each morning
slipping down my collar
An icy finger
caressing my heart

But every day
Winter's pale hand wizens
a little
and my blood warms
Soon I will cast off
jacket and pall
and stand under
the warm sun.

© John Kaprielian

FROM THE WRITERS GROUP: APRIL

Clouds like dust sprinkle the sky
And bursts
spraying liquid seeds
While foliage gulps greedily
returning to its original self

Time has dropped an hour
Raul works feverishly on the mower
sweat dripping off his brow
Enveloping his brown skin in a
Shinny coat, the engine comes to life
2 more lawns to go

Sarah's soft white face
appears in the window
Eyes sweeping the landscape

The bus stops emptying the rambunctious load
and 5 year olds
Tumble out
as moms sweep them up
The bus moves on

The rumbling motor did not
blot out the vibration in
his pocket
He put the phone to his ear
It was San Salvador
The voice said she's gone

He goes to the window
It opens
I cannot go home he said
They took her away
Sarah gives him a flower
The clouds died

By Bill Greene

PRAYER LIST (AS OF MAY 2016)

We pray for the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem, the women and orphans of the Kwithu (*KWEE-too*) Feeding Center in Malawi, for all who are in seminary, including Paul, for the Rector search committee, and all priests that are candidates to be Rector, for the Community Center of Northern Westchester, for Somers Boy Scout Troop 376, for all who serve in the armed forces, especially Noah, Nicholas, and Brendan, for all women who are expecting babies, including Sarah, and we pray for Bill, Vernon, Eric, Scott, Matthew, Janet, Bert, Jeff, Norman, Al, Jack, Betsy, Victoria, Nancy, Debbie, Lois, Maureen, Connie, Lee, & Herb. And we pray for all the departed, especially Janet, and for all those who mourn.

And dear God, we give thanks for the many blessings of this life.

In the coming weeks, we pray especially for the Rector Search Committee, the Vestry, and all priests who are candidates to be Rector. Throughout this process of discernment, God has been at the center of all that we have done. We pray that we continue to listen with open hearts and minds for God's voice as he reveals the way forward for our parish.

* * * *

MORE PHOTOS!!!

YOUTH GROUP



YOUTH GROUP (CONTINUED)



MORE PHOTOS!!!

PENTECOST



PENTECOST (CONTINUED)



MORE PHOTOS!!!

MOTHER'S DAY AND EASTER



COMPLETE LIST OF COMING EVENTS: JUNE - DECEMBER

- June 5, Sunday – Senior Group Meeting 11AM
- June 5, Sunday – Sunday School Committee Meeting 11AM
- June 6, Monday – Writers Group 7PM
- June 10, Friday – WOCOGS 7:30PM
- June 12, Sunday – Sunday School Concert and Graduation 10AM, Confirmation Class 11AM
- June 16, Thursday – Vestry Meeting 7:30PM – Meet with Search Committee
- June 19, Sunday – Father’s Day, Bishop’s Visit/Confirmation 10AM; BBQ lunch provided by Vestry
- July 3, Sunday – Senior Group Meeting 11AM
- July 8, Friday – WOCOGS 7:30PM
- July 11, Monday – Writers Group 7PM (Tentative)
- August 1, Monday – Writers Group 7PM
- August 7, Sunday – Senior Group Meeting 11AM
- August 12, Friday – WOCOGS 7:30PM
- August 18, Thursday – Vestry Meeting 7:30PM
- August 23-25, Tuesday – Thursday – Vacation Bible School 9AM-12PM
- September 4, Sunday – Senior Group Meeting 11AM
- September 5, Monday – Writers Group 7PM
- September 11, Sunday – Blessing of Backpacks 10AM; Sunday School Registration
- September 15, Thursday – Vestry Meeting 7:30PM
- September 17, Saturday – Antiques Appraisal Fundraiser 9AM – 5PM
- October 2, Sunday – Support Connection Walk
- October 9, Sunday – Blessing of the Animals – after the 10AM Service
- October 20, Thursday – Vestry Meeting 7:30AM
- October 30, Sunday – Halloween Party after 10AM Service
- November 4-5, Friday-Saturday – Diocesan Convention, Westchester Marriot
- November 17, Thursday – Vestry Meeting 7:30PM
- December 15, Thursday – Vestry Meeting 7:30PM
- December 18th, Sunday – Sunday School Pageant 10AM (Tentative)
- January 22, 2017 (tentative) – Annual Meeting