

ST. JOHN'S HERALD

St. John's Episcopal Church
518.274.5884 | 146 1st St., Troy, NY 12180

APRIL - MAY 2021 R

"By the time you read this,
we should be up and
running." pg. 12

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A Message from the Rector

As I write this, we are celebrating Holy Week. Soon the church will be full of joyous bells and hymns and we will declare that he is risen and in our midst! I look forward to seeing you in attendance, increasingly in person, but also safely sheltered, attending online.

A recent study revealed something new to me about church attendance. It was not so long ago that if you belonged to a church, you went every week. But in recent years, only half of those who attend church attend every week. The rest attend one to three times a month. Indeed, if those who attended less often actually came each week, our church attendance, nationwide, would double.

I observe these patterns at Saint John's as well. To double our attendance at Saint John's, we would not actually need new members, welcome as you are! We would simply need those who attend at all during the month to come every week.

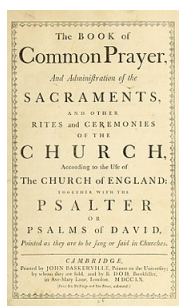
As new possibilities open up for the Fall, I want to challenge everyone to think with care about church attendance. Your presence is important here. When you are gone, you are missed. When you come, you draw nearer to God, learn, find renewed purpose, connect with our Christian community, and serve. We are in a culture that sees church attendance more as a weekend hobby than a primary commitment, and so work, soccer games, birthday parties, and family and neighborhood gatherings all vie for Sunday mornings. If we are not intentional and determined about worship, we may miss out.

And this is no small thing. For he is risen and in our midst whenever we gather in his name.



Mother Judith+

A Note from the Editor



One of the commitments I made this Lent was to reread Robert Benson's book, *In Constant Prayer*. In this easy-to-read book, the author describes his attraction to prayer—specifically to praying the Daily Office prayers; he provides historical background about the offices and explains the elements

that comprise them. The word "office" comes from the Latin "opus," which means work, and the daily offices were considered the "work of God" by the faithful who prayed them each day. The idea of daily prayers at set times during the day originated with our Jewish forebears, and a vestige of this practice is found in Psalm 119:164: "Seven times a day I praise you, for your righteous ordinances."

St. Benedict of Nursia (c. 480–c. 550), the father of Western monasticism, identified seven services to be prayed throughout the day, and one long vigil during the night. The observance of these services or offices was the lifeblood of monastic life, and all other activities were subordinate to them. Our 1979 Book of Common Prayer contains four main offices: Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline. Although the number of offices prayed throughout the day has changed over the centuries, the elements that comprise them—the pattern—is essentially the same. Here are the basic components:

- Versicle—Call to Prayer
- Confession
- Venite—Psalm of Invitation

- Psalm appointed for the day—Arranged so the 150 Psalms are prayed through each month
- Reading of Scripture—Lessons from the Old Testament, New Testament, and the Gospels
- Canticles—Hymns of Praise
- Prayers—including The Lord's Prayer, collects, and thanksgivings
- Blessing

But the reason Robert Benson wrote this book was not to provide information about the Daily Office, but to inspire readers to pray the Daily Office. He says this:

For thousands of years, the daily office has been a primary way to hold ourselves in closer communion with the One who made us. It is a way to sanctify our days and our hours, our work and our love, our very life itself.

Each Wednesday morning at St. John's, folks gather to pray Morning Prayer. Before the pandemic, the service was held either in the church or the Thompson Room, followed by a light breakfast and conversation. For the past year, Morning Prayer has been conducted via Zoom. Perhaps you would like to participate with this "great river of prayer," and join with those around the world whose words flow across the distances, offering up the timeless prayers that help hold us closer to God and one another. A call to St. John's office can provide the details about how to join our Morning Prayer on Zoom. +

Jennifer Firth

ST. JOHN'S VESTRY

Dave Hunn, Senior Warden

Lois Hodkinson, Junior Warden

Carol Daniel, Linda Muller, Brian Thomson, Linda Thorburn (2024)

Maygen Bussing, Bill Prout, Christi Spain-Savage (2023)

Sandy Hutchison, Norris Pearson (2022)

Interview with Deacons Sandy and Bill Tatem



Q: Where did you grow up?

A: Deacon Sandy: Oakdale, NY—a tiny suburb of Johnson City with thirteen kids in my eighth-grade graduating class.

Deacon Bill: I was raised in Westbury, on Long Island—about twenty-five miles outside New York City. There were about eighty-five in my graduating class.

Q: What was your religious life like growing up? Were you “religious” as a child?

A: Deacon Sandy: Minimal at best. My father was an atheist and there were no prayers or talk of God at home. My mother tried to get us to Sunday School, but she didn’t drive and we lived way out in the country, so church attendance was rare. When I was a sophomore in high school, I would walk and take a bus to attend the Sarah Jane Johnson Memorial United Methodist Church in Johnson City with my best friend. This was the church where Bill and I one day would be married.

Deacon Bill: My family worshipped at the Episcopal Church of the Advent in Westbury. If the church doors were open, our family was there. I was baptized and confirmed there, attended Sunday School, and was active in the Men-Boys choir from age eight until high school. I sang the *Messiah* with my father and siblings. Each August, we attended the New Jersey Episcopal Choir Camp (NEJECHO), arriving by train and sleeping in tents. My parents had strict rules about church attendance—we were not allowed to go to Jones Beach on Sunday until after we had attended the eight o’clock service. We’ve learned that the Church of the Advent is where Katie Brillat

worshipped when she was growing up in Westbury.

Q: Did you ever leave the church? If so, what brought you back?

A: Deacon Sandy: No, I didn’t leave something I didn’t have; my marriage to Bill brought me to the faith.

Deacon Bill: No, I attended the Church of the Advent through high school, but my church participation changed when I left home and went to Alfred University. The community there was made up of Seventh Day Baptists and they observed the Sabbath from Friday night until Saturday night. Four of us from the university attended a community church service on Sundays. After college when I was in the Navy, I attended the local Episcopal Church. Once we were married, Sandy and I always attended church.

Q: Please share a little about your call to be a deacon.

A: Deacon Sandy: I had stirrings in that regard when my college roommate lost her husband in the Vietnam War. He was a doctor and she was pregnant with their fifth child. Seeing the transformation she had undergone since I knew her in college, and the way she attributed her faith in Jesus to getting her through this difficult time, caused me to want to explore the life of faith in a deeper way. Eventually, Bill and I became active in the Albany Diocese and took the Disciples Course and learned more about Christ. After Bill had been accepted into the Diaconal program, he brought home a big box of books for his classes. I looked at the books and thought I’d like to pursue the program as well. So, I had to fast-track my application and we started together in September, both being sent from St. Andrew’s in Albany where we were active. I remember one day when I was chatting with Bishop Bena, I mentioned to him that I was sensing the call, and he said he thought I was

Interview with Deacons Sandy and Bill Tatem (continued)

already a deacon—I just needed to make it official.

Deacon Bill: I was always active in church—always wanted to go and especially enjoyed the Eucharist. I don't recall a specific call—I had a very solid base. I was the original male on St. Andrew's Altar Guild. One day when Bishop Herzog was at St. Andrew's, he asked me if I had ever considered being a deacon. After I told him of my activities there, he encouraged me to pray about it, and eventually I applied. Deacon Sandy and I were ordained by Bishop Herzog during the Diocesan Annual Meeting at the Camp-of-the-Woods on June 10, 2006. Deacon Sandy was assigned to St. John's, Troy and I was assigned to Trinity, Watervliet.

Q: What are your most and least favorite aspects of being a deacon? Was your life as a deacon as you imagined it would be?

A: Deacon Sandy: I most enjoy pastoral care and the healing ministry. I love praying with people and being involved with their lives during both joyous and difficult times. My least favorite aspect of being a deacon was getting up at five o'clock on dark, icy, and snowy mornings to lead Morning Prayer. I found that the life of a deacon was much more involved than I had anticipated.

Deacon Bill: I enjoy most being involved in a meaningful way—making a contribution to the life of the community where there is a real need. My service at Trinity, Watervliet allowed me to serve in such a way. I also enjoy participating in the Eucharist. We both enjoyed leading a service at the Eddy in Troy. We donated large-print Prayer Books and found getting to know the folks there a real joy. Preaching, especially preparation, is real work for me and is not, therefore, my favorite ministry. I did find the time commitment challenging sometimes—certainly more than the 10-12 hours explained to us in Deacon school.

Q: You each served in different parishes. What were the challenges of serving apart?

A: Deacon Sandy: Not being able to worship as a family, which I missed so much. Bill brought me to the faith and we were very connected in that regard. Each church naturally had their own services and schedules, and there were weeks when we barely saw each other. Our fiftieth wedding anniversary was on a Sunday, and we were apart, and that broke my heart.

Deacon Bill: Very disruptive to the family schedule, with competing commitments.



Q: You have each served in many capacities in the Diocese. Please describe some of your roles. What did you enjoy most?

A: Deacon Sandy: Trustee three times; initial planning for the establishment of Christ the King Spiritual Life Center and on its Advisory Committee. My involvement at Christ the King is what I enjoy most—so many wonderful things happen there as you are truly “walking on holy ground.”

Deacon Bill: Assistant Treasurer to the Diocese, Board Member and Treasurer at Canterbury House, Episcopal Charities, and Episcopal Counseling Center. Also, Board Member of Commission on Ministry; Clergy Salary & Benefits Committee.

Together: Served together, usually as a team: Diocesan Stewardship consultants; Rector Search consultants; establishment of the Columbarium at Christ the King and the Bishop's Chapel; Supply Clergy.

Interview with Deacons Sandy and Bill Tatem (continued)

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: Deacon Sandy: Crossword and jigsaw puzzles.

Deacon Bill: Tinkering in general. I've repaired dishwashers and lawn mowers. I built a family room at one of our houses, installing the heating, plumbing, a fireplace, and all the electric work—which got approved. I have caned chairs, made wine, and enjoy gardening.

Q: Is there something about you we don't know that you'd like to share?

A: Deacon Sandy: I used to make Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls, and made many sets that I gave away. I embroidered their faces and put wigs on

their heads, piece by piece—all sewn by hand. I enjoyed sewing and made dresses for our daughter Catherine when she was young. I learned to tailor trousers so I could make pants for our son Christopher when his size was not available in the stores.

Deacon Bill: I've owned 3 motorcycles—one a small Harley Davidson. I started by mentoring our sons, first Christopher then Phil, so we would ride together. Sandy and I used to ride together in the country. In my early working days, I was issued five US patents and one British one. I am a cancer survivor and a Navy veteran. I enjoy baking bread and muffins, English muffin loaf, and have recently started making granola. ✚

Liturgical Dance for Pentecost

In an effort to expand our children's ministry and broaden our creative horizons, St. John's has hired professional dance teacher, Beth Jacobs, to lead the children (and kids of all ages!) in a choreographed piece to be performed at our Pentecost Celebration, May 23, 2021.

Beth is a professional dancer who has performed and choreographed for schools and churches throughout the area. She is an adjunct at Schenectady County Community College and teaches children at Quest, Schenectady (Mazda Hero's Outreach Program).

We all know what a difficult year this has been, especially for children. Safely distanced movement and dance offers a physical, creative, and social outlet.

Rehearsals will be Saturday mornings at 10:00, from April 10th until Pentecost. Contact Katie to let her know you are coming, or with questions: email kbrillat@stjohnstroy.org or text her at 518.694.2577.



A Note on Creating Communion Music

George Richardson



Working with Lydia on our Communion music has been very inspiring. While it's well known that I love singing with her, it's probably not well known that I love what comes before almost as much: I write all the harmonies and most of the arrangements for our songs, and it brings me joy. The cello accompaniment you will hear Lydia play on Easter Sunday for "Now thank we all our God" was a product of that compositional delight. People have asked how I wrote that Bach-like obbligato, so this little note tries to tell the story.

It began as an experiment. Could I write a cello piece for Lydia with the same character as Bach's intricate accompaniment to "Jesu, joy of man's desiring"? I picked Johann Cruger's melody we now know as "Now thank we all our God" as a great chorale for the test.

But then, how did Bach do it? I studied "Jesu" to see if I could sense something like a method in all that beauty. I thought I got a hint of vaguely recurring, evolving patterns. Adding some thought about the melody of the chorale, I chose a simple four-note pattern (D - E - F# - D) to repeat in many variations – starting on different notes, going up, going down, backwards, upside-down, and so on, some with occasional sixteenth notes, such as following six-measure sequence starting on G. Can you see the four-note pattern in four (five?) distinct variations?



Then that four-note pattern just seemed to "flow" throughout the piece. I tried to keep the varying patterns distantly related to the chorale melody but always faithful to the chordal structure of the chorale. The original chordal structure came from Johann Cruger (c. 1630) and Felix Mendelsohn (c. 1840). Several redrafts then eventually produced what you will hear Lydia play so beautifully on Easter.

I think Bach chose more vaguely-repeating patterns than I did, and more intricate ones, and he was much more creative in how he varied them. But of course, it's only a guess that he might have followed a process like mine, way up at the untouchable level of genius. We really don't know how Bach created his masterpieces. But we do know that he wrote on all his Biblical music "Soli Deo Gloria" -- "To the glory of God alone." Bach spoke to God; I just tried to speak a bit like Bach. ✚

"The Sky's A-Fallin'"

Dave Hunn

Henny Penny from English Fairy Tales, retold by Flora Annie Steel (1922)

The sky may not be falling, but shingles are...every year. Early this March, a windstorm blew off about fifty of them! But unlike Henny Penny, there is no need to panic.

The *good news* is that our high nave roof is covered by what are called *architectural shingles*. "Architectural shingles" are made up of two layers which are laminated together to give the perception of depth and simulate the appearance of real wood shakes (or in our building's case, real slate). During the recent wind situation, only the top layer was blown off (became delaminated). Thankfully, we are still left with the lower base layer for leak protection until shingle replacement is scheduled.



One of three areas of shingle loss, March 2021.

The other good news is that when our current roof was installed more than twenty years ago, St. John's purchased additional inventory of shingles for repairs. We have enough left for this repair . . . a good thing because that style is no longer manufactured. As for matching new shingles to ones with twenty years weathering, I doubt it will be possible.

The *bad news* is the location of the repairs. To put workers up to those heights and on a steep incline requires a 135-foot lift, renting at over \$1,200 a day, regardless of how many shingles are installed. In this case, the quote is over \$5,000 to make our roof look right and get that extra bit of protection and life. Fortunately, the cost will be covered by our insurance policy and the generosity of the Robison Family Fund. Work will start when the weather warms up. +

Realistically, loss of shingles and subsequent high repair costs are a cycle that will not change. The Properties Committee is now exploring long term solutions.

Dave Hunn is Chair of St. John's Properties Committee



Photo: Jennifer Firth

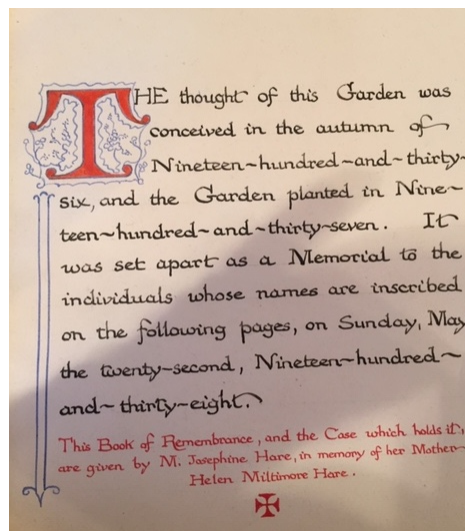
A Look Back

Donna Rem



The silver sleeves are inscribed, COMMISSIONED AND GIVEN TO ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, TROY UNDER THE PROVISION OF THE WILL OF MARY JOSEPHINE HARE 1876 - 1954

While researching the history of our Memorial Garden(s) for articles written last year for *The Herald*, details for an especially important piece of the garden story were revealed, *The Book of Remembrance*. This book was inspired by the War Memorial Books of English Cathedrals and became an integral part of the planning, building, dedication, and maintenance of the memorial gardens. The Garden Guild of that day expressed hope that the memories of thousands of loved ones inscribed in the book would be kept ever green. Both then and now, it connects the gardens to the people. Until a few years ago, this book occupied a designated resting place at the head of the south aisle. Currently, the book's display case sits at the right end of the narthex. Calligraphy is used for the entries; many of the more recent pages were inscribed by beloved parishioner, the late Patty Williams. Pages are allocated for the Henry Raymond Freeman Memorial (the sunken garden area), for the 1942 St. Francis d'Assisi area in memory of Henry R. and Fannie E. H. Freeman, and for Saint John's Memorial Garden.



Excerpt from "Bishop Freeman Presides Sunday, St. John's Church" *The Times Record*, May 19, 1938

Book of Remembrance.

The 11 a.m. service will be one based on traditional exercises as used in the Anglican Communion for generations. Rt. Rev. G. Ashton Oldham, bishop of the Albany Episcopal Diocese, has commissioned Bishop Freeman to perform the dedicatory rites and Rev. Nelson M. Burroughs, rector of the church, has taken order for the service. All choirs of the church, directed by Richard Tweedy, will participate.

The Book of Remembrance, in which will be recorded the names of all who have contributed to the garden project, has been given the church by Miss M. Josephine Hare in memory of her mother, Mrs. Helen Miltimore Hare.

The book will be a work of art comparable to those hand-wrought by medieval monks. It was bound in a little Italian shop in the Street of the Holy Apostles, Florence, Italy, by Dori and Son, personally selected by a friend of the parish after a visit to renowned leather shops in Florence. For generations Signor Dori and his family have passed their art from father to son. The cover is of Venetian blue tooled in gold. Moire silk in the same color forms the inside cover and the paper is hand-manufactured by the same process used in the 14th Century.

On the title page is inscribed:

St. John's Memorial Garden in the City of Troy, New York: To enshrine in living and jubilant symbols our love for the citizens and the churchmen who have walked in these paths before us. To afford a place of seclusion and quiet beauty for all who desire to rest here and think the thoughts which lead to God.

Second Page Inscription.

The words are illuminated in color and the entire page is embellished with scroll work containing phrases from the Old and New Testament. The hand illumination is the work of Sister Mary Angela of St. Mary's Convent, Peekskill, one of the few in the country who has mastered the art.

On the second page of the book is written:

This garden was conceived in the autumn of 1936, planted in 1937 and set apart as a memorial to the individuals whose names are inscribed on the following pages on Sunday, May 22, 1938.

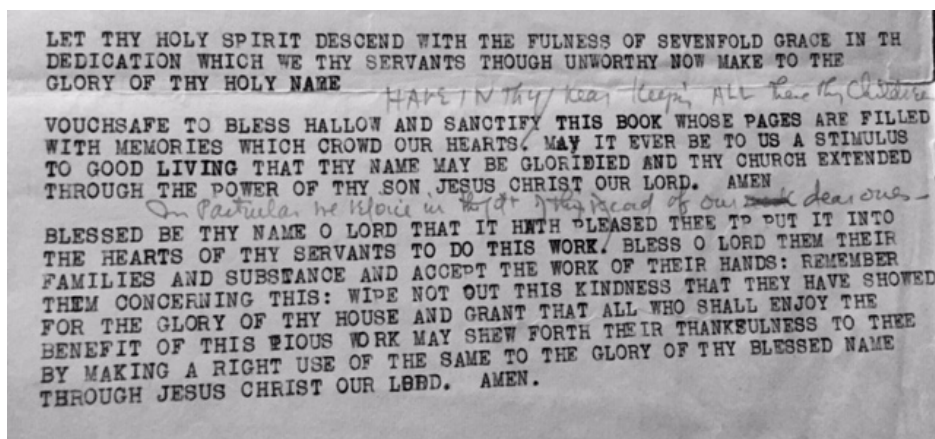
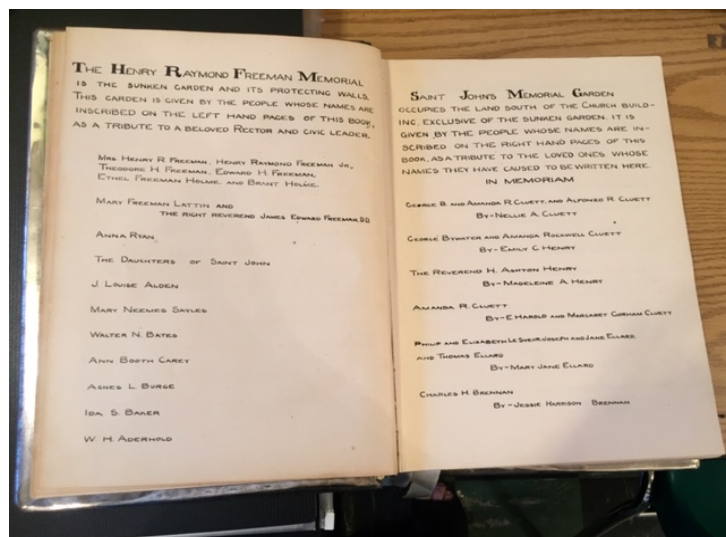
This Book of Remembrance and the case which holds it are given by M. Josephine Hare in memory of her mother, Helen Miltimore Hare.

M. H. Adams of the faculty of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is inscribing the names.

At Sunday morning's ceremonies, the book will be installed in a permanent cabinet erected for the purpose. Mr. Burroughs has planned to turn a leaf each week so that the beauty of each page may be seen.

A Look Back (continued)

The names listed in the *Book of Remembrance* reflect wide participation from within the congregation and from the greater Troy area. Some contributors to the Freeman Memorial were The Masonic Temple Association; The Troy Ministerial Association; The Right Reverend G. Ashton Oldham; D.D., S.T.D., Bishop of Albany; Saint Stephen's Guild of the Church of the Holy Cross; Mount Zion Lodge No. 311 F. and A.M.; The Troy Police Benevolent and Protective Association; Saint John's Choir Guild; St. Luke's Church of Chatham; Chester Meneely; The Rotary Club of Troy, N.Y. Inc.; Julia Howard Bush; Children of the Troy Orphan Asylum (individual names are given); Members of the Ninth Presbyterian Church (groups and individuals are listed); St. John's Church School; The Enembe Society of Saint John's Church; and St. John's Members of the Episcopal Church Home. In addition to the hundreds of personal names of loved ones, some identifiable Memorial Garden donors from across the nearly eighty-three years include Saint Andrew's Church School, Edna R. J. Frear, The Girls' Friendly Society of St. John's Church, Woman's Auxiliary of St. John's Church, The Altar Guild of St. John's Episcopal Church, Sarah B. Tibbits, The Altrusa Club of Troy, Neighbors from upper Ford Ave., The Couple's Club of St. John's Church, Vanderheyden Hall, Daughters of St. John, St. Mark's Church, St. Matthew's Church, Samaritan Friends, Friends at RPI, Friends of Montgomery Wards, Boy Scout Troop 51, Staff of WTRY, Bureau of Professional Business Women, Troy Covering Co., VanRensselaer Garden Club, New York Telephone Employees, Senator Joseph Bruno, and Wednesday A.M. Communion Group. Some names appear more than once.



Closing prayers at the May 22, 1938 Dedication of the *Book of Remembrance* are taken from the notes of the Reverend Nelson Burroughs.

The installation concluded as Mr. Burroughs, with cross bearer and attendants carried the book to its permanent place of honor.

It had been decreed that each week so long as the gardens and the book endured, a new page shall be turned to show the names of those for whom the gardens form a remembrance.

The people of St. John's and the community in 1938 generously contributed toward the creation of the Memorial Gardens and later generations have sustained them through gifts of love, forever remembered in a *Book of Remembrance*. This approximately 160-page book is now at its end, so the people in 2021 are needed to help fund a second *Book of Remembrance*. All are welcome to participate and do not have to be a member of St. John's. Each person's name, along with the name(s) of those in whose memory the gift is given, will be inscribed in this new book that will be displayed with the first in the *Book of Remembrance* case. Later this month, envelopes with an insert card to identify the person(s) to be memorialized and the donor(s) will be available on the table in the narthex, as well as in the office, and may be submitted to Jennifer Firth, co-chairperson of the Garden Committee, or to the office. Thank you for your support of this long-standing tradition at St. John's! ✚

From the Deacon's Den

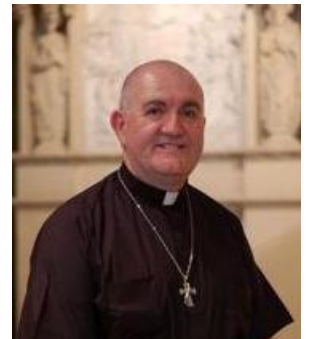
It's almost here! You might ask yourself, what is Deacon Paul talking about? In my mind, spring is almost here. One of my new neighbors has just pointed out to me that her daffodils are starting to peek out of ground that once held thirty inches of snow. What a great feeling to know that we are heading in the right direction as spring approaches.

What one might also think is almost here is the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. President Biden in his first speech to the nation gave us hope that we are also heading in the right direction, and that we might very well be able to gather again with friends and family by the 4th of July. Such a glorious thought! Yes, we are on the way, and hopefully we will never again have to endure this grueling past where we have lost people who have been in our lives. I am not sure if any of you have lost a loved one or close friend due to the virus. I have. You might remember Sgt. Randall French. Randy and his family were once members of St. John's. He and his wife, Danielle, had their children baptized here. Besides being a police officer, Randy was also a paramedic. We are not sure how he contracted the virus, but it was certainly a shock. Randy leaves behind his wife and two young daughters.

I am writing this on the eve of the fourth Sunday in Lent, when I will be preaching. I hope you enjoyed the sermon. Lent brings me to the most important "It is almost here": the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I hope that the weeks leading up to Easter have left you with ample time to reflect upon what Lent is all about. We have had forty days (not including Sundays) to go deeper with God; time to go back through this past year and think about what our lives as Christians have been. As I think about what my past year has been like, I hope that my life has measured up to what God has expected of me. I have tried my best, but I am sure that I have fallen short. With that said, time is on my side and our side as He has given us another year to prove ourselves as true Christians. So let us rejoice as we say on Easter morning, "Christ has risen, He has risen indeed, Alleluia Alleluia!!" May the Lord be with you today and forever more.

Blessings! ✚

Deacon Paul



Damien Center Dinner, Tuesday April 27

Can you help the St John's Damien Center Dinner team provide a much-needed meal?

The St John's team is scheduled to deliver a meal for about 40 recipients of the Damien Center this month. (We alternate with St Anthony's and St Paul's to provide a hot take-out meal once every three months.) Can you provide part of the meal **curbside** for the Damien Center staff to distribute? Food can be bought or prepared at home. **Each member of the team will drop off curbside a dish to serve 10-12 at 5PM at the TAUM headquarters at 392 Second Street, Troy (about a mile south of St John's). No need to leave your car.**

If you are interested in helping out, please email DALE.LNELS@GMAIL.COM. Many thanks in advance!

Births: We Joyfully Announce These Happy Arrivals!



Catherine Grace Shanley

Born February 13, 2021

Weighing 7 lbs. 12 oz., 21 inches long

Parents - Alexandra and Michael Shanley

Grandparents - Liz and Terry Shanley



Ellis Cyril Plunkett

Born January 15, 2021 at 9:17 a.m.

Weighing 7 lbs. 13 1/2 oz.,
19 3/4 inches long

Parents - Olivia and Daniel Plunkett

Grandparents - Wendy and Jim Prout

Great Grandmother - Elissa Prout



Amayah Izabelle Bernard

Born October 17, 2020

Weighing 6 lbs. 12 oz.

Parents -

Rose and Guerby Bernard



Ambrose Paul Kalemkarian Beck

Born on February 27, 2021

Parents - Jonathan and Lisa Beck

Improving the Temple

Dave Hunn

Scribes and counting predate Christianity by millennia. Both functions are at the root of all enterprise, including religion, and continue to this day. But let's skip ahead to 2019!

"Scribing and counting" has been executed on personal-sized computers for around forty years. In 2019, St. John's computers' age and infirmities loomed as a threat. Moreover, St. John's had never really reached a point of *network* efficiency wherein our computers could "talk" to each other and share information. And computers were only the beginning of our problems.

We started in the fall of 2019 by assessing the entire functional need. Many were involved, including Mtr. Judith, Christiann, Jennifer, Helene, Lois Hodgkinson and Dave Hunn. We took a very broad-brush top-down view.

Our Computer System

We looked at the individual computers, the need to "network," publishing, our video streaming, and remote access. We also looked at our software and needs, including our enterprise software, PowerChurch. We transposed functional requirements to a Request for Proposal. We conferred with others in the parish and developed a short list of vendors. We interviewed three and chose one.

That individual, Ray Suen of Suen Solutions, then began his discoveries, a major one being how to best network our computers simply and economically to achieve all the benefits (and all the security) we need. St. John's joined "Tech Soup," a consortium of nonprofits that made new and refurbished computer equipment available at a savings of thousands of dollars.

By the time you read this, we should be up and running. Elements of the solution include:

- New desktop computers with 24-inch monitors for use by Mtr. Judith (rector), Jennifer (interim parish secretary), Katie (children's minister), and Maggie (bookkeeper) and the counters.
- A new laptop with remote access for Mtr. Judith.
- Three redundant hardware devices that will serve for sharing information and as backup storage.
- The latest versions of Microsoft systems and Office 365 software. The latest version of PowerChurch management software. Redundant security software. Auto-backup software with special save features (saves all versions of a document).

Note that we are not replacing the security computer, nor will it be networked with the others.

Ray Suen will also serve as our Help Desk and will maintain the system.

The project to upgrade our computers was conceived and executed while balancing cost control and long-term value. Nevertheless, it certainly fit into the capital expense category, figuratively and literally. Most of the project was funded through the generosity of the Robison Fund.



Project Versus Flow...

Computers are only the beginning. We have been blessed with competent, caring and dedicated staff. They have always been good at the *flow* work: activities that solve the days' and weeks' and months' needs. Our communications "flowed," our books were in shape.

We were not as good at long term *projects*. The *urgent* always trumped the *significant*. For example, while our bookkeeping met standards, the software which we used to execute it did not. Our PowerChurch

Improving the Temple (continued)

version was not only long out of date, but learning PowerChurch was a complex job for successive administrators.

Mtr. Judith, Helene, Christiann, Jennifer, and the Personnel Committee realized that the job of bookkeeping with PowerChurch needed a dedicated expert. Here is where we were lucky. Mtr. Judith (indeed many others) knew Maggie Hasslacher from her years as an administrator with the Diocese. She is an independent consultant and is thoroughly familiar with church finances in general and PowerChurch in particular. We have engaged her part-time to work with Mtr. Judith and George Richardson to bring all books up-to-date and to revise the accounting structure.

After that, Maggie will continue part-time, ensuring that our business operations are done efficiently and with the annual Parochial Report and a future audit in mind. She can also bring many other operational insights to the table.

More to come...

In the near future, we will be looking at other office functions to see how they can be improved. As has been said in other enterprises, improvement is a continuous process. We will start with fact finding and proceed to agonizingly long "discernment."

New Ministry: Livestream Production Team

Since September, St. John's has been live-streaming our Sunday ten o'clock service, thanks to the vision of Jason Smith. Now we are inviting others to join in this adventure!

What's involved?

Running the production is basically turning everything on in the right order, properly adjusting a volume level, and pressing a couple of buttons to get the camera looking in the right place. Nothing needs to be moved around or lifted; it really is just pressing a few buttons, at its most basic level.

What are the qualifications?

An interest in what goes into producing the service livestream every week. (Remember: It's not as much work as you think.)

A comfort level using consumer electronics (for example, logging in to a computer, watching a live video, running a DVD/DVR/VCR).

Availability during an entire church service to monitor a video/audio feed to the internet.

Able to come to church in-person.

Training will be provided, and Jason will assist with early solo productions.

Nick Mizer has joined, and we are looking for a couple more people to complete the team. You can find Jason in the back of the church on Sunday mornings. You may also contact him by phone (518)785-6599 or email: jandk98@yahoo.com.

Children's Ministry Opportunity!

Katherine Brillat

St. John's will be offering training for our new curriculum for children, The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS). This Level I training will be offered one Saturday a month, starting in the fall, for the academic year. This will be taught by a seasoned catechist who has been certified by the CGSUSA.

Level I formation is for adults seeking to serve children who are three to six years old. This is the foundation for future levels of training. Training will include key themes and presentations that are essential to this method.

Although I have not been through the "official" training, I have spent the past year immersed in books; have participated in catechist's Zoom gatherings and Zoom training classes offered through the CGS organization; and had multiple one-on-one training sessions with Mtr. Judith. I have also created materials with other catechists. These experiences have deepened my appreciation for our liturgy. Most importantly, it has expanded my own relationship with God; I am certain it will do so for those who participate in this wonderful opportunity.

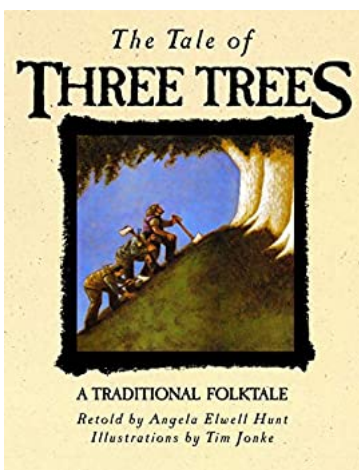


Please keep watch for further details. ✚

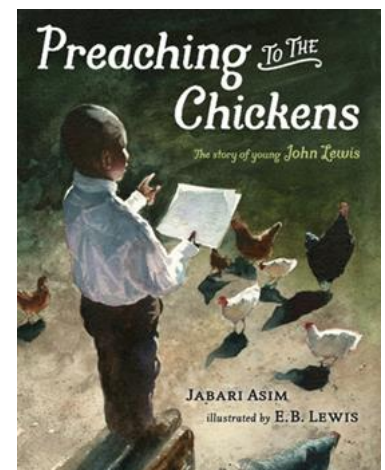
IN OTHER NEWS:

The **Bell Choir** has rehearsed for the past three weeks, in preparation for our service at the 11:00 o'clock Easter Eucharist.

Our current **StoryWalk®** is *The Tale of Three Trees* by Angela Elwell Hunt. We hope you take a moment to walk along our fence!



During February, the story was *Preaching to the Chickens: The Story of Young John Lewis* by Jabari Asim.



Daughters of the King

Jennifer Firth

A recently-ordained priest I know decided to become a Daughter of the King during one of the busiest seasons of her life: while finishing seminary—completing innumerable class readings and grueling assignments; juggling family life; and performing duties as a part of a Work-Study Program. And although many of her acquaintances considered this an odd time to take on something more, entering a period of new discernment to become a Daughter became a respite and a joy, amid the myriad challenges surrounding her. She found herself wrapped in a community of women devoted to prayer, who loved Christ and desired to serve Him by caring and supporting one another and reaching out to their communities.

At this season in our lives together at St. John's, we find ourselves entering into a period filled with more activity than has been our habit. We have emerged from the days of internal reflection, repentance, and preparation characterized by Lent, and are embracing the triumph and joys of the Easter life. The familiar words in Psalm 51 have confronted and challenged us:

*For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight, ...
You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow...
Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities...
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me...
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit...*

We have acknowledged our sins, have been taught wisdom, have been washed and purged: we are clean—restored and filled with joy.

Many of us have received our COVID-19 vaccinations and are venturing back to some of our previous ministries and pursuits. We pray that God sustains in us “a willing spirit,” as we resume some of our endeavors. Perhaps amid the busyness and clamor the days ahead may bring, this is a good time to consider becoming a Daughter of the King.

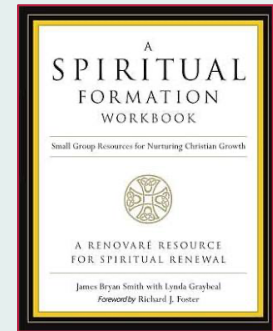


St. John's Daughters chapter—The Daughters of the Holy Spirit—presently conduct their monthly meetings via Zoom. The next meeting will be Monday, April 5 at 6:30 p.m. You are welcome to join us.

Daughters of the King (continued)

Our chapter recently began a new study, "A Spiritual Formation Workbook: Small Group Resources for Nurturing Christian Growth," where we explore ways to live a balanced Christian life. Mtr. Judith, our Chaplain, is facilitating our discussion about practicing six aspects of the Christian life: the prayer-filled life; the virtuous life; the Spirit-empowered life; the compassionate life; the Word-centered life; and the sacramental life. We will consider practical ways to apply each of them.

Our chapter has been meeting via Zoom throughout the pandemic. If you would like to learn more about the Daughters of the King, please contact Cindy Tysiak (cintys@aol.com) or Linda Muller (lmuller2@nycap.rr.com).



May He Rest in Peace . . .

***"...I am the
resurrection
and the life..."***

John 11:25



John Robert Tarbox
(July 19, 1928 to March 19, 2021)

John was a hard-working, humble, and kind gentleman. He married the love of his life, Joann, in 1954 and raised six children. He loved his family, farming, reading, and collecting stamps. He frequently shared stories of days gone by. John graduated from Troy High and attended Morrisville College. He spent several years working for ASCS while farming. He was active in the community: president of the Capital District Guernsey Club, a 4-H leader, a member of the Holstein Club and the Schaghticoke Fair. In his memory, enjoy some milk, cheese or ice cream. John is survived by siblings, Janet and Richard. He leaves behind his wife of 66 plus years, Joann (Cray) Tarbox; five children: sons Andrew (Judy) and David (Jayne), and daughters Anne (Anthony) Grab, Jane (John) Luskin, and Linda (John) Stancliffe; 15 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. His humility and kindness will inspire us always. ✚

Candlelight Meditations

St. John's provided a special opportunity for an hour of quiet reflection, beginning at five o'clock, during the last five Fridays in Lent. The church was lit by candlelight and by the setting sun, which illuminated our windows in a wonderful way. Short musical interludes were provided each week by one of four musicians: Fr. Darius Mojallali on violin, George Richardson on guitar, Lydia Smith on cello, and Ted Phillips on organ. We have been blessed by these moments of beauty and prayerful attention! We asked George Richardson and Brian Thomson to share a visual record of these hours.



Photos (top row right; bottom row left): Brian Thomson

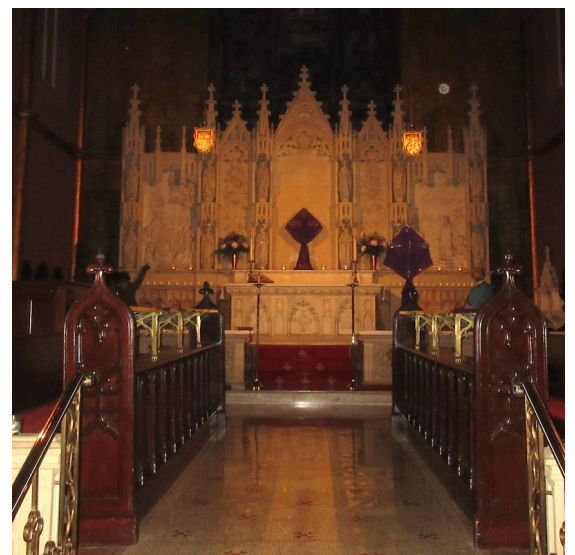
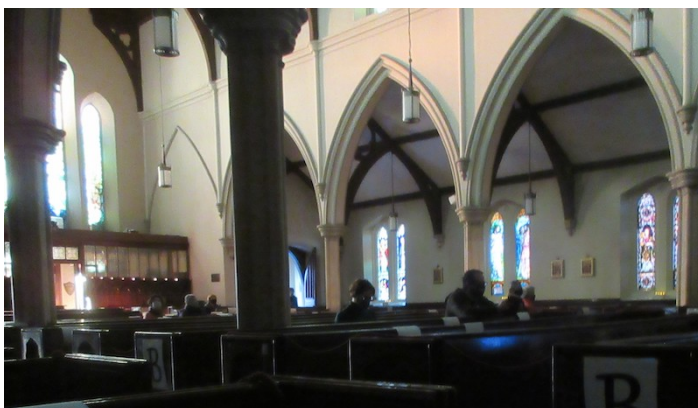
Photos (top & middle row, left; bottom row right): George Richardson

Candlelight Meditations (continued)



*Photos (top row
center & right; middle row):
George Richardson*

*Photos (top row left;
bottom row):
Brian Thomson*



News and Notes

St. John's Annual Meeting

More than fifty parishioners and clergy gathered via Zoom for the St. John's annual meeting on Sunday, February 28, 2021. It was a joy to be together, even though it was a virtual event. Mother Judith reviewed our past year; although it was challenging, she observed many positive effects. Voting for officers, vestry members, and convention delegates had been conducted by mail; more than 100 ballots were received. The results were announced at the meeting: Lois Hodgkinson was elected Junior Warden; Carol Daniel, Linda Muller, Brian Thomson, and Linda Thorburn were elected to three-year terms on the Vestry; Jennifer Firth, Sandra Hutchison and Eileen Manz were elected as diocesan convention delegates, and Nicholas Mizer and Shawna Mizer were elected as alternates. Mtr. Judith thanked everyone for running and for their willingness to serve, and Anne Hoback was thanked for her service on the vestry. The meeting concluded with a slideshow of pictures taken from *St. John's Herald* during 2020, compiled by Gail Richardson.

Wednesday Evening Adult Education (via Zoom)

When we resume on Wednesday, April 14, we will focus on the Oxford Movement, which made important theological and liturgical contributions to the Anglican Tradition. This movement had a profound effect on the church in the United States, especially in this diocese: we owe much of the beauty of our church to the Oxford Movement.

Remaining evenings will focus on:

- The development of global Anglicanism through the British Empire
- The Anglican Church of the 20th Century

As always, you are invited to join us at any time; you need not have attended previous sessions. Watch the mid-week e-blast for links, and join us for some engaging discussion! *Mother Judith* +

Beaver Cross Ministries Summer Camp

They will be offering summer camp this year—both day camp and overnight camp. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.beavercrossministries.org/dates--rates.html>

Christ the King Center

The School of Healing Prayer® is starting a Level I class on Monday, April 19, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. This seven-week program will be held at All Saint's, Round Lake, NY. For more information and to register, visit <https://ctkcenter.org/healing-ministry/the-school-of-healing-prayer>

Many, many thanks

This is our seventh issue, which means the one-year anniversary of this version of ***St John's Herald***. And so we give thanks:

To our contributors, both regular and occasional.

To our photographers, both regular and occasional.

To our proofreaders: Sandy Hutchison, who helped in the early issues, and Donna Rem.

To our designer: Rebecca Rem, for the beautiful banner and template design.

And thanks be to God!

ST. JOHN'S HERALD

Editor Jennifer Firth
Associate Editor
Gail Richardson
Header Design/Template
Rebecca Rem

Published every other
month online by
St. John's Episcopal
Church
146 First St.
Troy, NY 12180
518.274.5884

Print copies available
by request.

Story contributions are
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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.stjohnstroy.org

Save the Date

These parish items are in the calendar:

Shepherd's Storehouse Pantry, April 10, 10 a.m. - Noon
Vestry Meeting, April 13, 5:30 p.m. online and open to the parish
Adult Christian Education resumes, April 14, 7 p.m. (via Zoom)
Damien Center Dinner, April 27, details p. 10
Shepherd's Storehouse Pantry, May 1, 10 a.m. - Noon
Vestry Meeting, May 11, 5:30 p.m. online and open to the parish
Pentecost Sunday, May 23, watch for details
Troy Hidden Garden Tour, June 10, watch for details

PLEASE NOTE:

Watch for email messages from the office for details and other upcoming events.

You will find other events at these websites:

Cathedral of All Saints
<https://www.cathedralofallsaints.org/special-events>

Christ the King Center <https://ctkcenter.org/events>

ST. JOHN'S PARISH CALENDAR

For the current version of our April Calendar: click [here](#)

For the current version of our May Calendar: click [here](#)

THE MISSION OF ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH IS:

*TO WORSHIP AND GLORIFY JESUS CHRIST,
TO PROCLAIM GOD'S LOVE JOYOUSLY, AND
TO SERVE THE WORLD THROUGH GOD'S GRACE*