

# The Butternut Episcopalian



CHRIST CHURCH GILBERTSVILLE, NY  
A missionary outpost of the Episcopal Diocese of *Albany*

*“We will demonstrate God’s unconditional love and forgiveness daily,  
following the example of His Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.”*



**ADVENT 2014**

# The Wardens' Corner

## By Carol Angelone and Marion Albanese

As we begin this month of November, let each of us be thankful for the many blessings we receive, chief among them, the freedom to worship as we please. When we gather at our beautiful Christ Church, think of the many members who make this possible.

First, our Deacon Vicar, who although her position is nominally part-time Pastor, is often so involved in her ministry that it's nearly a full time occupation.

There are also many others who give of their time and talents: the Vestry, Altar Guild, choir, ladies of the ECW, Daughters of the King, St. Afterschool volunteers and those who provide the coffee hour goodies that fuel our fellowship. The list goes on and on. As a church family we are all using our talents in many ways.

The Applefest on September 20th was a great day here at Christ Church, and we have the ECW to thank for all the time and effort of making this a big success raising funds to support several ministries here at Christ Church.

Each Sunday during November the congregation will be learning about Consecration Sunday, which will take place on the 23rd. This event will help each of us to participate in the material support of our Parish.

Be sure to check out the new Christ Church website at [www.christchurchgilbertsville.org](http://www.christchurchgilbertsville.org). Gail Ashley, our Parish Administrator, has worked long and hard to make this elegant upgrade happen and we appreciate how well she has done. See Gail to get Members Access to this informative source of Parish information.

The Vestry wishes everyone a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving. Let's all remember to thank God for all our many blessings.

### Notes From The Deacon Vicar

#### Galatians Study

We have enjoyed discussion and banter around John Stott's study of Paul's letter to the Galatians. The group of eight or more have enjoyed thinking about why Paul wrote this letter, to whom he was writing, as well as the issues they were facing. To say that the study has been engaging, would be putting it lightly! We do have a wonderful time as we discuss how these letters, written nearly two thousand years ago, apply to us still today.

Don't be bashful about joining in this study or another one down the road. We have members of the community as well as from our church and we are all at different places in our spiritual journeys. That's what makes this so wonderful as people engage in the text and share what it means

to them personally, we all learn from one another. It's difficult to dig in on your own, so come join in the laughter and learn about the One who really Loves us and Gave Himself for us.

#### Saint Afterschool

A hearty group of 20 children have been found playing in the leaves, painting pumpkins, blowing bubbles, jump roping and generally just having fun at Christ Church in the Saint Afterschool Program. We have many new faces this year and the volunteers have enjoyed getting to know each and every one.

We have learned some of the Old Testament Bible lessons this fall, beginning with The Creation and Noah. Our favorite part is the Noah's "Arky Arky" Song! We have also met Abraham and Sarah and are looking forward to many more Bible characters from whom to learn.

Please continue to hold this program in your heart and prayers. We realize how important it is to plant good seeds in the early stages of life and pray that we are planting seeds of joy for their futures. We need more volunteers to help with this important and effective community outreach, even if only occasionally. Please contact Deacon Donna or any of the Saint Afterschool Staff if you are called to this ministry.

#### Recent Memorial Blessings

This year we have been blessed with a new set of white *paraments*. If you are not familiar with that word, don't worry! It simply means the hangings you find on the altar, pulpit and vestments that are worn by the Celebrants. These beautiful works of art were obtained through the generous offerings made in memory of Osceola "Sissy" Lull. Many women measured and prayed, discussed and measured again to be certain that these vestments would be made to perfection. They are created by C. M. Almy Co. and are truly gorgeous. We are blessed to use them to the honor and glory of God in Sissy's memory.

Also, additional Celebration Hymnals and 1982 Hymnals were purchased from memorial funds given in loving memory of Betty Day. Betty loved to sing and we think it appropriate to fill our pews with a few more hymnals in her memory.

All Saints Day is traditionally celebrated on November 1<sup>st</sup> or the next closest Sunday. This year November 2<sup>nd</sup> marks the day of remembrance for those Saints like Sissy, Betty and others who have completed their journey here and have moved on to their heavenly homes.

Fr. Bill has blessed these new memorial gifts and we have prayerfully remembered all those who are special to us and have gone before. When you sing one of your favorite hymns or regard the beauty of our church, send up a prayer of thanksgiving for all the ways our departed saints continue to bless our lives.

## Communications

by  
Gail Ashley

[www.christchurchville.org](http://www.christchurchville.org)

It is now easier than ever to stay in touch with what is happening at Christ Church Gilbertsville thanks to the newly updated website. Launched a month ago, the new website makes it easy to listen to past service sermons or visit the photo gallery. For your convenience, current announcements and calendar events are listed right on the home page. If you ever need to use the parish hall, you can complete an on-line building use form.

To keep the site fresh and up-to-date, submissions are welcome for any ministry or Church related activities held or sponsored by Christ Church. Submissions can be e-mailed to [gashley@stny.rr.com](mailto:gashley@stny.rr.com).

Starting November 1st, we will be sending out the weekly announcements via the member site of the church website. So if you have not yet done so, visit the website or contact Gail Ashley to sign up in the members only section.

Editor's Note. Gail has devoted many hours to the website upgrade. It looks very professional and gives Christ Church an elegant face for site visitors Thank you Gail!

## Buildings & Grounds

By  
Kevin Steckline

It has been a busy summer for B&G and I want to thank all who have been involved in the various projects we have undertaken. Many of you have been working behind the scenes and be assured it does not go unrecognized.

The Butternut Food Pantry is now relocated to the Parish House basement and everyone seems to be happy with the new location. The lower entrance is the same one used by St. Afterschool. Remember that the Food Pantry is always looking for donations and volunteers to serve clients. This winter season is projected to be difficult for many.

The Rectory has been occupied by the Peck family but still needs work on the windows. However, the Pecks are very pleased with the move and we are glad to have them in the Rectory.

The stone stairs in the front of the Parish Hall have been worked on and caulking and preserving the stone is just about completed. We thank Gary and Dave for their fine work.

There will be several inside projects going on over the winter months so please be aware of that. I apologize for any inconveniences that it may cause.

As I have expressed in the past, if there are any things that you see that need attention, please contact me or any Vestry member.

## Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

*New Consecration Sunday* is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The

procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and Vestry members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Deacon Vicar Donna

**Music Ministry**  
**By**  
**Jean Giuda**

Our choir continues to meet and sing each Sunday. We begin rehearsals at 9:15 a.m. to go over new music and warm up for the service. Our vesion of Amazing Grace has been well received and we have used it in several services.

Now approaching the holiday season we will have some new music to learn. Extra rehearsals following coffee hour will continue the second Sunday of each month and add the fourth Sunday – when needed.

The Gilbertsville Community Choir will start rehearsals for both the Thanksgiving Community Service and the Community Christmas Eve Service. In November we will be rehearsing at the Presbyterian Church at 12:30 p.m. November 2nd, 9th, and 16th. We will continue rehearsing December 7th, 14th, and 21st.

All are welcome to join us and share your voice and make a Joyful Noise to the Lord!

**COMMUNITY YOUTH GROUP**  
**by**  
**Carol Angelone**

We thank and praise God for the young people that participate in our Community Youth Program sponsored by our three Gilbertsville Churches. When we gather together, which is

typically every other week, we have a great time with fun games, fellowship, teaching and snacks.

We are looking to the future and will try to plan a “mission trip” to help others in need possibly somewhere in the United States.

We have grown and expanded into Junior High and Senior High groups, and are bringing in new students all the time! Of course, we are always looking for new volunteers to help with all aspects of this wonderful program.

We look forward to joining Christ Church’s Christmas mission, filling shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. This outreach is sponsored by Samaritan’s Purse, a Christian organization. Small items will fill these boxes, i.e. school supplies, personal products and small clothing items.

Our plans for the Christmas season will once again include caroling in the community, bringing joy and happiness to all.

Please continue to pray that this outreach will grow and that our young people’s lives will change as they grow spiritually.

**Have faith in God**  
**By**  
**Christopher Sadlocha**

“Do not cast away your confidence for it will be richly rewarded.” (Hebrews 10:35)

Before you’re ever going to be successful, you’ve got to see yourself being successful. Before your dreams come to pass, you’ve got to look through your eyes of faith and see them come to pass.

Evil doesn’t want you to grow and increase. Instead it immediately tries to distract your heart. In order to defeat the evil in your life you have to stay focused on God and His Word. Constantly meditate on His promises, live a life that is pleasing and honoring to God, and thank Him for His faithfulness no matter what the circumstances. Pray that you begin to see the dreams God placed in your heart come to pass.

**A Prayer**

God, I want to please you by living your life. As I grow in my faith bless every area of my life. Thank you for planting seeds of greatness in me and having confidence that I will fulfill my dreams.

In Jesus’ Name, Amen

	Nov	Verger	Altar Guild	Lector	LEM	Acolytes	Prayer Team
All Saints	2	Molly DelGiacco	Anne Sebeck & Maureen Ahl	Terry Colf	Garrick Hoadley	Dave	Deb & Chris
Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost	9	Anne Sebeck	Lynn Hoadley & Judy Bartoo	Garrick Hoadley	Gail Ashley	Tom	Deb & Chris
Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost	16	Roy Bartoo	Judy Bartoo & Deb Beach	Mira Wind	Chris Sadlocha	Dave	Deb & Chris
Last Sunday after Pentecost:	23	Becky Brannick	Deb Beach & Molly DelGiacco	Chris Sadlocha	Kevin Steckline	Tom	Deb & Chris
First Sunday of Advent	30	Chris Sadlocha	Molly DelGiacco & Jane Porter	Carol Angelone	Barb Colf	Dave	Deb & Chris
	Dec	Verger	Altar Guild	Lector	LEM	Acolytes	Prayer Team
Second Sunday of Advent	7	Barb Colf	Jane Porter & Maureen Ahl	Marion Albanese	Garrick Hoadley	Tom	Deb & Chris
Third Sunday of Advent	14	AnnMarie Hill	Maureen Ahl and Flora Taylor	Diane Marvin	Gail Ashley	Dave	Deb & Chris
Fourth Sunday of Advent	21	Jane Porter/	Flora Taylor & Lynn Hoadley Greening - Altar Guild Members	Terry Colf	Chris Sadlocha	Tom	Deb & Chris
Christmas Eve	24	Barb Colf	Anne Sebeck & Jane Porter	Garrick Hoadley	Kevin Steckline	Dave	Deb & Chris
First Sunday after Christmas	28	AnnMarie Hill	Lynn Hoadley & Deb Beach	Mira Wind	Barb Colf	Tom	Deb & Chris

**CHRIST CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT  
January 1-September 30, 2014**

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD
<b>INCOME</b>		
Pledge and Plate	51986.83	58500.00
Fund Raising	2098.50	
Fitch Gilbert	6750.00	6750.00
ADIT	2456.43	2456.43
Parish House	35.00	
	<u>63326.76</u>	<u>67706.43</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Diocesan Assessment	9362.35	10347.03
Operating Expenses	19212.37	21372.88
Clergy	14383.96	14500.98
Outreach	3611.27	6525.00
Program	<u>12570.28</u>	<u>14820.00</u>
Program	59140.23	67565.89