

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.”*



Cover Photo: Trista, a saint from Saint Afterschool

SUMMER 2014

WARDEN'S CORNER

by Carol Angeloni

We praise God that we can now give you positive news regarding our search process for a new rector here at Christ Church.

As you know, our one inquiry about the position after placing an ad in the Living Church magazine was retracted. We were told that he was not able to be released from his current parish.

Along with God's leading, prayerful consideration and our Lord's confirmation of the decision, the Vestry and Search Committee have unanimously voted to withdraw our request for a new rector. We presented our decision to Deacon Donna and she has graciously agreed to continue as Deacon Vicar, continuing with all of this position's responsibilities, while continuing her studies for the priesthood. We look forward to her completion of this important work and her future ordination as Priest, at which time we will issue an official call to her for this position at Christ Church.

In order to assist Deacon Donna with her time, we need the help and support of our parish members in taking over some of the lay responsibilities. All of you have been very cooperative in the past and we know that this will continue during this period of preparation and learning. If you have any questions about volunteering, please direct them to either Deacon Donna or any member of the Vestry.

Thanks! From a Grateful Heart!

It is with a humble and grateful heart that I write to our congregation in sincere gratitude for your support. God takes us on a journey that often takes twists and turns which are somewhat unexpected! I'm about to celebrate 35 years since my High School graduation; and I never would have guessed that this is where I would be now! God's plan is so much better than we could ever ask or imagine! I feel so very blessed!

As you read this, I will have (God willing) completed my first class in Seminary with several more to follow. My next class will be what is called a "June Intensive" which means I am overlapping the end of the first class in preparation for a week at my seminary, Trinity School for Ministry, in Ambridge, Pennsylvania, the first week of June. I will have more work to complete throughout June and July when that 'Intensive' will complete. I feel truly blessed in what I'm already learning and I am excited to soak up all that God has prepared ahead of me!

Without your prayerful support, none of this would take place. Our congregation is strong and has

depth and wonderful lay leadership. This is crucial as there are many needs in a church and much of the support for these needs will come from the parishioners. The hours you offer, the gifts you share, the love that pours from you, are all so important. I thank you sincerely for being a part of my journey with Jesus and for your loving and compassionate support of this journey together! God Bless you!

For His Sake,
Deacon Donna

From the Deacon Vicar's Garden

By *The Reverend Donna Steckline*

It certainly has been a long winter, and spring has taken it's time arriving. However, we can be sure that summer is on its way! Songbirds are returning and are busily building their nests. We have begun to enjoy the early, bright, cheery flowers, working to burst forth from the dark wet soil. We may even have begun to till the soil, plant our gardens and mow our lawns.

Our spiritual journey through Lent has been quite similar in many ways, awaiting the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on that first Easter morning. Alleluia, He is Risen! The Lord is Risen Indeed!!

With His resurrection, comes New Life, whether we recognize that or not. Have you found New Life in your own spiritual journey? Like our spring, sometimes New Life seems difficult to discern or takes a long time to occur. We place ourselves in doubting Thomas' sandals and often expect 'proof' in order to believe. Scripture tells us very clearly what happened since the beginning of time. If we have uncertainties, and we all do in some way, we need to examine Scripture and find out what happened for ourselves.

In Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the multitude, "Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

What I wouldn't give to bring 3,000 people to clear understanding of just who Jesus is! But in actuality, this is the work that we each need to do

with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit! God has made us in His image and has given us minds to think and discern; to dig deeply into the Word of God and discuss with others to uncover the truth. I underlined a section in this piece of Scripture from Acts because God does call us. He wills to be known by all of His creation and it's our job to come into relationship with Him, and then go out and share what we have learned.

There are many out in 'the world' who don't recognize that they are being called, because they haven't yet uncovered that truth that we already know in our hearts. You can be part of that revelation and uncovering of the truth for someone. Pray about those in your circle who may be searching; pray and ask God to reveal how you can be a beacon of His light to this person. Pray for that person to have an open heart to receive what God is preparing for you to share, His love.

As we approach the Day of Pentecost (June 8th) and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, let us prepare the garden of our hearts to receive the power of His Spirit in our lives. Let us spend time preparing our hearts and minds just as we prepare our gardens, by tilling and breaking up those places which have hardened through the winter. Repent and forgive; do the hard tilling of our hardened hearts so that we can more fully share the selfless love of Christ with others. We will need to bring out the garden cart and all the tools to accomplish this great task that God has laid in front of us. The Word of God will nourish our minds and prepare our hearts, bringing us to a place of conviction in our own faith. Look for the miracles in daily life that can be shared to encourage those around us. Plant the seeds of faith in the hearts of those nearby, sharing God's love and compassion. Reach out to the lost, the lonely, the sick, the widowed and orphaned.

What is God putting on your heart to do for Him? What gifts has He given you to use to spread the Good News around you? Spend some time contemplating these questions in prayer and ask God to reveal some fresh direction. Come and ask for the in-filling of His healing and life-giving Holy Spirit, then go out into the world and REJOICE in the Power of His Holy Spirit! Give Thanks with a grateful heart for all He has done for us and all He will do in and through us for the benefit of His Kingdom. Like a leaky watering can, leak out the Love of His Holy Spirit wherever your wanderings take you each day. That leaking Spirit will water the seeds, still hidden along the path of life. Let's see what God can do through well-prepared gardeners!

Scientific Notations

by Chris Sadlocha

An Attitude of Gratitude

Have you been out lately, like in the last 3 years, and seen a group of people eating dinner, not talking to each other but instead looking and tapping on their Smartphones?

Met too. I would not like to be in the dating scene nowadays. I would have to make a contract before the date: "I'll go out with you if you if we can promise to leave our phones off." Imagine that? We would have to talk to and react to each other... now, with no time to carefully position our words.

The scene is almost bizarre. A family is a Friendly's, all 4 people have their phones in their hands, looking down with their thumbs a tapping away; no conversation. Really? This is fun? This is an example of seclusion in public.

Recently I read an article about Martin Seligman, the head of the psychology department at the University of Pennsylvania, who wanted to find concrete things you could do to lift the malaise and low-grade depression that he observed. "Is there anything we can actually do that can counter it?" he wondered. He found one sure-fire method that consistently increased people's sense of well-being for a month after they did it.

And, it is very simple. You close your eyes and call up the face of someone, hopefully who is still alive, that has changed your life for the better in the past. You think of someone who really had a positive impact on you. You call them to mind, remember what they did for you, how they blessed you. and thank them in your mind.

Seligman found that if you then write down what you were thinking, perhaps adding some concrete details that you might remember more fully when you actually take pen in hand, if you write a 'thank you' and you find that person, if you make an appointment to see them and you do it somewhere that you can just sit with them and read them what you wrote, if you spend some time after that just sharing, if you do that, what Seligman found, is that you have a measurable uplift in your mood thirty days after you do it. Furthermore, it is not just a temporary boost like hitting a Lotto ticket or getting a job promotion, it appears that this taps into something more fundamental in our psyche that has long-term implications for flourishing and well-being.

He says we are finally proving what the religious imagination has intuited all along, that gratitude is woven through the fabric of meaning in our lives and

that we have to access this gratitude to release a deeper sense of fulfillment. It connects us with the side of us that does pay attention, the real side of us that wants to become humane and authentic and connected with the world around us and the people that we want to love. We don't have to be alone in public. We can cut through the layer of defensive insulation and access the spiritually real that wants to grow.

Check out this nice video.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nj2ofrX7jAk>

Editor's note: To watch this inspirational video, you can copy, cut and paste the address into your browser. I recommend it!

Psalm 24:1 The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,

With acknowledgement to Who Knew? By Bruce Lubin & Jeanne Bossolina-Lubin:

Splinter Removal

If you get a splinter, a little duct tape might do the trick. Cut off a piece and gently press it to the affected area. Pull on the tape gently.

A Hiking Must Have

Before hiking, tape your pant legs to your boots with duct tape. This ensures no bites from ticks, flies or mosquitoes.

Protect Your Grill or Pipes

To keep squirrels and other critters from chewing through the rubber pipeline that connects your propane tank to your grill, reinforce the entire thing with duct tape. It's a good idea to do this with anything else in your yard made out of rubber, as this is the favorite chew toy of rodents.

Dear Lord,
Guide us to be diligent stewards of your earth, its fullness, and of those who dwell in it.

It's That Time of Year Again

By Debbie Beach

Again this year we will be manning **The Prayer Table** at the Gilbertsville Farmer's Market each Saturday morning from 9:00 to 12:00, starting June 7th. I have helped the past two years and have found it a very rewarding experience. I encourage everyone to come and sit one Saturday out of their summer. Relationships will be strengthened in the community by praying with and for others or just talking. Contact me or Deacon Donna if you are interested.

Vacation Bible School is being hosted by Christ Church this summer, August 11th through 15th from 3:00 to 5:00 P.M. The program theme is Wilderness Escape, where God guides and

provides. The children will sit with Moses, listen to his stories, marvel at his unwavering faith and get to ask him questions. We will have Bible time, crafts, games, food and music and we'll need many volunteers to make it all happen. Please contact either Deacon Donna or me and we will find you a place on the staff. And, of course, we need children to attend, so spread the word.

DOK Jeopardy *by Barb Colf*

1. The group of women who pray daily for the church members, the deacon, the sick and various needs of the church and community.

Question: Who are the Daughters of the King?

2. The group of women who help the deacon by reaching out to others through the sending of cards of encouragement to those in need and to those who might need a friendly hello.

Question: Who are the Daughters of the King?

3. The group of women who have prepared for and taken vows of daily prayer and study as followers of Jesus Christ.

Question: Who are the Daughters of the King?

4. Women involved in every aspect of the church's life (worship, ECW, Altar Guild, Vestry, Choir, etc.).

Question: Who are the Daughters of the King?

5. Prayerful consideration and contact with a Daughter of the King.

Question: How to proceed if you feel called to be a Daughter of the King?

6. Deacon Donna, Becky Brannick, Judy Bartoo, Deb Beach, Chris Holdridge, Carol Angelone, Gail Ashley, Mira Wind, Marge Butterworth, Meg King, Barb Colf.

Question: Who are the present Daughters of the King?

Bread of Life

By Jane Porter and Marion Albanese

On April 3rd the last meal for the Bread of Life Soup Kitchen was served. Bread of Life was started by Shirley Musson, a member of Christ Church, in early 2011. She wanted to provide a monthly free dinner where all would be welcome. After Shirley passed away in 2012, volunteers have continued these dinners, serving an average of 60 meals each time.

Unfortunately, due to the poor health of several of our helpers, we are unable to continue this program. We have advertised and tried to interest others in participating in the planning, preparation and cooking of these dinners but have been unsuccessful, bringing us to the conclusion that the health of our volunteers is most important.

On behalf of Christ Church, we give many thanks to all the volunteers who kept this program going for two years. God bless.

Buildings & Grounds

By Kevin Steckline

As you look around the church you may see changes in the appearance as cosmetic repairs are being carried out. The balcony ceiling in the church, which was peeling and has been an ongoing problem in the church, has been repaired and painted.

Renovations are in progress in the Rectory, including the kitchen, where the walls are being repaired and painted, new cabinets and sink installed, as well as new flooring. The rooms downstairs will have a new coat of paint and the ceiling lights have been upgraded. Unfortunately the Rectory has fallen into disrepair over the years and these improvement need to be done.

The rain gutters have been repaired in the back of the church and there are several other repairs to be done to handle the water in the basement. During the summer the Butternut Valley Food Pantry will be relocated into the basement of Christ Church. This will offer the food pantry an accessible location and one that is heated during the winter months.

I want to thank all who are involved in the maintenance and up keep of Christ Church. It is a ministry in itself and is part of our stewardship commitment giving our time, talent and treasure for the Glory of Jesus Christ.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Ministry of Visitation

There are several in our faith community who are sick and not able to get out at all, or only minimally

at best. We want all of our people to know we are thinking about them and want to keep them tied to our family here at Christ Church. The Daughters of the King (DOK) assist Deacon Donna by sending cards of encouraging words to those whom God puts on their hearts. Another way to reach out to folks is to bring them Communion, immediately after our Church service on Sunday. Naturally, this could also take place during the week at a more convenient time, with the importance being placed on nurturing and caring for our 'flock' and 'feeding the sheep'. When one from our flock is ill and missing, we all notice and care! If God is calling you to extend His love in reaching out in this way, please see Deacon Donna. We will have some sessions of training so that all are comfortable in what is expected.

Monday Morning Bible Study

Now that Lent is finished and we have entered into the Easter Season, it's time to think about continuing our group Bible Study! Many truly enjoyed the Rob Bell series of DVD's and discussions that we started during Lent. We'd like to continue this very informal, yet highly effective Bible study on Monday mornings at 9 a.m. No materials are necessary for purchase at this point. This could progress into a study of some of Rob Bell's books; time will tell! Sign-up for this Bible Study will be in the entryway of the Parish Hall.

Ministry of Healing

Each Sunday during Eucharist we have a few people in the Narthex (entryway) of the Church who are there to offer anointing and healing prayer. We also hold a special Healing Service which will now be offered on a quarterly basis, with dates to be announced. In place of our monthly healing service we will offer healing and anointing at the altar, following the service on the 3rd Sunday of each month. On that Sunday, please move into the Parish Hall quietly to allow for some privacy and quiet during this 3rd Sunday Healing.

Healing with laying on of hands and anointing with oil, blessed by the Bishop, is our way of carrying on the healing ministry initiated by Jesus. Those who are offering prayer have been trained and hold any issues shared with them in the strictness of confidence. Prayers are offered for health and medical needs for those who come personally, or on behalf of someone else. Whatever the issue, it need not be medical, the Lord wants us to come to Him, for His healing. We humbly seek to be our Lord's hands of healing in your life, so come and be healed!

Lay Eucharistic Minister

Would you like to assist at Eucharist as a Chalice Bearer? Some training is required. Please see Deacon Donna with any questions if you are interested.

As a **Lector**, you are scheduled to read the lessons for a particular Sunday on a rotating basis for all services.

Verger/Greeter – Greet people and hand out bulletins, help to maintain the worship space after worship.

Altar Guild – Prayerfully setting the altar for services, maintaining linens, providing flowers and preparing other worship related items.

Prayerfully consider if God is calling you to serve Him in a new way in one of the existing ministries, or perhaps something new. Please speak to Deacon Donna or one of the Lay Leaders in any particular ministry to seek out opportunities and investigate where God may be calling you to serve Him.

Summer Schedule of Events!!

- ☐ **Friday June 27th @ 7 p.m. G-MU Baccalaureate Service at the First Presbyterian Church**, Gilbertsville, an ecumenical time of thanksgiving for our 2014 Graduates.
- ☐ **August 11-15 Vacation Bible School – VBS** – Hosted by Christ Church from 3-5:30 Mon – Fri. Our Theme is based on Moses and is entitled, “Wilderness Escape!” Help is needed to make this event a success. See Deacon Donna or Debbie Beach to volunteer.
- ☐ **GERT (Gilbertsville Ecumenical Relief Team) will be out on mission again this summer.** Keep your eyes peeled for projects to participate in or people to assist. See Chris Sadlocha with any ideas.
- ☐ **Annual Ecumenical Community Worship in the Park August 24th at Centennial Park** with Picnic to follow. Christ Church is hosting this year so many hands will be needed for set-up and take-down and everything in between.

Music Ministry

By Jean Giuda

Several members of our choir are a part of the Gilbertsville Community Choir, which has had success, working together and performing at Thanksgiving, Christmas and a special concert and at the community Good Friday service. We plan to be a part of the community ecumenical service in the park in August.

Anyone interested in singing in our church choir is always welcome. We will be learning some new music at rehearsals after church and now is a good time to join us. All singers are welcome to make a Joyful Noise to the Lord!

GERT...

...stands for Gilbertsville Ecumenical Relief Team. This is a group of community members, not necessarily denomination affiliated, who are willing to ‘help out,’ as the need arises. We have worked in Schoharie to assist in flood relief, we have built a ramp in South New Berlin to make the home wheelchair accessible, we have cleared the path to the cemetery for easier access for Memorial Day and have tilled a small garden for one forwhom digging and turning dirt is too strenuous.

I’m the contact person for such projects. In conjunction with our men’s breakfast group we look to lend a hand, Chris Sadlocha, cjsadlocha@Live.com, preferred, or 783-2210.

CHRIST CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT
January 1-March 31, 2014

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD
INCOME		
Pledge and Plate	16383.82	19500.00
Fitch Gilbert	2250.00	2250.00
ADIT	818.81	818.81
Parish House	19452.63	22568.81
EXPENSES		
Diocesan Assessment	2464.34	3449.01
Operating Expenses	8024.69	8392.87
Clergy	4576.86	4833.57
Outreach	1266.21	2175.00
Program	4183.96	4950.00
	20516.06	23800.45

St. Afterschool THANKS!!

We at Christ Church are truly blessed with people who see value in the giving of their time and sharing of the gifts God has given them to work with the children of our community. St. Afterschool is one ministry where this is particularly true. This year the numbers of children has declined somewhat, but in the end, the staff of dedicated volunteers has seen the benefits of working so closely with the children who just want to be loved! We have had plenty of help and new coping skills which were honed throughout the year.

I personally want to thank all of our staff for sharing so sacrificially of their time and talents to make certain that we have a safe environment for the children to learn and play and interact together. We have had such fun crafting and playing and learning and eating; which is something we all look forward to!

May God bless you during the rest of the spring and summer and bring you back to St. Afterschool refreshed with bold new ideas for another fabulous year together with the children of G-MU. Thanks to: 'Grandma D' (Dolores Olivelli) & Jane Porter for our wonderful and healthy snacks! (Jane very capably also takes care of our finances!) Heather Ashley for creatively assisting with our crafts! Lynn & Garrick Hoadley, for sign-in & out and traffic control! Judy Veenhoff and Marion Albanese who care for the littlest ones with compassion and patience! Elizabeth & Mystery Gayle for reading with the little ones! Last but surely not least are: Dave Webb, Margie Harris, Kate Banta Rostkowski and Debbie Beach for your loving guidance and leadership with the children. What a wonderful team of faithful disciples! God Bless you, everyone! THANK YOU!!

Deacon Donna – Director, St. Afterschool



Deandre & Zan Receive "Moving Up" gifts (Teen Study Bible) from Deacon Donna & St. A



Working with the kids on Bible Puzzles



Deacon Donna, Katie, Dave & Deandre puzzle races



Marion Albanese and Judy Veenhoff with Pre-K, K, 1



Lynn Hoadley with the twins



St. A Staff and children - Teaching Time

Christ Church Lay Serving Schedule: May 25 – Aug 3, 2014

	May	Verger	Altar Guild	Lector	LEM	Acolytes	Prayer Team
Sixth Sunday of Easter	25	Anne Sebeck	Anne Sebeck & Molly DelGiacco	Marion Albanese	Barb Colf	Dave	Deb & Chris
	June	Verger	Altar Guild	Lector	LEM	Acolytes	Prayer Team
Seventh Sunday of Easter	1	AnnMarie Hill	Flora Taylor & Becky Brannick	Diane Marvin	Kevin Steckline	Tom	Deb & Chris
Day of Pentecost	8	Anne Sebeck	Flora Taylor & Becky Brannick	Garrick Hoadley	Chris Sadlocha	Dave	Deb & Chris
First Sunday after Pentecost	15	Roy Bartoo	Judy Bartoo & Lynn Hoadley	Terry Colf	Garrick Hoadley	Tom	Deb & Chris
Second Sunday after Pentecost	22	Becky Brannick	Judy Bartoo & Lynn Hoadley	Mira Wind	Barb Colf	Dave	Deb & Chris
Third Sunday after Pentecost	29	Anne Sebeck	Jane Porter & Anne Sebeck	Mira Wind	Kevin Steckline	Tom	Deb & Chris
	July	Verger	Altar Guild	Lector	LEM	Acolytes	Prayer Team
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	6	Molly DelGiacco	Jane Porter & Anne Sebeck	Carol Angelone	Chris Sadlocha	Dave	Deb & Chris
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	13	AnneMarie	Deb Beach & Becky Brannick	Chris Sadlocha	Kevin Steckline	Tom	Deb & Chris
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	20	Barb Colf*	Deb Beach & Becky Brannick	Marion Albanese	Barb Colf	Dave	Deb & Chris
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost	27	Jane Porter	Flora Taylor & Judy Bartoo	Diane Marvin	Gail Ashley	Tom	Deb & Chris
	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

Episcopal Church Women
by Flora Taylor

The ECW is hard at work preparing for the AppleFest to be held September 20th. This is one week earlier than previous years due to a conflict with a school activity. Items for the AppleFest are solicited from parishioners and to be included in the craft sale, should be handed in by the 19th.

Work has been completed on the quilt that will be raffled to support parish work for our youth.

All women of the Parish are automatically members of ECW and are invited to join us for fellowship and working on projects Monday nights. Please ask Flora

Taylor for information on scheduled work nights.



Marge Harris - She's a 'cut up!'



Millie Stebbins & Diane Marvin - Ironing out the details.



Jane Porter - Stitches of Love