



# Crossways

The Newsletter of All Saints' Episcopal Church, Johnson City, NY

November 2017  
Vol. 64 No. 10

October 27, 2017  
Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost



Dear Friends in Christ,

I'm baaaaaack! Yes, indeed, and feeling fresh and

recharged—just in time for one of the busiest times of the Church and parish year! The above are two of the icons which I “wrote” (painted) during my time away when I returned stateside. As an iconographer I am still on a steep learning curve. I am not ready for primetime. But learning the process taught me one important thing: we humans always narrow the divine. Unlike much of painting in Western art where the perspective point is somewhere on the painting, in iconography the perspective point is the viewer or the iconographer. Therefore, the perception of the divine narrows as it approaches we human creatures. We humans, in fact, only grasp a tiny point of the divine. That's something to contemplate as we enter faithfully span of the liturgical time from All Saints' weekend through Christ the King/aka Last Sunday after Pentecost and into Advent. That's something to contemplate as we move from Stewardship season into Christmas.

Our parish calendar in November gets off to a roaring start with the Hawaiian Holiday Cabaret on November 4<sup>th</sup> (at 7 pm) the same weekend as we celebrate our patronal feast All Saints'—all saints past, present and yet to come—during liturgies on Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm and Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. (Please keep in mind also that one must set one's clocks back Saturday evening on the 4<sup>th</sup> to wake up in Eastern Standard Time rather than Eastern Daylight Savings Time!) Next comes the Vestry meeting on November 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm, followed by the Diocesan Convention November 10-11<sup>th</sup> in Liverpool, NY (All Saints' delegates are Bob Steber and Linda Barkman) as well weekend celebrations of Eucharist on Saturday and Sunday. The next weekend, in addition to weekend services, there is the Johnson City Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. A celebration of Holy Eucharist will be held on Thanksgiving Day, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Christ the King weekend—the end of the liturgical year—with celebrations of Holy Eucharist on November 25 at 5 pm and November 26<sup>th</sup> at 10 am is followed by the first Advent program, “Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph”, on Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm. Throughout all this worship and activity, the Sunday School will meet each Sunday, the CHOW Pantry will be open Monday-Thursday mornings at 10 am, Cub Scouts will continue to meet on Monday evenings, the Boy Scouts will meet on Tuesday evenings, and Soup & Sandwiches will feed a lunch every Saturday at 12 noon to all who come to our door!

Faithfully yours,

November 2017 Crossways

## STEWARDSHIP THANK YOU

On behalf of Barb Freed, and myself, we would like to thank everyone who came to the Stewardship Brunch. We also want to thank everyone for bringing their pledge cards back. It makes doing the budget a whole lot easier. If anyone would like to make a special donation towards the repair of the ceiling in the narthex or our back door it will be greatly appreciated. Only with you and your support can we keep the Spirit of All Saints' alive.

*Linda Barkman*



## SPECIAL THANK YOU

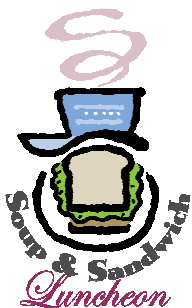
We thank Larry Taft for providing his talent and time to fix the hot water heater in the kitchen. He also donated the cost of the thermocouple which was shorting out. It would have cost the church at least \$200 to fix. Excellent example of stewardship. Money is not the only part of stewardship. Time and talent are also very important.

## MAKING STRIDES BREAST CANCER WALK: OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup> RESULTS!



I would like to thank everyone who donated. We raised over \$100.00! What an awesome parish we have!

*Ida Taft*



## 3<sup>RD</sup> SOUP AND SANDWICH TEAM NEEDS HELP

The 3rd week team is in desperate needs volunteers. We are losing one of our long-time people. Nancy Mickleberg, from St. James, has been working Soup and Sandwich since we began. The 3rd week team is in desperate needs volunteers. We are losing one of our long-time people. Nancy Mickleberg, from St. James, has been working Soup and Sandwich since we began.

With these people leaving, it only leaves Barb Freed, Brad Bennett and Linda Barkman. Linda's son and his girlfriend Stacy come when they do not have to work. Please if there is anyone who would like to work on the third week of the month, we would love to have you. Contact either Debbie Thorpe or Linda Barkman at the church.

## A Hawaiian Holiday

A cabaret show at

All Saints' Episcopal Church

475 Main St. - Johnson City

Saturday - November 4 - 7:00 p.m.

- ✓ Show time is **7:00 PM** with view and bid on gift baskets doors opening at 6:30 PM to and certificates. Light refreshments, soft drinks and mixers will be available.

- ✓ Tickets are **\$12.00** and can be obtained following both the Saturday and Sunday services. They can also be reserved by calling the church office at 797-3354. If no one is available, please leave a message with your **name, phone number and number of tickets desired**. Tickets can be picked up at the door by 6:30 PM. the night of the show. Table reservations can be made for groups of **6** or more.
- ✓ As always, volunteer help is much needed. There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex. Gift baskets or certificates and monetary donations are also needed. They normally are a very large portion of our profits from this event.
- ✓ Proceeds benefit outreach programs of the church including the CHOW Pantry and Soup and Sandwich Saturday Luncheons to feed those in need. We hope you can join us for a great evening of entertainment for a good cause. Please support this major fund-raiser in any way you can.
- ✓ Contact Nancy Kiley - [butaurus@yahoo.com](mailto:butaurus@yahoo.com) or Johanna Hickey - [jkiley76@yahoo.com](mailto:jkiley76@yahoo.com) for information and volunteering.

*Aloha*

### NAMES FOR ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

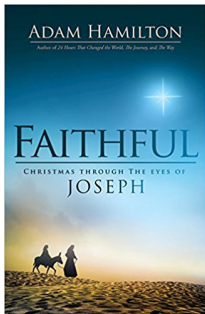


November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> are the Vigil and Feast Day for All Saints' — our parish's "patronal feast." As we celebrate our patronal feast at the Saturday 5:00 PM Holy Eucharist and the Sunday 10 AM Holy Eucharist, it is customary to renew our Baptismal Covenant and remember All Saints' — those loved ones who have died. If you would like the name of a loved family member or friend to be remembered and read during the service, please write the name(s) on the form provided at

the Memorial Desk in our narthex by October 23<sup>rd</sup>. If convenient, e-mail the information to [AllSaintsJCNY@aol.com](mailto:AllSaintsJCNY@aol.com).



The next Vestry meeting will be November 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Library. All are welcome to attend!



**ADVENT PROGRAM BEGINS THURSDAY,  
NOVEMBER 30<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM:  
“FAITHFUL: CHRISTMAS THROUGH  
THE EYES OF JOSEPH”**

Yes Advent doesn't officially begin until the Vigil for Advent 1 on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. But Christmas Eve is Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> and that would mean there are only three Thursdays in Advent: one short for a 4 session Advent program! Which means in order to have four sessions, the Advent program will begin on Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM. Each Thursday we'll gather in the chapel for a Taize Eucharist at 5 pm and then move into the Library for a simple sup supper and the program.

This year's Advent program will feature Adam Hamilton's series "Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph." From his beginnings as a humble carpenter to his all-important role as the earthly father of Jesus Christ, Joseph's place in the nativity story is sometimes overlooked but contains valuable lessons for all of us. Absent from much of the biblical narrative, Joseph never spoke a word, but his courageous actions were crucial to the birth of Christ and God's salvation plan for humanity.

With the Rev. Hamilton's 4-part series we will understand how Joseph's story is much like our own. In life, we encounter circumstances that we would never have chosen for ourselves. At times it can be tempting just to walk away. Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand and faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides. The story of Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand and faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides.

So, come and see Advent and Christmas through Joseph's eyes with the help of Adam Hamilton's series. Sign-up in the Narthex. Donations of \$13.50 for the book for the series will be greatly appreciated.

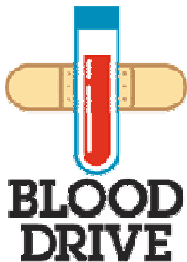


**THANKSGIVING SERVICES: SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 19<sup>th</sup> AT ALL SAINTS' AND  
THURSDAY. THANKSGIVING, NOVEMBER  
23<sup>rd</sup> AT ALL SAINTS AT 10 AM!**

On Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm, the Johnson City Thanksgiving Service will be held at All Saints' Church, 475 Main Street, Johnson City, NY. At press time, Rev. Christine J. Day, Rector of All Saints' will preach, the Rev, Ron Wenzinger, pastor of Sarah Jane, and other JC clergy will be participants in this ecumenical service. The mayor will read the presidential proclamation.

Those attending are asked to bring canned food for CHOW and all monetary offerings will also be given to CHOW. In addition, all participating churches are asked to bring 3-4 dozen cookies for the reception which follows the service. Any volunteers to bring cookies?

A celebration of Holy Eucharist will also be held on Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 23<sup>th</sup> in All Saints' chapel at 10 AM.



**COMMUNITY OF FAITH BLOOD DRIVE:  
BLOOD DRIVE  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2017  
12 NOON- 5 PM**

There are two real needs in our community as we head into the Holiday Season. The first is blood. The second is unity amongst all of God's people. All Saints' is working in conjunction with St. Paul's Episcopal Church and the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community to address both of these needs. On Wednesday November 22 (the day before Thanksgiving) we will be sponsoring a joint blood drive. The event will be held from 12:00-5:00 here at All Saints' in the Great Hall. Please consider giving blood. If you are unable, please ask a family member, neighbor, or friend to participate in your honor. The first 25 people will receive a free pie. There will be a preregistration that can be done on line. More information about this will be available closer to the blood drive. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Thorpe at 341-2978.

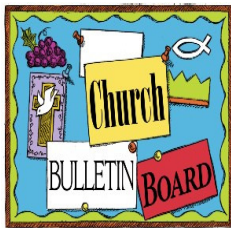


**REQUEST FROM DEACON DOROTHY PIERCE – JAIL  
MINISTRY**

Hello, Everyone -

We are getting into the colder season and are finding with our Jail Ministry Program that we could use some sweat-suits to send men and women home when they have been released. We have an ongoing need for shampoo, toothpaste, and so on and could use some help with those once again. The Jail Ministry Program could use some donations of new stuffed animals (they **will need to be new**) to give to the children of inmates for Christmas gifts. (See Christmas Angel article below!) As always, we are very, very grateful for your kindness, love, and generosity with all you give. We also would accept monetary donations. We will take donations from now through December.

Faithfully,  
*Dorothy*



Watch the bulletin boards for Community Events that arrive after the *Crossways* printing!

Weekly parish announcements are forwarded to our [websexton](#) and are posted on our website



### **CHRISTMAS GIFTS (IN NOVEMBER) FOR THE CHILDREN OF THOSE IN JAIL**

Judy Horton has been searching for a new place to be Christmas Angels. Deacon Dorothy Pierce has suggested that we “adopt” the children of those who are in the Broome County Jail. Since the names are confidential, we are asked to simply place the gift in a gift bag and with a sticky note labeling it baby boy, toddler girl, school-age boy, teen-age... Gifts should be small such as stuffed animals, coloring books, crayons, puzzles, sticker books, small games, etc. Of course, mittens, gloves and hats would also be appreciated for the cold winter. See display outside the Library. Gifts will most likely be due the second week in December. If you do not want to shop but would like to contribute, a donation of money is always welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Judy at [grams724@yahoo.com](mailto:grams724@yahoo.com) or call her at 729- 2794.



## COLLEGE LOVE BOXES

Please keep **November 26<sup>th</sup>** in mind for the final goody collection for our College Love Boxes Ministry! We send them out to encourage our students living away from home during finals week each semester. If your children are studying at university currently, please let Linda Barkman and Lonna Pierce know their school address, so they can receive some love and yummy baked goods to get them through final exams.

Thank you,

Lonna Pierce

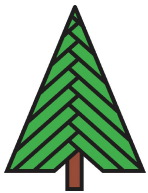
## WOMEN'S' DAY - DEEPENING OUR BOND SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>

For the last three years the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has invited the women of All Saints' to learn about the life of the prophet Mohammad.



Topics covered are their interpretation of Mohammad's teaching on education, the role of women and children in their faith, the true meaning of jihad, and the relationship of Islam with Christianity. This day also includes fellowship, and excellent food. The date is Saturday December 2nd. Talk to anyone who has attended in the past and you will hear how powerful this time together can be. Please consider attending. Women from other faith communities are also invited, so feel free to bring a friend. A final count will be needed the Sunday before Thanksgiving. I would love to share my experiences with anyone interested.

*Debbie Thorpe*



## CUB SCOUT PACK 100 TO SELL CHRISTMAS TREES BEGINNING THE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup> AT ALL SAINTS'

Our Cub Scout Pack, 100, will hold its annual Christmas tree sale beginning the weekend of December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> and again on December 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> in All Saints' parking lot. They will set up their "booth" next to the office wall of the building and be open on Saturdays and Sundays—except during our service times. If you have admired the Rector's Christmas Tree before, this is where she gets them. They are beautiful and very fresh. (The 2016 tree still has a few green needles that can be seen down the ravine!) More information will be in the December *Crossways*. This is a major fundraiser for the Cub Scouts.

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**November 26<sup>th</sup> – College Love Boxes Due**

**December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> – Cub Scout Christmas Tree Sale**

**DOLLAR\$&CENTS**

**SEPTEMBER 2017**

All Saints’ 2017 budget is a deficit budget that will require using \$10,973 from previous years’ income equity surpluses and/or special gifts to balance the budget. Some of this gap is the result of having fewer pledges: 56 pledges in 2017 and 59 pledges in 2016. The rest is due to small increases in expenses.

In 2017, a monthly income of \$ 14,702 will be necessary to meet operating expense cash flow. This will be difficult to do as the projected income is only approximately \$13,643 per month and All Saints’ major fundraising events and fundraising income occur during May, June, September and November. It can be expected that the Vestry will decide to use available surplus funds from other years for cash flow.

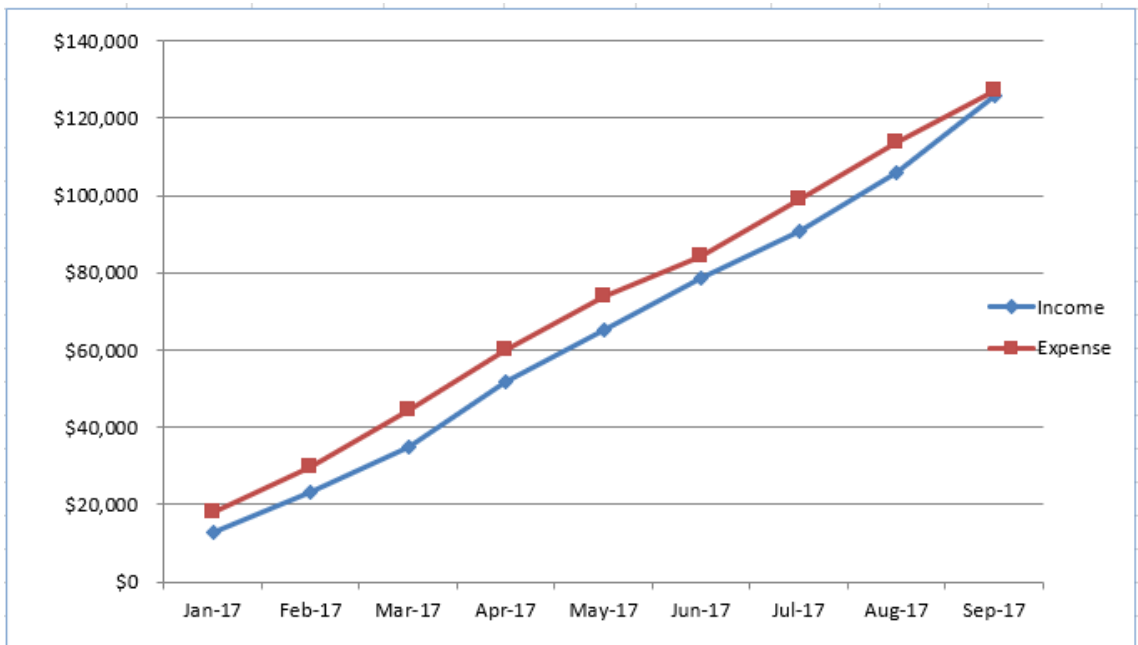
Therefore, it will be more important than ever to keep one’s pledge up-to-date and to make additional gifts if possible. Truly, with “God all things are possible” (Mt. 19:26).

	Actual as of September 30, 2017	Annual Budget 2017
Offering & Pledges	\$97,678	\$143,504
Fundraising ✕	\$15,832	\$18,450
Other Income	\$12,098	\$9,590
Faith Income	\$100	<b>\$14,524</b>
Total Income	\$125,709	\$186,068
Total Expenses	\$127,191	\$186,068
Profit (Loss)	<b>(\$1,482)</b>	\$0

✕ Please note fact Cabaret (November) is still to come



	As of September 30, 2017	Total Sept 2017
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Petty Cash	\$400	
<u>All Saints' Checking</u>	\$9,137	
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$9,537	
Savings Accounts		
Soup & Sandwiches Savings	\$4,974	
Designated Funds	\$8,582	
Rebuilding All Saints'	\$3,486	
Total Savings	\$17,042	
Total Cash & Savings		\$26,578
UIF Investment Funds	\$28,595	
Total Cash, Savings, Investments		\$55,174



The following were taken with permission from The Joyful Noise Letter to which I subscribe.

Your editor – Gary Zurn



Jokes pastors can tell

**A** police officer saw a man driving with a bunch of penguins in the backseat of his car. The officer pulled the man over and asked, "Where did you get those penguins?" The man replied, "I found them wandering on the side of the road."

"Well, you should take them to the zoo," the cop said. The next day the police officer saw the same man drive by, with the penguins still in his backseat. Once again, he pulled the car over, and said, "I thought I told you to take those penguins to the zoo!"

"I did," the man said. "Today, I'm taking them to church."

—via George Goldtrap  
Ormond-by-the-Sea, FL

### God's kids say & do the funniest things

"A friend who leads the children's program in her local Lutheran church was telling the children about the rescue of Moses by Pharaoh's daughter. She used it as an object lesson to remind them of how so much in life needs to be rescued, including the animals in the local rescue shelter.

"Following a brief prayer, the children began to file out of the sanctuary for Sunday school when a small girl broke ranks and ran down the aisle fervently announcing, 'Mommy, Mommy, the Bible says we have to get a dog!'"

—Bob White  
Owego, NY

## LIFE GOES ON CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6<sup>th</sup> AT 12:15 PM DOUBLETREE, BINGHAMTON, NY



As "Life Goes On" usually meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of month and Thanksgiving and Christmas are also later in the months of the November and December, it has become the custom to cancel the November lunch and schedule the December lunch the first week of December. Therefore in 2017 "Life Goes On" will hold its November/December lunch on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> (St. Nicholas Day) at the Doubletree Hotel, 225 Water Street, Binghamton, NY at 12:15 pm. All those who have lost a loved one (family member, friend, etc) are invited to come for this special Christmas Luncheon. Please bring a small gift (\$5.00 and under to exchange). Call Arlene Foley, 797-2111, to make your reservation.

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## PRAYER LIST BEGINNING NOVEMBER 2017

Policy reminder: Submitted names are placed on the short-term list for four weeks and then moved to long term by request of the person submitting the name, or by need known by the Rector

### **MILITARY LIST:**

Ben Holbus, Curtis Sholtes, Robert Preston, Joe Gentile, Steven Serbun, Justin Gillmer, Michael Lake

### **SHORT TERM LIST:**

David M. and Cathy Horton, Nicole Lane, Stephanie Sacco, Coral Grabowski, Rick Hrebin, Father Adrian Amaya, Tiernan, Dick Escott, Patrick Cooney, Bonnie & John Mando, Marilyn Doersam, Betty McCurry, Ruth Furman, Ryan Lane, Laura Harmon, Jim & Margaret Isaminger, Cooper Bush, Libby Anderson, Cindy Anderson, Cheyanne Rae Westbrook, Wilma Nauertz, Justin Avery, and Sarah Harrison-Pautard

### **LONG TERM LIST:**

Mother Joelle Szachara, Father Don Mathews, Mother Mittes DeChamplain, Louise Pierce, Nan Grabowski, Lucy & Lee Grabowski, Chieyann Grabowski, Bella LaMaine, Joy Kasmarcik, Phillip Kasmarcik, Jayden Kasmarcik, Louise Rogers, Sam McMullen, David Pierce, Luther Chergosky, Eli Pierce, Jessica Mc Bride, Lori Szwalla, Tony Szwalla, Ralph Holloway, Bob Gillmer, Clark Byarley, Nanette McIntosh

## CELEBRATIONS IN november



- 01 Thomas Rhea
  - 04 Christy Finta
  - 07 Megan Goeres
  - 09 Leslie Polhamus  
Trent Zimmer
  - 14 Shirley Lipman  
Pahlada Milligan-Cuffee
  - 16 James Bardo  
Alex Gillmer
  - 17 Sara-Jo Sites  
Abigail Grabowski  
Donald Thorpe
  - 18 Juanita Lougher
- November 2017 Crossways

- 25 Alan Anderson
- 28 Missy Avery
- 29 Lorraine Szwalla  
Gary Zurn
- 30 Patricia Holloway



- 23 David and Judith Horton



Altar Flowers

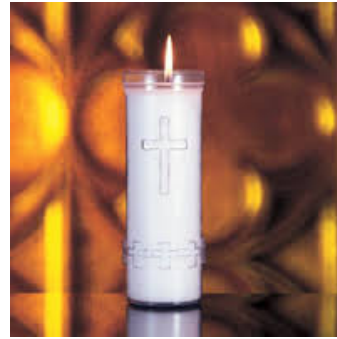
And

**November 5:** given in thanksgiving for Megan Gillmer's birthday from her grandmother Linda Barkman, given in memory of Donald Freed, Walter Brink and Connie Whalen by Barbara Freed, and given in thanksgiving of grandson's birthday Trevor Gasdaska by Marilyn Doersam

**November 12:** given in thanksgiving for Justin Freed's birthday by Barb Freed, given in thanksgiving for Trent Zimmer's birthday and Alex Gillmer's birthday by Linda Barkman, given in thanksgiving for Don Thorpe's birthday by Debbie Thorpe and given in thanksgiving for son's birthday David Doersam by Marilyn Doersam

**November 19:** given in thanksgiving of Judy and David's 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary by Judy and Dave Horton

**November 26:** given in thanksgiving for daughter-in-law's birthday Janet Shelley by Marilyn Doersam



**Sanctuary Candle**

**November 5:** given in memory of Michael Buckle Sr. by Linda Barkman

**November 12:** None

**November 19:** given in memory of Jacqueline Foley, given by Arlene Foley

**November 26:** given in memory of her dad John Bennett by Marilyn Doersam

**The Christmas Memorial deadline for the Christmas bulletins is December 20<sup>th</sup>. Memorials for Christmas will be available for review at the Memorial Desk beginning Pentecost Last – November 26<sup>th</sup>. Please review the list for accuracy and notify the office of errors. Additional names should be submitted on a Flower Fund form [found at the Memorial Desk or tract rack] and leave the form and your donation in the office door mailbox.**



**Advance note! Daylight Savings time ends at 2 a.m. on All Saints' Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>November 2017</h1>						
			1 All Saints' Day	2 7:00pm Choir	3 Office Closed	4 12:00 Noon Soup & Sandwich Lunch 5:00pm HE Rite 2 <b>7:00pm Cabaret</b> <b>ALL SAINTS' VIGIL</b>  <b>before going to bed tonight</b>
5 <b>All Saints' Sunday</b> 10:00am HE  Daylight Savings ends	6 Office Closed 5:00pm – 9:00pm Cub Pack 100	7 Office Closed 5:00pm – 9:00pm Boy Scout Troop 110 	8  6:30pm Vestry	9  7:00pm Choir	10 +Office Closed  149 <sup>th</sup> DCNY Convention at Holiday Inn, Liverpool	11 + 12:00 Noon Soup & Sandwich Lunch 149 <sup>th</sup> DCNY Convention at Holiday Inn, Liverpool <b>5:00pm EP</b>
12 <b>Pentecost 23</b> 10am HE  2:30pm Bridgewater	13 Office Closed 5:00pm – 9:00pm Cub Pack 100	14 5:00pm – 9:00pm Boy Scout Troop 110	15  6:30pm Jr. League Gen. Mtg. Library	16  7:00pm Choir	17 +Office Closed	18 12:00 Noon Soup & Sandwich Lunch 5:00pm HE Rite 2
19 <b>Pentecost 24</b> 10am HE  6:00pm Ecumenical Thanksgiving service	20 Office Closed 5:00pm – 9:00pm Cub Pack 100	21 5:00pm – 9:00pm Boy Scout Troop 110	22 Noon-5:00pm Blood Drive	23 10:00am HE  <b>Happy Thanksgiving!</b> 	24 Office Closed	25 12:00 Noon Soup & Sandwich Lunch 5:00pm HE Rite 2
26 <b>Pentecost Last</b> 10am HE  2:30pm Susquehanna	27 Office Closed 5:00pm – 9:00pm Cub Pack 100	28 5:00pm – 9:00pm Boy Scout Troop 110	29 10:00am HE and Healing Service  5:30:pm Book Club @ Rectory	30 7:00pm Choir 2:30pm Ideal Nursing	<b>Office Hours:</b> Tues -Thurs. 9-3 +By a date indicates that the Rector is away all or part of the day Phone ahead if coming to the office to make sure someone is here. If you have a pastoral emergency, please phone the numbers provided on the back cover of this issue.	



The Episcopal Diocese of Central New York  
*The Rt. Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe*

October 2, 2017

Dear People of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York,

Our diocese is in a moment of opportunity. Many of our congregations are excited to connect our lives more deeply to God and our neighbors amidst the cultural shifts taking place in American society. We feel a deep yearning to preserve our traditions while sharing the love of Jesus with our neighbors and friends, and we're seeking the energy and the resources to do it. The Holy Spirit is giving us a persistent hope that as Episcopal Christians our unique expression of the Gospel is of enormous value to our suffering world.

Now is the time to answer the call of the Spirit, to follow our deep yearnings and our persistent hope. Beginning with Convention this November, our diocese will begin a new journey of faithful discernment that will continue into 2018 and beyond. We will be discovering new ways of partnering with God and walking with one another to discover the unique story God wants to tell through the people and congregations of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York. Central to this journey of prayer, learning and discovery is the Learning Communities initiative with Dwight Zscheile (author of *The Agile Church: Spirit-Led Innovation in an Uncertain Age*) and his colleague Michael Binder. Beginning in 2018, and led by a diocesan team of laypersons and clergy working closely with Dwight and Michael, the Learning Communities initiative will bring together leadership teams from congregations throughout our diocese to pray, learn, act and reflect.

As you already know, at our 149<sup>th</sup> Convention in November, Dwight's keynote address will speak to new and faithful approaches to our challenges and offer ideas, inspiration and tools that leaders can bring back to our congregations. But it is crucial that this is not a "one and done" moment. The Learning Communities initiative offers the opportunity to turn the inspiration of Convention into transformative action in your community.

**I invite you, the leaders of our congregations, to learn more about the Learning Communities initiative and consider participating in it. More specifically, I ask every vestry in our diocese to add this initiative to an upcoming vestry meeting agenda in October or November, and to discuss your congregation's possible participation.** To aid in your discussions, please review

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1020 7th North Street, Suite 200, Liverpool, New York 13088  
(315) 474-6596 | [cnyepiscopal.org](http://cnyepiscopal.org) | [bishop@cnyepiscopal.org](mailto:bishop@cnyepiscopal.org)

the attached information about the initiative, which describes what your congregation can expect to get out of the process and what your commitment entails. I also encourage you to visit [cnyepiscopal.org/learning-communities](http://cnyepiscopal.org/learning-communities) where you can watch a video of our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry interviewing Dwight Zscheile. Last, you are invited to a special luncheon with Dwight and the diocesan Learning Communities leadership team at Convention on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, where you can ask questions and learn more about the initiative. There is no need to make a final decision about your congregation's participation at this point; 2018 workshop dates and other details are still forthcoming. Please take every opportunity to learn about and discuss the initiative now. The vestry of each congregation has until December 15<sup>th</sup> to make a decision and sign up at [cnyepiscopal.org/learning-communities](http://cnyepiscopal.org/learning-communities).

We are the people of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York. God has brought us together for a reason, and we are part of God's new, unfolding story in this time and place. I look forward to discovering that story with you in the months and years ahead. Many blessings to you.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bishop DeDe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe  
Bishop of Central New York



# Learning Communities Initiative

Discover the unique story God wants to tell through your congregation.

Get ideas, inspiration and tools for ministry.

Enjoy the support of interactive workshops and ongoing coaching.

Pray, learn and walk together with other CNY congregations.

*How will we attain financial stability?*

*What does leadership in our church need to look like?*

*How can we reconnect with our changing neighborhood?*

## What is a Learning Community?

A learning community is a group of congregations who commit to one another in a nine-month learning experience. Through prayer, skill-building, action and reflection they address their most pressing questions about the future.

The experience includes three Saturday workshops and ongoing consultation calls with diocesan leaders and coaches Dwight Zscheile (author, *The Agile Church*) and Michael Binder.

## 2018 Workshops

*Agile Leadership: Begin by Asking Different Questions*

*Learn by Doing: Using Action Learning to Discover God's Leading*

*Sharing Our Learning: Intentional Reflection on Our Actions*

## How will my congregation benefit?

- ◆ Train effective lay spiritual leaders through workshops and coaching.
- ◆ Learn to discern and respond to God's leading.
- ◆ Deepen your congregation's spirituality.
- ◆ Build connections with other congregations.
- ◆ Engage and inspire your membership.
- ◆ Affirm your faith that God has a vital role for your congregation to play.

Learn more: [cnyepiscopal.org/learning-communities](http://cnyepiscopal.org/learning-communities)







## Learning Communities Initiative

### **If your congregation is interested in joining the Learning Communities initiative, here is what is required:**

- ◆ Each congregation will need a Guiding Team of four to six members willing to engage in the three 2018 trainings. (In addition to the Guiding Team, anybody from participating congregations may attend the trainings).
- ◆ Each Guiding Team will be responsible to help others from their congregation participate in the activities and learning that will take place between trainings.
- ◆ Each vestry will need to discuss and approve their congregation's participation in the Learning Communities initiative.
- ◆ Each congregation will be asked to contribute \$40 or less per person per training to cover the cost of meals.

*Questions? Contact Kathy Dengler at (315) 474-6596 x126 or [kdengler@cnyepiscopal.org](mailto:kdengler@cnyepiscopal.org).*

### **Want more details?**

Join us at Diocesan Convention on Saturday, November 11th to hear a keynote address from the Rev. Dwight Zscheile, Ph.D. and attend a special luncheon with Dwight and the diocesan leadership team where you can ask questions and learn more about the initiative.

Register to attend Convention, or the keynote and luncheon only, at [cnyepiscopal.org/diocesan-convention](http://cnyepiscopal.org/diocesan-convention).

### **Ready to commit?**

Deadline for vestries to inform us of their commitment is December 15th.

Please contact Kathy Dengler at (315) 474-6596 x126 or fill out a quick form at [cnyepiscopal.org/learning-communities](http://cnyepiscopal.org/learning-communities).





# Learning Communities Initiative

## What is a Guiding Team?

*Every congregation participating in the Learning Communities initiative will identify a Guiding Team of four to six members. The Guiding Team is the conduit through which the congregation as a whole is invited to participate in the Learning Community. Guiding Team members will receive coaching on how to engage others in their congregations in activities and learning throughout the process. A coach will answer their questions and help them to address challenges that arise during the Learning Communities initiative.*

## Building a Guiding Team

*A participant on the Guiding Team should have the following characteristics/skills:*

- ◆ Ability to work in cooperation with a team.
- ◆ Demonstrated leadership ability in some other context.
- ◆ Willingness to experiment with new activities and behaviours the process will invite.
- ◆ Willingness to personally practice some of the spiritual habits introduced in the Learning Communities initiative trainings.
- ◆ Ability and willingness to personally invite others in the congregation to participate at different points in the process.
- ◆ Commitment to participate in three Saturday trainings as well as all meetings the Guiding Team schedules.
- ◆ Commitment to respond to phone calls, emails and other communications related to the process.
- ◆ Commitment to enter the process as a learner without a particular agenda other than to follow God's leading for the congregation.
- ◆ Guiding Team members together represent the diversity of their congregation in terms of age, ethnicity, gender, and socio-economic status.

## Time Commitment

*Each Guiding Team Member will commit to:*

- ◆ Three Saturday training workshops.
- ◆ One meeting per month (on average) with members of your Guiding Team to plan activities related to the Learning Communities initiative. Each meeting will likely include time with a coach; time and place will be determined by the Guiding Team.
- ◆ Time spent recruiting and training other members of the congregation throughout the process. Skills the Guiding Team will learn, practice and share include listening to God through scripture, interviewing other church members, and walking their neighborhoods with a spiritual focus.

