

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.”



The Old Burying Ground

But these also were godly men,
whose righteous deeds have not been forgotten
Their bodies are buried in peace,
but their name lives on generation after generation
Ecclesiasticus 44:13-14

FALL 2014

Christ Episcopal Church
PO Box 345
Gilbertsville, New York 13776



THE WARDENS' CORNER

by

Marion Albanese and Carol Angelone

Community Youth Group

We continue to experience good fellowship, to learn and to serve God in many ways. We have a steady group of about 12 young people, often more when schedules permit, as we meet twice a month, rotating through the 3 churches. We participated in the 30 Hour Famine, raising over \$3500 for World Vision to help feed the hungry children. It was a moving experience for our youth as they took part in exercises simulating activities that children in Africa must do daily, to get water, etc. We ended with the Eucharist and a "break fast" meal. We are hoping to do more work with GERT as projects in our town are identified.

We are discussing fund-raising for a future mission trip either in the United States or out of the country. This is at least 2 years into the future.

We have now reached the point where we will have 2 groups. Our current members move on to the high school level and we look forward to new Middle School youth to become involved this Fall. What a joy it is to see how the Lord is working in our young people, preparing them for a future with His protection and guidance.

Community Health Fair and 20th Anniversary of GMU Celebration

Plans are underway a community health fair to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton School District on September 27th at the school. The aim is to let our community know what services are available to them right here in their own backyard. Several local health and service organizations, Basset Health Care, Gilbertsville 4H, Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts, The American Red Cross, The Grange, CSEA, South Wind Farms, Gilbertsville and Mount Upton Fire Departments, Catskill Area Hospice, Family Resource Network, Cornell Cooperative Extension and others will have displays. There will be free cancer screening and blood pressure clinics and The American Red Cross will explain Disaster Preparedness and other programs they offer. The ECW will display the quilt being raffled to raise money for youth programs and the church will have a display to our youth programs, Saint Afterschool, Beaver Cross and the Community Youth Group. Look for fliers and advertisements in the near future explaining all we will be doing.

Rectory

We are pleased to announce that a community family will be renting the Rectory and will move

in before the end of the summer. Thank you to all those who worked so diligently and expertly to get this property ready, especially Kevin Steckline, who headed up the renovations, Bill Fuller and Gary Lackos. By the time this Newsletter is distributed, our renters will be in the Rectory and making it their home.

We continue to thank God for sending us Deacon Donna to lead our Parish and pledge our continued support for her work and studies through prayer and service to our congregation.

NOTES FROM THE DEACON VICAR

Confirmation Preparation

As our teens are growing up, both in stature and in their faith, we encourage further spiritual growth and education by way of Confirmation Classes that will begin in the Fall. There are 27 sessions that will assist those who are seeking to grow in their faith in Christ as well as with an understanding of the Episcopal Church.

By going to: <http://www.albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/> one may access our Diocesan web site where the entire curriculum is posted under 'Confirmation Guide'. There are activities along with teaching which will guide our youth in confirming the faith they received as children of our Awesome God!

Adults who were never confirmed or who were confirmed in another faith, who would like to be received into the Episcopal Church, may also join in this study. For more details or to answer any questions you may have, please see Deacon Donna.

St. Afterschool

With the start of the School Year comes the beginning of another hopeful year of St. Afterschool. Each year, volunteers from our community come together to offer Biblical teaching and fellowship for children in Pre-K through 5th grade of our school district. A Healthy snack, crafts, fun and games are all part of a normal afternoon with the wonderful children who are entrusted to us.

We welcome any teens and adults to the joy of serving our children, either occasionally or routinely. Please see Deacon Donna with any questions or to express your interest in assisting in this rewarding ministry.

St. Afterschool is in session each Tuesday of regular school days from 3-5:30 p.m. Volunteers are asked to arrive by 2:45 p.m. for set-up. St. Afterschool follows the school schedule.

Grateful Youth Attend Beaver Cross

Christ Church Parish and ECW along with the Susquehanna Deanery were thrilled to send 6 youth to Beaver Cross for one week this summer. All the teens returned home with loads of stories of fun activities, renewed friendships as well as new friends made. Photos of the 'GIANT Swing' and the 'zip line' show some of the challenges the teens faced during their time there. Awards are given for the special attributes shown during their time at BC. Fishing, crafts, games like 'Gold-Rush' and learning to shoot bow and arrow are just some of the fun experienced at this valuable ministry of the Albany Diocese.

Be sure to look over the photo album and bulletin board by those who attended. They have written letters sharing of their experiences, which truly show the value of sending them on this wonderful journey.

A hearty thanks for the multiple ways you work and share of your gifts in order to provide this week-long experience.

HealthLine Sudan

A special thank-you goes out to all who have held the Diocese of Maridi, South Sudan in your prayers and for all the support you have given for the Trap Shoot Fund Raiser. Bishop Justin Badi and his Diocese struggle to reach out to the thousands of internally displaced people who have arrived at their doorstep. With your efforts we will encourage them and give financially to support the basic needs of our brothers and sisters in Maridi. The needs are many and include pots to cook with, blankets, buckets, and basic food. Thank you for caring and sharing the wealth with which God has blessed you. May He continue to bless each of you and may He use you to further share His love in this hurting world.

From The Deacon's Bench

By

The Rev. Donna Steckline

The Book of Psalms, or The Psalter, gives us inspired ways to contemplate God and speak to Him in prayer, as well as ways to sing to God and worship Him. The Psalter, which includes one hundred and fifty prayers and songs, offers the disciple every sentiment common to mankind with which to connect with God, from mournful cries to praise and elation, and the full range of emotions in between.

The Psalter is divided into five smaller books, and in these five books the psalms are again

collected into smaller groups, often with their own theme. They are the prayer book of Israel and should help Christian disciples in forming a more meaningful relationship with God. In these poems, God speaks of His desire for peace and justice for all people, and the Psalmists cry out to their maker.

Many of the psalms, especially in the first book, are attributed to David. However, there are a variety of authors, both named and unnamed throughout the Psalter. Other authors that are identified include Moses, Solomon, Asaph, Heman, Ethan and a group by the name of Sons of Korah. The headings or postscripts of psalms provide a glimpse of the author or even to whom the psalm may be dedicated and a rough idea of the date of its writing or placement in history. Some superscripts will indicate the tune for the song or other directions concerning the psalm. Over the years psalms have been collected and organized into their current order. Book I includes Psalms 1-41, with Psalms one and two acting as the introduction to the entire book. Book II contains Psalms 42-72, Book III has Psalms 73-89, Book IV consists of Psalms 90-106 and the final Book V is comprised of Psalms 107-150. Within the five books there are smaller divisions or collections of psalms, often grouped by author or style, such as a congregational praise group, or the Songs of Ascent. Many of the psalms have been used in group worship similar to our own liturgical use. Some psalms were used for personal devotion. There are "seam" psalms that come at the end of each of the first four books and help to make the transitions between the books. They identify a crisis and resolution of the crisis, bringing the disciple to a place of hope.

This collection of poetic prayers and songs was composed and assembled over a thousand years, from the days of Moses to the Babylonian captivity. In the Psalter, the psalms are combined in such a way as to have a greater impact than any one psalm on its own. Together they trace the steps of Israel through wilderness wanderings in Judah, Babylon and Israel with dominant themes of retribution and kingship. For the ancient Israelites these themes were much more difficult to understand and accept than for us now with the assurance we receive through Christ. They believed the righteous would prosper and the wicked would suffer, thus those who prospered were righteous and those who suffered were wicked. This, of course, is not supported in Scripture as it questions the justice of God. With the assurance of everlasting life through the resurrection of Christ we now understand that the wicked will face judgment.

We also understand that despite trials and the unfair circumstances of life those who believe in Christ and attempt to live righteously will find their consolation in heaven.

The psalms refer to liturgical activities such as dancing, singing, sacrifices, and prayers of both individuals and communities. Settings or locations vary; in the Temple and the courts, at the gates or the House of the Lord. Types of psalms include praise, lament, trust, pilgrimage, wisdom and Royal. Laments are the most frequent. They generally include complaints and petitions seeking some sort of reasoned vindication. They describe the trouble, make a plea to God for help and may end on a more hopeful note, although some seem hopeless throughout.

Praise psalms usually begin with an imperative statement such as "Sing to the Lord" or with an invitation to praise. They will carry the disciple from a place of disorientation to the welcome place of contact with the Lord.

As we read Israel's Prayer Book and understand that these words were also on the lips of our Savior Jesus Christ, there is a sense of harmony, of our own lives connected to their history, and we can resonate with them and continue our journey in faith understanding that God is the one in whom our hope is found.

End of Life Planning

by

Garrick Hoadley

By popular request, Deacon Donna has been offering a series of discussions to help us better understand issues that can become overwhelming at the death of a family member. Young children are often mystified by "what happens to grandma when she dies," teenagers often don't want to know, twenty-somethings believe they will live forever, and it isn't until middle age, when one loses a parent or close friend, that the intricacies of dealing with death both personally and legally are fully realized. Perhaps that is why the attendees at Deacon Donna's sessions are mostly, if not completely, made up of senior citizens who have experienced loss of loved ones and appreciate the chaos that can ensue.

Deacon Donna's work with Hospice gives her insight into the emotional and practical aspects of death, both for the deceased and those left behind. She knows well the confusion and well-intended misinformation that can surface when attempting to observe the dear-departed's wishes.

To get us started on understanding the issues inherent in end-of-life planning, we first

started working on our own Funeral and Burial Directions. This included information on next-of-kin, Funeral Home choice and directions for a funeral specifying whether you desire a wake or visitation, liturgy, scripture and music to be used for the service, whether to be cremated and where you will be buried. When completed these questionnaires will be witnessed and a copy filed at Christ Church to assist in planning a celebration of your life...when the time comes.

Deacon Donna is arranging guest appearances at our sessions to include a representative from Hospice, a funeral director and a lawyer to address their areas of expertise as it relates to death and dying.

On behalf of the fifteen or so interested attendees at the sessions, I thank Deacon Donna for responding so well and promptly to the need identified in our congregation.

Church History

by

Garrick Hoadley

The Old Burying Ground

The recent village cleanup day revived the discussion on ownership of the old cemetery on Reservoir Road, across New York route 51 from Christ Church. Otsego County property records



show the Primary Owner as "Pro Episcopal Society," by which they mean The Protestant Episcopal Society such as was formed by "the hardy founders of Christ Church" in 1833, according to Douglas McKee's History of Christ Church Parish....

I have lived in Gilbertsville, the Town of Butternuts actually, and attended Christ Church for over thirty years and have been meaning to investigate the cemetery all that time. When I started to describe the cemetery here, I realized that I really couldn't do it without actually visiting the place. So I did.

First, I found it larger than casual glances from Route 51 or Reservoir Road reveal. Otsego County property records describe the property as 1.22 acres of abandoned agricultural land. Also, it extends farther back into the woods than I had thought.

Next, it is old, and recent efforts by Boy Scouts



and Firemen to clean it up, while removing some large trees and limbs that littered the place and repairing the stairs and adding a sturdy railing to improve access, have come too late for many of the grave stones. Time has erased names and dates and tumbled many markers. Most of the gravestones still legible display dates of death in the mid-eighteen hundreds. The most recent I saw was 1926.

On the other hand, due to the continuing efforts of Troop 44, many graves of veterans are marked with fresh American flags. There are several government-provided headstones for Revolutionary War and Civil War veterans due to the efforts of local historians that researched them.

How and when the cemetery became the property of "The Prot. Episcopal Society" is, to me, a mystery. Here is the story as I have put it together from documents provided by Leigh Ekmaier, Butternuts Town Historian.

- What appears to be undated minutes of a committee meeting, apparently to finalize establishment of a cemetery for the village, states

That some fourteen years since, the late lamented John Bryant, **in behalf of the citizens of this village**, entered into a

parole contract with Mr. Thomas Cox for a piece of land nearly opposite the Episcopal Church to be used as a place of burial.

- And a paper stating,

(Thomas Cox) received from John A. Bryant a subscription paper dated in 1831... for the purpose of purchasing and fencing a burying ground....



- Then, another paper, apparently a receipt,

Rec'd of John Bryant in part pay(ment?) for land for the Burying ground Twenty-four Dollars. /signed?/Thomas Cox
May 15, 18(3?)2

This seems to say that fourteen years before this committee met, probably in 1831, ("the late lamented) Mr. John Bryant paid Mr. Thomas Cox, owner of the farm, \$24 as part payment for the Burying Ground "**in behalf of the citizens of this village.**" Christ Church was founded in 1833 and the church building consecrated in 1835, so, while it would have existed when the "committee" was trying to wrap up the cemetery fourteen years later, the "Prot. Episcopal Society" could not have founded the cemetery. Otsego County lists the "Prot. Episcopal Society" as current property owner, but there is no record of its successor, Christ Church Parish, taking ownership at a later date. Fortunately, owning the cemetery at 108 Reservoir Road carries no financial responsibilities to the present Christ Church. Although the property's assessed value is \$2900, the property is tax-exempt as a cemetery.

The Prayer Table

by

Debbie Beach

Serving with Deacon Donna at our Prayer Table at the Gilbertsville Farmers' Market this summer has been a rewarding experience for me. I feel we continue to grow closer in fellowship to our neighbors and visitors to our community. Many people stop by each week just to talk, or to update us on someone they have asked us to pray for. Others just want to catch up on what is happening. One week there was a wedding being held at The Major's Inn and the groom came over to our table to ask for prayer before the ceremony. That is a good example of why we are there.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

by

Kevin Steckline

The summer is going by quickly and many repairs and improvements of the rectory have been completed in anticipation of renting the house. I am happy to report that the kitchen is finally done, looking wonderful with the new stove, counter tops and flooring. The rooms downstairs have a fresh coat of paint and look very bright and clean. Upstairs still needs some cleaning and painting in the closets, but the largest tasks are complete. A half-bathroom is being created on the ground floor as I write this. I want to take this opportunity to thank all who have provided their time and talent to make the transformation of the Rectory possible.

We have been blessed to have Christ Church and the Rectory. They are beautiful buildings and we need to continue being good stewards of what the Lord has given us. There will be several small projects coming up in the fall and I will be calling upon people to continue giving their time and talent. If you see something that needs repair or attention please let me, or anyone on the Vestry, know. Thank you.

Music Ministry

by

Jean Giuda

Our choir continues to meet and sing each Sunday. We begin rehearsals at 9:20 A.M. to warm up for the service.

We welcome two new and one returning members. Melissa, Valerie and Kayla all sing soprano, which gives those of us singing the harmony lots to hang their parts on.

As Fall approaches we will be holding an after-church rehearsal the second Sunday of each month and add the fourth Sunday, when needed. These will be used to learn new music to keep our repertoire fresh and bring a variety to our services. The first rehearsal is scheduled for Sunday, September 14th, after coffee hour, at about 11:45 A.M.

We always welcome new members. Now that our soprano section has been reinforced, how about an alto, tenor or bass? Please join with us and share your voices to make a Joyful Noise to the Lord!

Scientific Notations

by

Chris Sadlocha

80/20 Revisited

Then He said to his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few. Pray therefore to the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest.

Matthew 9:37-38

Remember the 80/20 rule? In 1906, Italian economist, Vilfredo Pareto, first noted the principle that 20 percent of the people owned 80% of the land in Italy. It was later generalized to show that 20% of our efforts produce 80% of the results. And the rule (which is actually not a rule at all but a useful working generalization) extends into every nook and cranny of life. You know, 20% of the people do 80 percent of the work, 20 percent of the people give 80 percent of the money, 20% of drinkers consumer 80% of the alcohol, 20% of the people accumulate 80% of the wealth, 20% of consumers generate 80% of profit, and so on. Some think the ratio is now even more skewed to about 90/10.

A blogger goes on to talk about Perfection and its relationship to 80/20.

Seth Goldin asks, "When was the last time you excitedly told someone about Fedex? They're perfect. The only time we notice them is when they screw up." Seeing the world with Perfect as the goal leads to let down. The gift of convenience that a Fedex provides or that a fancy restaurant provides is a gift. Expecting perfection leads to dissatisfaction because rarely does the service meet our expectation.

Instead, he says it's more helpful to focus on texture, on interpersonal interaction, on *interesting*. Interesting is attainable, and interesting is remarkable. Interesting is fresh

every day and interesting leads to word of mouth. The blogger describes a situation that I laughed at; this is my kind of blogger: When someone complains about my Spelling, I tell them I got the 80% right and that it takes too long to correct the last 20%.

He points out that in a business, the last 20% of goal is expensive to achieve. So, it is worth examining that last 20% needed to reach Perfection. He says it is often too costly to achieve. Give it up and go on to another. The efforts are better rewarded. He says if a goal is reached often then the goal is too low.

The quest for Perfection can lead to pitfalls.

I had 2 students once when, during a Spelling test they were give a word they did not know for sure. They froze. So much so that they did not answer future words on the test, which they knew.

Haven't we all had supervisors who tell us there is always room for improvement? This is unhealthy in my book. The unspoken comment is that what you did is not, and will never be, good enough. That's disheartening and kills morale.

Church leaders like Kenyan Tee Nalo challenge us to grow and strengthen the 20% that are the doers. He points out that the 80/20 rule is not a golden, unbreakable rule. He challenges the church to grow that 20% to 50, 80, and 100% of members actively engaged.

May we celebrate the achievements of the 20%, may we strengthen the 20% may we celebrate the 80% successes and thank God for them before they become less, before, due to discouragement, we lose the 20% .

From the Who Knew files:
Salt of the Earth?

Trouble sleeping? At bedtime, drink a glass of water, then let a pinch of salt dissolve on your tongue, making sure it doesn't touch the roof of your mouth. This combination is said to induce a deep sleep.

Sponges like new- Fill a bucket with ¼ c. salt and 1qt. Warm water. Soak sponges, mops or other porous cleaning materials for 8-10 hrs. Grunge be gone.

Remove cooking odors from Hands- Rub them with a bit of table salt. It's said to absorb oil and odor in seconds.

Christ Church Flea Market Booth *by* **Roy Bartoo**

Our flea market booth at the Bainbridge Summer Flea Market is near the end of its 19th year. The flea market runs every Saturday from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend. We have had a presence there for most of those Saturdays, raising funds for the Christ Church Youth Programs.

Over the course of those 19 years I have met dozens of interesting people, made many new friends, raised an average of \$1000 a year and had numerous interesting experiences.

This year was no exception. I made 3 new friends, all of whom like to fish and tie flies. Both of these activities, as you know, are close to my heart. As sales have perked up this year, I hope to top the \$1000 bench mark.

Whatever funds we do raise this year, we continue to have a presence in the Bainbridge community and among the many regular patrons who attend this annual event. Our Church and our efforts on behalf of our Youth Program have become well known and supported by our many patrons.

I would like to thank all the patrons who have made it possible for our church to send kids to camp and to buy materials for our youth programs. I also thank our parish folks who turned out to give me a hand and who keep those programs alive and well. God Bless You All.

Lay Ministry Opportunities

Listed below are several ministries for lay people. If you feel called to volunteer for one of these opportunities to help Christ Church meet our mission in the community and the world please speak with Deacon Donna to offer your time and talent.

Lector, to read the lessons in the worship service
Verger, greet people arriving for the worship service

Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM) to administer the chalice in the service

Sunday School, teach or administrate as needs are identified

Confirmation, teach or administrate as needs are identified

Saint After School, assist in the program as needs are identified

Parish Website Maintenance, keep our web presence up to date

Lay Ministry Schedule

	Aug	Verger	Altar Guild	Lector	LEM	Acolytes	Prayer Team
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	3	Becky Brannick	Flora Taylor & Judy Bartoo	Terry Colf	Chris Sadlocha	Dave	Deb & Chris
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost	10	Anne Sebeck	Lynn Hoadley	Garrick Hoadley	Gail Ashley	Tom	Deb & Chris
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost	17	Chris Sadlocha	Becky Brannick & Flora Taylor	Mira Wind	Garrick Hoadley	Dave	Deb & Chris
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost	24	Barb Colf	Debbie Beach & Jane Porter	Carol Angelone	Kevin Steckline	Tom	Deb & Chris
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost	31	AnnMarie Hill	Debbie Beach & Jane Porter	Chris Sadlocha	Barb Colf	Dave	Deb & Chris
	Sept.	Verger	Altar Guild	Lector	LEM	Acolytes	Prayer Team
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost	7	Jane Porter	Anne Sebeck & Molly DelGiacco	Marion Albanese	Gail Ashley	Tom	Deb & Chris
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost	14	Molly DelGiacco	Anne Sebeck & Molly DelGiacco	Diane Marvin	Chris Sadlocha	Dave	Deb & Chris
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	21	Anne Sebeck	Maureen Ahl & Lynn Hoadley	Terry Colf	Kevin Steckline	Tom	Deb & Chris
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	28	Roy Bartoo	Maureen Ahl & Becky Brannick	Garrick Hoadley	Barb Colf	Dave	Deb & Chris
	Oct	Verger	Altar Guild	Lector	LEM	Acolytes	Prayer Team
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	5	Chris Sadlocha	Anne Sebeck & Debbie Beach	Carol Angelone	Gail Ashley	Dave	Deb & Chris
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost	12	Barb Colf	Jane Porter & Molly DelGiacco	Chris Sadlocha	Kevin Steckline	Tom	Deb & Chris
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost	19	AnnMarie Hill	Jane Porter & Lynn Hoadley	Marion Albanese	Chris Sadlocha	Dave	Deb & Chris
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost	26	Jane Porter	Anne Sebeck and Maureen Ahl	Diane Marvin	Barb Colf	Tom	Deb & Chris

Christ Church Financial Report 1/1/2014 to 6/30/2014

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD
INCOME		
Pledge and Plate	36769.75	39000.00
Fitch Gilbert	4500.00	4500.00
ADIT	1637.62	1637.62
Parish House	<u>35.00</u>	
	42942.37	<u>45137.62</u>
EXPENSES		
Diocesan Assessment	7063.01	6898.02
Operating Expenses	15730.52	14882.92
Clergy	9022.32	9667.32
Outreach	2066.21	4350.00
Progrm	<u>8855.37</u>	<u>10245.00</u>
	42737.43	46043.26