“Silent Night, Holy Night”

St. George’s Church, Clifton Park

Highlighted this Issue:
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As Christmas approaches, I find myself thinking about the journey Mary and Joseph found themselves on -- starting with Mary’s visitation by the Angel Gabriel in which he told her that she “had found favor with God,” and that “the Holy Spirit would come upon her” and that she would “conceive and give birth to a son” who would be “called the Son of the Most High… the Son of God.” (Luke 1:26-35).

Joseph as well, received a visitation by an angel of the Lord, to reassure him that Mary, his betrothed, had in fact told him the truth and not to be afraid to take her home as his wife. The Angel assured him that “what is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit” and that “she will give birth to a son” and that Joseph was to “give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:20-21).

Trusting in the truth of God’s Word, Mary and Joseph stepped out in faith and obedience to the Lord, knowing very well that many of their family, friends, neighbors, and the society at large would not believe the Word of God revealed to them through the angel of the Lord. In being faithful to God, they risked being misunderstood, ridiculed, judged and attacked by the people around them. They risked their reputation, their livelihood, and their very lives. Despite the risks and possible consequences they would face from their very own people, Mary and Joseph remained faithful and said yes to God.

Continuing to act in faith they began the 80 mile journey on foot and donkey from Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem in Judea in response to Caesar Augustus’ decree that a census must be taken throughout the entire Roman world, requiring every man to return to his home town to be registered. As Mary and Joseph began this 7 to 10 day journey, traveling over dusty, difficult and dangerous roads, Mary was near the end of her pregnancy. I can only imagine the sense of anxiousness and uncertainty she and Joseph must have felt, not knowing what the future would hold, whether they would even make it to Bethlehem before the child was born? Where would they stay; how would they provide for the child – this very special child – the Son of God; who would ever believe them?

It would not be an easy or risk free journey; there would be challenges and hardships to overcome; there were so many unanswered questions and yet, it was a journey they had to take, for Mary had been chosen by God to bring His Son into the world – Jesus, the long awaited Messiah, the Christ, the Savior, Immanuel, the Prince of Peace, the Lamb of God, The Way, the Truth, the Life, the Word, the Lord of Lords and King of Kings, the Alpha and Omega.

What a difference, saying “Yes” to God, can make. While you and I can never bring Jesus Christ into the world in the sense that Mary did, or to care for Jesus in the sense that Joseph did, we are called by God to bring or share the “Good News” of Jesus in this broken and hurting world in which we live, and to care for those in need, remembering the words of Jesus: “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me.” (Matthew 25:40).

As Christmas approaches and we prepare to celebrate our Lord’s birth and the faith journey Mary and Joseph undertook in response to God’s call on their life, what do you hear the Lord saying to you? What message has He put on your heart to share? Who is He asking you to reach out and minister to? As individuals and as a Diocese, how much are we willing to risk in answering God’s call on our lives? What price are we willing to pay as we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ – the greatest news the world could ever receive? Are we willing to speak God’s “Truth in love” to a people who are in desperate need of hearing it, even if it is not comfortable or politically correct to do so? Are...
we, like Mary and Joseph, willing to risk our reputations, our relationships, our jobs and livelihood? How far are we willing to go to be faithful and obedient to God and His Word? Do we have the faith and courage to trust God and to be faithful and obedient to His Word even when we don’t know where it might lead, or what it might ultimately cost us in this world? These are very real questions that each of us need to ask ourselves and wrestle with?

These are the very questions that I recently found myself struggling with as I tried to discern God’s will in knowing how best to respond, as the Bishop of Albany, to General Convention Resolution B012. After much thought, prayer and wrestling not so much with God, but with myself, I issued the Pastoral Letter which I believe the Lord called me to share. It has spread throughout the world touching the hearts and minds of people in ways that I never would have imagined. For many it was seen as an inspiration and encouragement, upholding the faith; for others, unfortunately, it was seen as a personal attack – something I never intended or wanted.

As I write to you now, I don’t know what the future holds. There is a strong possibility that I may be facing Title IV disciplinary proceedings for my unwillingness to abide by General Convention Resolution B012. As I stated in the Pastoral Letter, it was “not out of mean-spiritedness, hatred, bigotry, judgmentalism, or homophobia” that I have taken the actions that I have, “but rather out of love – love for God and His Word; love for The Episcopal Church and wider Anglican Communion; love for each of you my Brothers and Sisters in Christ, especially love for those who are struggling with same-sex attractions.” Whatever the outcome, I trust and believe that God will use it for His purposes and the benefit of His Church and people.

Trusting in God above all else, Mary and Joseph, by God’s grace, acted in faith and obedience to the Lord’s call on their life. Through their faithfulness, God the Father has given the world the greatest gift we could ever hope for – His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. May God find in each of us, that same sense of faith as we answer His call to share the love and Good News of Jesus Christ in our generation. May the Lord bless you as you go forth in His Name.

Merry Christmas!

+ Bill

“What price are we willing to pay as we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ -- the greatest news the world could ever receive? Are we willing to speak God’s “Truth in love” to a people who are in desperate need of hearing it, even if it is not comfortable or politically correct to do so? Are we, like Mary and Joseph, willing to risk our reputations, our relationships, our jobs and livelihood? How far are we willing to go to be faithful and obedient to God and His Word?”
On Saturday, November 17th, the Cathedral of All Saints hosted the highly anticipated Albany Diocesan Acolyte and Altar Guild Festival. Nearly 100 acolytes and Altar Guild members from area parishes were honored for their service to the Episcopal Church.

“The word acolyte is derived from the Greek word, acolytos, meaning companion, attendant, or helper. Its roots can be found in the Old Testament where the prophet Samuel is found assisting Eli, the Levite priest, and Elisha is seen assisting Elijah the Prophet. In the early Eastern Orthodox and Catholic Churches, the acolyte was the altar server; even given the rank of minor clergy called the taper-bearer, responsible for bearing lights during processions and liturgical entrances.” Today’s acolyte continues to play an important role in every liturgical event.

The ministry of the Altar Guild is also deeply rooted in Scripture and Church history. These dedicated servants prepare the sanctuary for services and sacraments. They prepare the altar table for worship, much in the same way they prepare their homes for family and guests on special days. They set the table with communion bread and wine, prepare the vessels, linens, and vestments, arrange the flowers and greens that adorn the altar, polish silver, and wash and iron linens, just to name a few tasks. Acolytes and Altar Guilds do their work out of love for their church families, God, and the church community.

This year’s Festival began with the acolytes and members of the altar guild ceremoniously processing throughout the Cathedral in a Grand Eucharistic Procession; many robed in the vestments worn in their parishes, most carrying crosses, torches, thuribles and church banners. To this writer and to others in attendance, it was a magnificent sight to behold.

The highlight of this day, similar to Festivals past, was the Presentation of Acolytes and Altar Guild when they reaffirmed their dedication to the service of God. Those honored for the first time received a newly minted brass pendant, designed with the Historic All Saints Bishop’s Cathedra Emblem and the Albany Diocesan Shield, as a gift from Bishop Love. To those who had already received their pendant at a previous festival, a special pin was given in recognition of their continued dedication and service.

The awards presentation was followed by the Holy Eucharist with Bishop Love, Celebrant, and The Rev. Scott Garno, Rector of St. Stephen’s, Delmar, Preacher. At the conclusion of the Eucharist, the gathering moved on to attend one or more of several workshops offered by the Cathedral. Lunch concluded the day’s events with fellowship, friendship and, most of all, spirituality; a spirituality that provided the opportunity to reflect on what it means to be an acolyte in the service of the church and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
An innocent baby equals the Mighty God? What does that mean? How can it be? The paradoxes in Holy Scripture are puzzling enough for those who have a faith understanding in Jesus, imagine how difficult it must be for anyone to understand these things who is unfamiliar with the Christian life or the teachings of Jesus. “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.” (Gal 2:19-20) “Those who try to make their life secure will lose it, but those who lose their life will keep it.” (Luke 17:33) “If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise.” (1 Cor 3:18) “All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.” (Matt 23:12) “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:26) “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.” (Matt 20:16) “Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Cor 12:10) “Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.” (Phil 3:7)

The Children of Israel lived under Roman occupation for more than six decades before the birth of Jesus. They longed to be delivered from their foreign oppressors. They were looking for a king like King David who was a strong, courageous warrior. The King of Kings and Lord of Lords arrived, not in a palace with all the luxuries of life, but in a stable surrounded by animals and all the sounds and smells that entails. The King of Kings and Lord of Lords was placed on hay in a feeding trough rather than a bed.

In the culture in which we live, there is huge pressure to measure the success of Christmas by how much parents can give their children, or we can give our loved ones in terms of material gifts. What about the gifts of obligation? Other measures might include Christmas dinner if you are fortunate enough to have a family with whom to have dinner. Might this Christmas look a little different if we stop and think about the measures of what makes for a successful Christmas and to whose measure we are responding? Society says, “Happy Holidays.” Jesus says, “Follow me.”

A celebration is intended to recall a pivotal event in our lives in a manner that demonstrates the event. Celebrating Christmas is a special opportunity to give thanks for the gift God gave us through the birth of his Son. Over the past two years there have been an increasing number of shoppers who buy gifts for themselves as a primary recipient of their Christmas shopping.
In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells us how we will be judged, which can be a very helpful shopping guide for this Christmas Season. “...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Matthew 25:35-40 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

While feasting at the Christmas dinner table and wondering how to muster the energy to gather the torn wrappings that clothed our precious gifts, there are those in our own communities that have little to eat, inadequate clothing for the winter weather, no one with whom to share time or food, and who feel forgotten and dismissed. For those fortunate enough to have homes, their homes may be cold because there is not enough money to pay the utility bill. The best celebration that we could possibly have is to focus on “the reason for the season” and keep our priorities in their God-given order.

God wants us to accept the gift of his Son as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He wants us to put him first so that we can love God and our neighbor. He wants us to worship him with our time, our attention, our praise, and our generosity to others. We are to be like him—emptying ourselves out of love for others. The gift that God wants us to give is the gift of our hearts. He wants us to turn our hearts to him in worship and praise. He wants us to humble ourselves and let his love permeate our hearts in such a way that we cannot do anything other than praise and worship him. He wants us to love others like he loves us.

The fourth verse of the hymn In the Bleak Midwinter sums it up beautifully, “What can I give him poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would do my part. What I can I give him—give my heart. May your Christmas worship be a true celebration of the birth of Jesus filled with praise, gratitude, generosity, and love.

The Papazoglakis’ are Rector and Associate Rector of St. George’s Church, Clifton Park

Isaiah 9:6 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)
The Libros Para Los Niños traveling team from St. John’s, Essex, recently completed its twelfth mission trip to Episcopal schools in some of the poorest areas of the Dominican Republic. This veteran service team visits the DR during the last week of October, or, after what is traditionally considered “hurricane season.” The Mission of Libros Para Los Niños is to support the best possible education for children in high need areas of the Dominican Republic and Haiti by providing the education tools to make this possible. It is our belief that an education is the most important gift that can be given a child and it is the one gift that cannot be taken away.

In addition to paying all of our own travel costs, each team member is responsible for providing and transporting 50 pounds of scholastic materials. As we either whizzed or bumped along our route this year, we were struck by the fact that during more than a decade of travels, “we have seen more of the Dominican Republic than most Dominicans have.” Past projects of the independent team have spanned the country end to end - Jimaní on the Haitian border (Colegio San Pablo Apóstol), Puerto Plata (Cristo Rey) in the north, Barahona (Albergue Jesús Peregrino and Colegio La Redención) in the south, and Angelina (Santiago Apóstol) in the east.

Planning ahead is key for the team and it is done in close collaboration with our mentor and spiritual guide, the Ven. P. Ramon Garcia. Father “Tony”, as he is known affectionately throughout the DR, has directed us to the neediest of schools. With Fr. Tony as intermediary, or directly, the priests in charge of those schools generally submit “wish lists” of their most pressing needs up to a year in advance. Projects for 2018 included:

- Purchase of science lab equipment and completion of work for the science lab in Saint Esprit in Lascohobas, Haiti, under the direction of Fr. Jacques Deravil.
- Scholarships which make it possible for any child to attend school or teen to continue their education in a college or university.
Purchase of food staples for the Albergues (nursery schools) of Infantil Cristo Salvador (barrio of La Yaquita de Pastor in Santiago) and Buen Samaritano (barrio of Ensanche San Martin de Porres in San Francisco de Macorís). Libros founder, Janice Summers Bedoukian states that “you cannot educate a hungry child” so these shopping trips in the company of Fr. Hipolito (age 93) and his wife are both central to our mission and lots of fun. Each albergue has good storage facilities and freezers available for storing food staples such as 300 pounds of rice and 60 pounds of red and black beans. The food purchased generally lasts each albergue two to three months and helps provide nutritious breakfasts and lunches for children who otherwise would have little.

Purchase of a photocopier, scholastic materials and supplies for Colegio Eden Infantil, a rural school which is not to be found on a standard map, as well as purchase of a photocopier which will be put to “centralized use” and expansion of our science lab in Colegio La Anunciacion, Santiago. Electric service in the seven classroom Eden Infantil is only available for half a day. Nevertheless, over 60 students (some of whom are pictured here) receive the solid foundation necessary to move on with their middle and high school studies.

Along with advance planning, flexibility is key to the ongoing success of Libros. For the first time in our experience, our momentum was impeded early in the trip by a one day, country wide work general strike or huelga by labor unions to protest the price of gas. Stores were closed and the streets empty of traffic for a change and we spent a rather dull day in the hotel in Santiago watching Army troops patrol the streets. Our resilience was amply rewarded mid-week when we were invited by Fr. Tony Garcia to attend the 100-year anniversary celebration of Los Todos Santos, his home church in La Romana. The church was founded by sugar cane workers from the British Isles. The spirit filled service was filled with song and acknowledgment of the many hands that make the church the vibrant center of city life it has been for a century.

The 2018 Libros Para Los Niños traveling team gives sincere thanks to the private and public donors, including the Diocese of Albany, the Diocese of Vermont and St. John’s, Essex, that make our work possible.

¡Muchas gracias! Merci!
Finding Hope in Our Darkest Seasons

By Catie Jones

With Christmas quickly approaching, we have officially entered what many Upstate New York residents consider to be the longest, most difficult season: winter.
There are those who truly love winter (crazy, I know) and who make the most out of skiing, snowboarding, ice skating and more. Yet for me, I get a sinking feeling in my stomach just thinking about the inevitable difficulties that winter brings (mainly, driving anywhere) and the months of bitter cold. Despite the fact that Christmas kicks off the snowy season, winter simply doesn’t inspire hopefulness or joy in me.

From December to March we all experience winter together, but I believe that we can also struggle through our own personal “winters”—seasons of life that feel frozen, dark, difficult and maybe even hopeless. We trust that an end will eventually come, bringing new life and new opportunities just like the spring, but the journey to get there feels endless.

You could be stuck in a job you don’t enjoy or going through a challenging period of uncertainty at work. Maybe you’re staring down a long road of illness or addiction and recovery. You could be a high school or college senior, ready to move on to a new chapter of life but trapped at school until graduation day. Maybe you’re a parent or spouse waiting for your loved one to come home from military duties overseas. Whatever the situation, the reality is that there’s no fast solution.

I know from experience that, despite our faith in God’s plans and the hope we might have for the future, it’s easy to become angry, frustrated and negative while waiting. It almost feels like your faith frosts over and your spirit hardens.

Yet if there’s one lesson I would offer, it’s this: embrace these times of waiting. There is a need and purpose for every winter we face. Rather than giving into resentment or doubt, ask God to reveal where He is intervening—because chances are that He already is.

The song Seasons by Hillsong Worship explains this in the most beautiful way. In it, Chris Davenport, Benjamin Hastings and Ben Tan describe how we all “like a seed in the snow … have been buried to grow.” They remind us that even though our winters are long, ultimately we have the promise of harvest.

I think the following lyrics say it best:

If all I know of harvest
Is that it’s worth my patience
Then if You’re not done working
God, I’m not done waiting …
For all I know of seasons
Is that You take Your time
You could have saved us in a second
Instead You sent a child

Some seasons of life are downright painful and barren, but they are not meaningless. In fact, God can actively work in and through our winters, preparing our hearts and aligning our circumstances for the new seasons to come. His patience has purpose.

What’s more, while our winters can seem endless, God has perfect timing. He is a God who does not rush to action. Time and time again, throughout the Old and New Testament, God uses periods of waiting to strengthen and stretch His children. Remember that our Savior, the Creator of the universe, is also “the beginning and the end” (Revelation 22:13). We can trust his timing unequivocally.

While these truths may resonate, the patience part is not easy—if we rely on our own strength. Instead, the Bible tells us to rely on God while we wait for our winters to pass. Lamentations 3:25-26 encourages us: “The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.”

Psalm 40:1 reminds us that God will hear and be with us during this process: “I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry.”

Finally, Proverbs 3:5-6 gives us faith in God’s plan: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Whatever you’re facing, remember that winter has a purpose and an end. There can be beauty and hope in the dark, barren situations that we face, for even as we wait God is moving in ways that will produce a harvest. Most importantly, His plans for us are good (Jeremiah 29:11). May you find winter warmth in Him.

A similar version of this article by Catie Jones was originally published by North Central Church in Syracuse, NY, on its blog, The Latest.
Merry Christmas from Beaver Cross Ministries

Registration for Summer Camp 2019 Opens January 1, 2019!

Give a Child the Gift of Christian Community

Contact us | Director: Daniel Hyde
(518) 692-9550 Ex. 114
www.beavercrossministries.org

#beavercrosscamp /beavercrossministries
Hi Everyone!
As we find ourselves among the holiday season we reflect on the things we are most thankful for. It is such a blessing to share our lives with the youth of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany.

It was so amazing to witness God moving through so many staff, volunteers, and children at Beaver Cross Summer Camp. Then, in the Fall, we had an amazing Fall Edition retreat that for the first time in recent years we were able to scholarship children that otherwise wouldn’t have been able to attend.

We recently attended a Camp to Camp meeting with other christian camp directors that are members of the Christian Camp & Conference Association and the question arose “what happened this summer that you most saw God revealed in?” Honestly there isn’t a “moment” that we see Him most. We see Him everyday in all the little things. We see God when kids smile at hearing the Good News for the first time. We see God through people like you when children that can’t afford camp are there because of your financial support. We see God through groups like the Daughters of the King donating craft supplies. We see God in our volunteers that give up their personal time every week to teach kids how to fish, even when they have to put each and every worm on the hook. We see God in our staff when children feel comfortable talking about things they’ve never felt comfortable to share out loud. We see God in our clergy volunteers when they invite children to follow Christ, and children tell others they want to do just that. We see God through you and the things you do through His love to better the lives of His children.

We also want to help you see God through these moments too. That is why we are bringing back the Beaver Cross Monthly Newsletters. This way we can keep you all informed on how God is moving through the youth of our diocese. To sign up for this newsletter go to www.beavercrossministries.org to register.

Thank you so much for the blessing it is to serve this community.

Many Blessings,

Danny & Kait Hyde
CLERGY IN TRANSITION

**Appointments**

Dcn. Randy Lukas - has been appointed Deacon Vicar at St. Mark’s, Philmont.

**Departures**

Mtr. Nancy Kin - has been called to St. Matthew’s in Toledo, Ohio.

Dcn. Micki Thomas - has moved and transferred to the Diocese of SW Florida.

**In Memoriam**

Fr. Allen Girvin - died on August 2, 2018. He was 94. Allen and Margaret Girvin were the long serving caretakers at Barry House, Brandt Lake.

Dcn. Donald Lofman - died on November 11, 2018. He was 74. He was ordained as a Deacon in 1973. He began his career as a social worker in 1974 at Mid Hudson Forensic Psychiatric Center and retired from there in 2002. He finished his ministry at St. Matthew’s Church in Latham.

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**Episcopal Charities of Albany offers eye care grants**

Episcopal Charities of Albany offers direct assistance in the form of grants to indigent persons regardless of faith, who are in need of eye care, or who otherwise suffer from eye disorders, and are unable to afford such eye care of necessary related services. Grants are limited to eye examinations, purchase of eye glasses and special equipment or medication needed by an individual by reason of his or her suffering from eye disease and surgical procedures to restore or maintain normal vision.

Grant awards are limited to a maximum $1,000 per grant and to those residing within 19 counties of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany (northeastern New York State.)

Those who feel they may qualify for an eye care grant can apply by contacting the Administrator at ECA@albanydiocese.org or writing to ECA, 580 Burton Road, Greenwich, NY 12834.

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

151st Diocesan Convention June 7 – 9, 2019

Camp of the Woods, Speculator
UPCOMING DIOCESAN EVENTS

**January**
- 7 Standing Committee Meeting, CtK*
- 8 Commission on Ministry Meeting, Ctk
- 12 Parish Leadership Conference – St. Lawrence & Northern Adirondack Deaneries - Malone
- 26 Parish Leadership Conference – Metro, Hudson, Upper Hudson, So. Adirondack Deaneries
- 28 Episcopal Charities of Albany Annual Meeting, CtK

**February**
- 1 Parish Leadership Conference – Susquehanna & Western Mohawk Deaneries – Oneonta
- 4 Standing Committee Meeting, CtK
- 9 Commission on Ministry, CtK
- 26 Trustees Meeting, CtK

**March**
- 4 Episcopal Charities Meeting, CtK
- 6 Ash Wednesday
- 9 Commission on Ministry Meeting, CtK
- 12-15 House of Bishops Meeting, Kanuga Conference Center, Hendersonville, NC
- 31 Holiness Conference – CtK

**April**
- 1-3 Holiness Conference, CtK
- 1 Standing Committee Meeting, CtK
- Cathedral of All Saints Teaching Event – Theology and the Arts, Dr. Jeremy Begbie
- 7 Holy Orders Interest Meeting – St. Peter’s Church, Albany
- 13 Commission on Ministry Meeting, CtK
- 14 Palm Sunday
- 15 Chrism Mass – Cathedral of All Saints
- 16 Chrism Mass – St. James’ Oneonta
- 17 Chrism Mass – St. Thomas, Tupper Lake
- 19 Good Friday
- 21 Easter Sunday
- 30 Ascension Day

**May**
- 3-5 Clergy Wives Conference – CtK
- 4 Diocesan Council Meeting, CtK
- 6 Episcopal Charities Meeting, CtK
- Standing Committee Meeting, CtK
- Pre-Convention Information Meeting – Church of the Messiah, Glens Falls
- 7 Pre-Convention Information Meeting – St. Mark’s Church, Malone
- 13 Pre-Convention Information Meeting – Christ Church, Cooperstown
- 14 Pre-Convention Information Meeting – Cathedral of All Saints, Albany

**June**
- 6 Standing Committee Meeting (if required), CtK
- 7-9 151 St. Convention of the Diocese of Albany, Camp-of-The-Woods, Speculator, NY

* CtK denotes Christ the King Center
THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

“The Twelve Days of Christmas,” has several interpretations of its lyrics. Here is one favorite…

My true love .....................................God, and the gifts from God

The partridge.....................................Jesus

Two turtledoves.................................The Old and New Testaments

Three French hens.........................Faith, Hope and Charity

Four calling birds............................The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

Five golden rings............................The Torah (The first five books of the Bible): Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy

Six geese a-laying............................The six days of Creation (Genesis)

Seven swans a-swimming ...............The Seven Sacraments: Baptism, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Confirmation, Marriage, Holy Orders and Anointing the Sick

Eight maids a-milking .......................The eight Beatitudes in Sermon on the Mount - Blessed are: the poor in spirit; those who mourn; the meek; those who hunger and thirst for righteousness; the merciful; the pure in heart; the peace makers and the persecuted for the sake of righteousness. (Matthew 5:3-10)


Ten Lords a-leaping.........................The Ten Commandments

Eleven pipers piping.......................The Apostles (not including Judas) who spread the Good News

Twelve drummers drumming..........The Twelve Articles of Faith in the Apostles’ Creed: “We believe… in God the Father; Creator; God the Son; Crucified, died, buried; raised from the dead; ascended into heaven; God the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; communion of saints; forgiveness of sins; resurrection of the body; and life everlasting.”

Editor’s Note:
In response to many requests from AE readers, we again print “The Twelve Days of Christmas” for your enjoyment.
Planning your schedule

Every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. there is a Healing Service in the Healing Center Chapel featuring outstanding talks from clergy and laity throughout our Diocese, anointing and opportunity for individual prayers for healing.

- 12/12 - Soaking Prayer
- 12/18 - Lessons & Carols
- 1/9 - Soaking Prayer
- 1/19 - Debt-Proof Your Marriage
- 1/20 - Moonlight on the Trails @ CtK
- 2/9-10,16-17 - SHP Level 1
- 2/13 - Soaking Prayer
- 2/15-18 - Sonshine
- 2/28-29 - Arise! Women’s Retreat
- 2/28-3/3 - SHP Level 3

Save these Dates

Debt-Proof Your Marriage
A seminar with everything couples need for managing their money harmoniously
Saturday, January 19, 2019

Led by Maggie Hasslacher, a Crown Money Map Coach and MoneyLife Mentor

Level 1: February 9-10 & 16-17, 2019 2-weekend class
Introduction to the foundations for healing | The history of healing in the church | Gifts of the Holy Spirit | Becoming a Prayer Minister

Level 3: Feb. 28-Mar. 3, 2019 4-day class
Expands on how to pray for inner healing...understanding the Emotions | Anger: The Misunderstood Emotion | The purpose of Fear

Holiness II
Holiness: The Road to Resurrection
March 31-April 2, 2019
An ecumenical conference designed to prepare hearts and minds for Holy Week.

Visit www.stmaryseast.net for details

Moonlight on the Trails

Spend an evening snowshoeing, hiking or skiing in the moonlight on the beautiful luminaria-lit trails of Christ the King
Sunday, January 20, 2019, 6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the CtK Boy Scout Troop and the Battenkill Conservancy
The Diocese of Albany is One Church fulfilling the Great Commandment and Great Commission, moving from membership to discipleship; equipping, emboldening and sending disciples to make disciples.

- Diocesan Vision

The Albany Episcopalian is printed four times a year. Publication is scheduled the months of March, May, September and December.

Submissions for consideration must be received prior to the first Monday of the month before publication. News items of diocesan interest are welcome, and should be sent to the Business Office at 580 Burton Road, Greenwich, NY 12834, in care of Editor or transmitted via e-mail to: TAEeditor@albanydiocese.org.

Diocesan Website

For the most up-to-date information about events in the diocese, parish and clergy directories, mission news, parish resources, and more, visit the diocesan website at www.albanyepiscopaldiocese.org. You can also visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/albanydiocese.

BISHOP LOVE’S VISITATION SCHEDULE

January
6  St. Stephen’s Church, Guilderland
13  Trinity Church, Potsdam
27  Bethesda Church, Saratoga Springs

February
3  Christ Church, Deposit
10  St. Luke’s Church, Cambridge
24  To be announced

March
3  St. James’ Church, Oneonta
10  Church of the Holy Cross, Warrensburg
17  Emmanuel Church, Little Falls
24  St. Mark’s Church, Malone
31  To be announced

April
7  Christ Church, Gilbertsville
14  Palm Sunday - St. Thomas’ Church, Tupper Lake
21  Easter – Cathedral of All Saints

May
19  St. Mark’s Church, Hoosick Falls

June
2  Church of the Good Shepherd, Elizabethtown
16  St. Paul’s Church, Kinderhook
23  St. Paul’s Church, Troy
30  St. Hubert’s of the Lake, Lake Pleasant

Summer visitations to be determined