

# 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."*

## Saint Afterschool



**Lent 2015**

## The Wardens' Corner

*Debbie Beach*

WOW! Where did the year 2014 go? I guess our parents were right, as we get older time goes faster.

We ended the year with a new stewardship program that asked us to listen to what portion of our income God was asking us to contribute to do His work, culminating in Consecration Sunday. Many thanks to all for your participation, which resulted in five new pledges and a 13% increase in pledged income!

In 2015 the Vestry will continue to support our Deacon Vicar, and with the help of the whole Parish, will continue our many ministries to do the Lord's work in our communities and the world. God bless you all.

## FOR YOUR LENTEN CALENDAR

- ☐ **Ash Wednesday Service -Feb. 18 @ 7 P.M.**
- ☐ **Wednesdays** during Lent beginning **Feb 25<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 P.M.** Soup and Salad Dinner- Study begins at 7 p.m. *"Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith"* by Andy Stanley
- ☐ **Thursdays** during Lent beginning Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7 p.m. *Stations of the Cross*
- ☐ **Palm Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> – Sunday Eucharist @ 10 A.M.**
- ☐ **Holy Week Service Schedule:**
  - Maundy Thursday Service at 7 P.M.
  - Good Friday Service at 7 P.M.
  - Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at Gilbertsville Overlook at 6:30 A.M. Preacher: Rev. Donna Steckline – Community Breakfast at Christ Church Easter Sunday Service at Christ Church 10 A.M.Especially during Holy Week the Church remains open to all who would like 'Sanctuary' to spend some deeply spiritual time in prayer.

## Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith

*Lenten Soup - Salad - Study*

Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith, by Andy Stanley is an exciting small group Bible study that establishes the biblical case for five things God uses to grow an unshakable faith in you.

Imagine how different your outlook on life would be if you had absolute confidence that God was with you. Imagine how differently you would respond to difficulties, temptations, and even good things if you knew with certainty that God was in all of it and was planning to leverage it for good.

In other words, imagine what it would be like to have PERFECT faith. In this new small group bible study, Andy Stanley builds a biblical case for five things God uses to grow BIG faith.

Sessions include:

1. Big Faith
2. Practical Teaching
3. Providential Relationships
4. Private Disciplines
5. Personal Ministry
6. Pivotal Circumstances

As we enter the Lenten Season mark your calendars for Wednesday evening Soup & Salad Dinner at Christ Church beginning at 6:30 p.m. The Lenten Study will begin at 7 p.m. Come for the great food and fellowship and dig into this study and GROW your FAITH in fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ!

Sign up today! See the Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall.

## 4 of 9 Ways Generous People See the World Differently

*Mostly all written by Joshua Becker*

*Compiled by Chris Sadlocha*

"Give what you have. To someone, it may be better than you dare to think." —Henry Longfellow

Acts 20:35

In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

I came across these ideas recently: Generosity makes our world a better place. It improves the life of the receiver. And it improves the life of the giver. Yet, despite the benefits, generosity is still too rare in our world today.

Instead, our society craves and pursues more at every turn. We seek enjoyment by directing most of our resources toward our own pursuits: security, possessions, experiences, enjoyment, and luxury. Meanwhile, significant opportunities for generosity surround us every day at every turn. In order to "unconform" our thinking in a consumer-driven world and begin taking greater advantage of the abundant benefits of generosity, we need to shift our worldview.

Consider then, these ways generous people see the world differently:

## St. Afterschool

1. They recognize the resource pie is not finite. The mindset of competition - that my resources only grow when someone else's shrinks - is based on a faulty premise. It assumes there is a finite sized pie and if someone else enjoys success, my opportunity shrinks. But quite frankly, this thinking is incorrect. The pie of resources is not finite. It continues to grow as society benefits from others' success.

2. They know that generosity leads to greater happiness.

Studies confirm what generous people already know: Giving increases happiness, fulfillment, and purpose in the life of the giver. We were not designed to be creatures of selfishness. Instead, we were designed to seek and discover happiness in loving and caring for others. And those who decide to look for fulfillment there, quickly discover it.

3. They find success in helping others to succeed. The easiest path to success in your life is to help someone else find theirs. After all, our contribution to this world has to be measured by something more significant than the size of our savings account. Our lives are going to find their greatest significance in how we choose to live them, and how we enable others to live theirs.

4. They believe changing even one life is worthwhile.

Generous people are quick to admit that the world's problems will never be solved by one person, and perhaps never be completely solved. But seeking perfection does not slow them. To them, changing even one life is sufficient and is a worthy goal to be sought.

*Dear Lord, May I give more than I receive...*

### **St. Patrick's Day in Ireland 2015** **Deacon Vicar Donna L. Steckline**

We are much bigger than just our Christ Church in the Butternut Valley. We are part of a very large church across the borders of our own country, across the oceans and seas into far away continents. Yet we are linked by our common faith; we are Episcopalian, led by a Bishop, and also part of the Anglican Communion, Christian churches derived from or related to the Church of England. The leader of the Anglican Communion is the Archbishop of Canterbury. His name is Justin Welby. I'd like us to get to know him a bit, so here are some biographical highlights of The Most Reverend and Rt. Hon. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury.

*cont. pg.3*



He was born in 1956 in London, England and educated at Eton College and Trinity College, Cambridge where he studied history and law. For 11 years he worked in the oil industry, becoming group treasurer of a large British exploration and production company focused mainly on West African and North Sea projects. During this period he became a lay leader at Holy Trinity Church, Brompton, London.

His father's family were German Jewish immigrants who moved to England to escape anti-Semitism in the late 19th century; his British ancestors, on his mother's side, include several clergymen.

A major influence both on Justin and his wife Caroline was their experience of personal tragedy. In 1983 their seven-month old daughter died in a car crash. Six years later in 1989, after sensing a call from God, Archbishop Justin left industry to train for ordination.

He took a theology degree at St John's College, Durham, in which he focused on ethics – particularly in business. He has since published articles on ethics, international finance and reconciliation. His booklet, 'Can Companies Sin?' drawing on his experience in the oil industry, evolved from his dissertation at theological college. He has frequently said that the Roman Catholic approach to Christian social teaching has greatly influenced his social thinking.

For 20 years, his ministry has blended deep devotion to his parish communities with Church work around the world, especially in areas of conflict.

After being ordained Deacon in 1992, he spent 15 years serving Coventry Diocese and in 1995 became Rector of St James, Southam, a small market town in the same Diocese – and also the next year of St Michael and All Angels, Ufton, the neighbouring parish. He helped revive both churches, growing their congregations and launching bereavement and baptism teams.

In 2002 he was made a Canon of Coventry Cathedral, where he ran the reconciliation work based there. During this time he worked extensively in the field in Africa and the Middle East. He has a particular interest in Kenya, the Congo and Nigeria, where he works with groups involved in conflict in the north. He met with religious and political leaders in Israel and Palestine, and on one trip to Baghdad reopened the Anglican Church shortly after the allied invasion. In 2006 he also took responsibility for Holy Trinity Coventry, the main city center church, as Priest-in-charge.

He left Coventry in 2007, being installed Dean of Liverpool Cathedral, the largest cathedral in England. Its local area, Toxteth, is among the most deprived in north-west Europe. During his deanship, he brought the Cathedral into much greater contact with its local community and

continued to work on reconciliation and mediation projects overseas.

In 2011, was announced as the new Bishop of Durham, and was enthroned at Durham Cathedral on 26 November.

On 9 November 2012, Justin Welby was announced as the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury and was enthroned at Canterbury Cathedral on 21 March 2013.

His interests include French culture, sailing and politics.

He is married to Caroline, who studied Classics at Cambridge, where they met. They have two sons and three daughters.

(Biography taken from: <http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/pages/about-justin-welby.html> )

On a very personal note, Kevin and I have been invited by the Diocese of Albany to travel with a small contingent to our Sister Diocese of Down & Dromore, Northern Ireland to attend the celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Each year on the Patron Saint's Celebrated Day, a trek of roughly 2 miles is made from his starting point with a communion service at Saul to his grave at Down Cathedral. Again this year, the trek will include friends from the Albany Diocese along with Down & Dromore, and also the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. We feel so blessed to have been invited and are excitedly looking forward to this journey alongside our great leader. He will also be the preacher at the St. Patrick's Day Service.

Archbishop Justin's priorities

On taking office in March 2013, Archbishop Justin announced three priority areas for his ministry over the coming years.

1. **The renewal of prayer and the Religious Life**
2. **Reconciliation**
3. **Evangelism and witness**

To learn the details behind his priorities see: <http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/pages/roles-and-priorities.html>

- Now that you know a bit more about him, what would you ask of him if you could ask one question?

What great questions of faith are rumbling around in your mind? We have this opportunity to be able to converse with one of the great spiritual leaders of our time. Pray about what you would ask, and then share your questions of faith with Deacon Vicar Donna and Kevin. We are looking forward to having a great conversation with The Most Reverend and Rt. Hon. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury on your behalf!

# The Ministry of Presence

**Garrick Hoadley**

It's three o'clock in the morning, or two o'clock in the afternoon, and the phone rings, chirps, or plays a caller's distinct tune. The caller brings bad news. Someone, a close friend, family member or acquaintance has died, been injured, arrested, or is very sick. You listen to the message, the ball is in your court; what can you or should you do? How can you or should you respond to bring comfort to those who are suffering?

You are not a trained psychologist, counselor, or member of the clergy, you are just a friend or family member who wants to do something, anything, to ease the suffering of your friend and their family.

I think most of us have experienced frustration in these circumstances. We certainly don't want to add to the discomfort of those already suffering, but, if possible, to comfort and support them in their time of trial.

Having mulled these things in my mind for several years, I was interested in a recent column by David Brooks in the New York Times, titled The Art of Presence. No. I don't mean gifts wrapped in fancy paper and ribbon for Christmas or a birthday, I'm talking about just being there, your physical presence.

In the column, Brooks wrote of a family that experienced tragedy with the death of a daughter, a civilian working in Afghanistan and the serious injury to a second daughter in a bicycle accident a few years later. In conversation with these girls' parents Brooks heard several things that had helped them through their trauma, and as many that had not been helpful. He listed those responses that had helped as follows:

**First, Be There.** Offering your physical presence, as in visit, call, or written short message of condolence saying how sorry you are that the specific event or situation occurred, is a good start.

**Second, Don't compare your own or similar tragedy to the sufferer's, ever.** Each trauma is unique. You may know of, or even have suffered a similar event, but to sufferers, there is no event that is the same. We each have different degrees of involvement, intimacy with, and connection to an event and those involved. Don't say "I know how you feel," because you don't.

**Third, Do Bring Soup.** Simple gestures can be eloquent ways to express your love and support.

**Fourth, Do not say, "You'll get over it."** A serious trauma brings a "new normal." There is no going back to how things were before the event. Their life will never be the same again.

**Fifth, Be a builder.** Builders are there for the long haul. Keep in touch.

These five are only guidelines, they do not fit every event or personality. Focus is very important, remember you are trying to bring solace and comfort to the sufferer. It may make you feel better to say, "you'll get over it," or "I know how you feel," but it won't help the sufferer.

While David Brooks' suggestions provide a simple guide to well-meaning laymen who want to bring comfort and support to suffering friends, after reading his article I was still curious about how this process might work following basic Christian beliefs. I found a book on Amazon, The Gift of Presence, A Guide to Helping Those who Suffer, by Joe E. Pennel Jr., that offered some guidance. Joe Pennel Jr. is a retired Methodist Bishop whose aim is to provide "practical, yet substantive help for anyone desiring to reach out to family, friends and strangers who are caught in the tangle of suffering." Pennel says "We offer those who are suffering a sacred gift when we agree to be present to their pain. Being with them is a meaningful way we can provide a source of safety and comfort. It is also a gift to us because in such moments we experience the holy.

Using the parable of The Good Samaritan, Pennel says we are reminded "...that the Gospel does not give us permission to pass by on the other side. The story beckons us to stop by and care for those who are wounded and broken down by life

Pennel provides sample prayers for various circumstances, for the sick, for a sick child, a person facing death, those who mourn, persons suffering from addiction, persons with AIDS, those going through divorce including their children, and this prayer by Sue Downing for those who care for the suffering, called Let Your Light Shine Through Me.

Show me the way, Lord. My heart is aching for those who suffer.

Let the light of your love shine through me.

Open my eyes that I might see the real needs in a hurting world.

Open my ears that I might hear cries for help.

Open my arms that I might reach out and draw your children near to me.

Open my hand that I may freely give the gifts that I have to offer.

Open my heart so that the light of your love can be a beacon of hope to the suffering.

AMEN

## Community Youth Group

*Carol Angelone*

We thank and praise God for the young people that participate in our Community Youth Program sponsored by our three Gilbertsville Churches. We gather together every other week and 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 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 the Operation Christmas Child, sponsored by Samaritan's Purse, a Christian organization. Small items like school supplies, personal products and small clothing items will fill these boxes.

Please continue to pray that this outreach will continue to grow and that many young lives will be changed as they grow spiritually.



*Heather Explains Crafts*



*Natalie's LEGO project at Saint Afterschool*



*Grandma D. Helps with Crafts*

<b>2015</b>	<b>Feb.</b>	<b>Verger</b>	<b>Altar Guild</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>LEM</b>	<b>Prayer Team</b>
Presentation of Jesus in the Temple	1	Barb Colf	Flora Taylor and Lynn Hoadley	Diane Marvin	Gail Ashley	Deb & Chris
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany	8	Jane Porter	Lynn Hoadley and Jane Porter	Terry Colf	Kevin Steckline	Deb & Chris
Last Sunday after Epiphany	15	Molly DelGiacco	Jane Porter and Molly DelGiacco	Melissa Caffery	Barb Colf	Deb & Chris
First Sunday in Lent	22	Chris Sadlocha	Molly DelGiacco and Maureen Ahl	Garrick Hoadley	Garrick Hoadley	Deb & Chris
	<b>March</b>	<b>Verger</b>	<b>Altar Guild</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>LEM</b>	<b>Prayer Team</b>
Second Sunday in Lent	1	Barb Colf	Maureen Ahl and Deb Beach	Mira Wind	Gail Ashley	Deb & Chris
Third Sunday in Lent	8	Jane Porter	Deb Beach and Lynn Hoadley	Chris Sadlocha	Chris Sadlocha	Deb & Chris
Fourth Sunday in Lent	15	Molly DelGiacco	Lynn Hoadley and Molly DelGiacco	Carol Angelone	Kevin Steckline	Deb & Chris
Fifth Sunday in Lent	22	Chris Sadlocha	Molly DelGiacco and Flora Taylor	Diane Marvin	Barb Colf	Deb & Chris
Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday	29	Barb Colf	Flora Taylor and Jane Porter	Terry Colf	Garrick Hoadley	Deb & Chris
	<b>April</b>	<b>Verger</b>	<b>Altar Guild</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>LEM</b>	<b>Prayer Team</b>
Easter Day	5	Jane Porter	Jane Porter and Maureen Ahl	Melissa Caffery	Chris Sadlocha	Deb & Chris
Second Sunday of Easter	12	Roy Bartoo	Maureen Ahl and Deb Beach	Garrick Hoadley	Gail Ashley	Deb & Chris
Third Sunday of Easter	19	Becky Brannick	Deb Beach and Lynn Hoadley	Mira Wind	Kevin Steckline	Deb & Chris
Fourth Sunday of Easter	26	Roy Bartoo	Lynn Hoadley and Anne Sebeck	Chris Sadlocha	Barb Colf	Deb & Chris



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