But the angel said to them,
“Do not be afraid; for behold,
I bring you good news of great joy
which will be for all the people;

Luke 2:10

Highlighted this Issue:
✔️ The 153rd Diocesan Convention
✔️ TAE Photo Collection Albany Diocese Churches at Christmas
✔️ “This Season of Cold and Darkness” ✔️ And more…
Inside This Issue...

3
The 153rd Diocesan Convention

5
Actions of the 153rd Convention

7
Albany Diocese Churches at Christmas

18
“This Season of Cold and Darkness” –
The Rev. Patti Johnson

20
Clergy in Transition

20
The Twelve Days of Christmas

21
Christ the King Upcoming Events

22
Beaver Cross Summer 2022

24
Bishop Smith’s Visitation Schedule

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Diocesan Updates
The Diocesan Update is the diocesan weekly e-mail newsletter, containing news and events from around the diocese. If you’re interested in receiving the Diocesan Update, send an e-mail to: webmaster@albanydiocese.org. Put “Subscribe” in the subject line, and include your name, address, phone number, and parish (or other diocesan affiliation) in the body of the message.
For the Diocese of Albany, the 153rd Diocesan Convention would become another historic first. Not only was it a Virtual Convention, but not having a Bishop Diocesan, The Rev. Scott Garno, Chair of the Standing Committee and Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, came forward to lead the Convention.

The Convention was held on Saturday, October 23rd and opened at 9:00am as scheduled. However, it would not be long into the meeting before the drama began. After the Secretary completed her instruction and Credentialing report, a motion was raised to amend the Supplemental Rules of Order to remove Resolutions 4, 5, 6, and 7 from any action by the Convention. It was noted that any approvals of the Resolutions in question would affect major changes in the Diocese’s Constitution and Canons. The motion sparked a lengthy debate with many speaking for and against the amendment. Here are excerpts of the four Resolutions in question:

RESOLUTION 4 referred to revisions of DIOCESAN CANON V – DEANERIES AND DEANERY, to revise the minimum convocations per year.

RESOLUTION 5 referred to revisions of DIOCESAN CANON III – DEPUTIES AND PROVISIONAL DEPUTIES TO GENERAL CONVENTION, to allow Deacons, as well as Priests to be elected to General Convention.

RESOLUTION 6 referred to DIOCESAN CANON XI - STANDARDS FOR ORDINATION AND CONSECRATION, to remove the standards for Ordination and Consideration, that states, in part, “a person must live within the covenant of Marriage between one man and one woman.” The Resolution went on to state, “To be eligible to be elected, appointed or licensed to any position of ordained ministry in the Diocese, a member of the clergy must live within the covenant of Marriage between one man and one woman, or be celibate and abstinent.”

RESOLUTION 7 – referred to CANON XVI - MARRIAGE, that states, in part, “[Clergy] shall neither officiate at; nor facilitate, nor participate in, any service, whether public or private, for the Celebration or Blessing of a Marriage or any other union except between one man and one woman. Unions either than those of one man and one woman in Holy Matrimony, even if they be recognized in either jurisdictions, shall be neither recognized nor blessed in this Diocese”
The Resolution went on to also state, “Properties owned, controlled, managed or operated by this Diocese, or any Parish of the Diocese, or any legal entity established by the Diocese of a parish of the Diocese, shall not be the site for any service, public or private, for the Celebration or Blessing of a Marriage, or any other union except those between one man and one woman.”

After a lengthy debate, the amendment to delete Resolutions 4, 5, 6, 7 from the Supplemental Rules of Order passed with a majority vote of 126 yea, 116 nay and 4 abstentions. All four Resolutions were then ruled “Out of Order.”

This led to yet another motion and debate on the Virtual format itself. Among those speaking in favor of the format was the Chancellor of the Diocese, The Rev. “Chip” Strickland. He stated that, in his opinion, since there is no mention in the Constitution and Canons that does not permit a Convention other than in-person formats, a Virtual Convention can be deemed proper. That said, the vote led to approval of the Virtual Convention agenda as amended and was passed with a majority vote of 161 yea, 78 nay and 6 abstentions.

It should be noted that during the morning process, a motion was made to adjourn the Convention, however, the motion was quickly defeated with a vote of 150 nay, 61 yea, and 6 abstentions.

Moving on with the Order of Business, Fr. Scott Garno was elected by unanimous vote to continue as President of the Convention, then followed with his address to the Convention. His address, along with the entire Convention proceedings can be seen on the Diocesan website, www.albanydiocese.org.

Continuing on with the business at hand, the Ecclesiastical Authority appointments, nominations and elections immediately followed, concluding the morning session with a Virtual address from the Diocese’s Assistant Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Michael Smith.

The afternoon session began with the announcements of the results of the elections held that morning, along with the Episcopal appointments, ministry reports, and actions on Resolutions 1, 2 and 3. The results of the elections and appointments can be found in the following pages.

This led to the presentations and actions on Resolutions 1, 2, and 3, also found in the following pages.

Next on the agenda came the Diocesan Ministry reports, beginning with Mrs. Sue Ellen Ruetsch, member of the Standing Committee and Chair of the Profile and Search Committee, who spoke on the Search Committee’s progress regarding the election of the 10th Bishop of Albany. Mrs. Ruetsch noted that due to the emotional issues now facing the Diocese, the committee will be planning town hall meeting formats, “probably in each Deanery, to discuss and share ideas and perspectives” regarding these issues. The Diocesan Profile is expected to be completed by August 14, 2022.

Dan and Kaitlin Hyde followed with their 2021 report on the activities of Beaver Cross and upcoming events in 2022.

Reuben Todd was next, reporting on Christ the King Spiritual Life Center’s programs in 2021.

The Very Rev. Dr. Leander Harding, Dean of the Cathedral, followed with a report on the cathedral’s activities in 2021 and plans for 2022.

The Rev. Patti Johnson, Chair of the Mission Committee on Missions, closed with a Missions report on missionary activities in the current year and plans for 2022.

Courtesy resolutions were then introduced and unanimously approved by the Convention.

There being no other business, a closing prayer by Fr. Scott Garno followed, bringing a close to the 153rd Diocesan Convention at 3:15pm.
Ecclesiastical Authority Appointments:

Chancellor
The Rev. William ‘Chip’ Strickland

Assistant Chancellor
James Prout

Committee to Approve the Minutes of Convention
The Rev. Scott Garno, Chair  The Rev. Meaghan Keegan  The Very Rev. Tom Malinek
The Rev. Deborah Beach

Committee on Convention Arrangements
The Rev. Katherine Alonge-Coons (EA* Chair)
Carol Drummond, Chair  Kaitlyn Hyde  Abby Bee
The Rev. Meaghan Keegan  Canon Jerry Carroll  The Rev. Barbara Mitchell
The Rev. Scott Garno  The Rev. Marian Sive  The Rev. Nancy Goff
Sue Ellen Ruetsch  Margaret Haskell  Reuben Todd
The Rev. Cn. Robert Haskell  Daniel Hyde

Tellers of Convention
Mark Brittell  Carol MacNaughton

Diocesan Development Fund
The Rev. Cn. Robert Haskell, Chair  Lay Canon Richard Carroll  Clark Curtis, Treasurer
Thomas Easterly  Debbie Bisner  The Rev. Scott Garno
John Boyce  Arlene Josef  Robert Boynton
The Rev. Lou Midura  Jeff Brown

Committee Church Architecture and Arts
The Very Rev. Thomas Papazoglakis  The Rev. Alistair Morrison  John Boyce
Ralph Snell  The Rev. Lou Midura

Commission on Ministry (New Appointments)

Finance Committee
The Rev. Katherine Alonge-Coons (EA* Chair)
Clark Curtis, Treasurer  Nancy Priputen Madrian  Sharon King, Asst. Treasurer
Lay Cn. Jerry Carroll  Debbie Bisner

Christ-the-King Advisory Commission
The Rev. Katherine Alonge-Coons (EA* Chair)
Randall Demler  The Rev. Lou Midura  The Rev. Scott Garno
The Very Rev. Thomas Papazoglakis  The Very Rev. Leander Harding  The Rev. Derik Roy
Terry Kelly  Mother Miriam, CSM  The Very Rev. Neal Longe
Carol MacNaughton
Actions of the 153rd Convention continued

**Salary and Benefits Committee**
The Rev. Katherine Alonge Coons (EA* Chair)
The Rev. Cn. Robert Haskell
The Rev. William Tatem, Chair
The Rev. Meaghan Keegan
The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Papazoglakis

* EA Chair = Ecclesiastical Authority Chairperson

**Ecclesiastical Authority Appointments:**

**ELECTED OFFICES:**

**President of Convention**
The Rev. Scott Garno 2021

**Secretary of the Convention**
The Rev. Scott Garno 2022

**Treasurer of the Diocese**
Clark Curtis 2022

**Assistant Treasurer**
Sharon King 2022

**Great Chapter of the Cathedral**
The Rev. Cn. Judith Malionek 2024
Jay Harold Jakovic 2024
Mark Hibbard 2022

**Conventione Rep. to Diocesan Council**
The Rev. William Lytle 2023

**Trustees of the Diocese**
The Rev. Scott Evans 2025
The Very Rev. Dr. Thomas Papazoglakis 2025
Helen Smith 2024

**Disciplinary Board**
The Very Rev. Sonya Boyce 2024
The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Papazoglakis 2024
The Rev. Nancy Truscott 2022

**Standing Committee**
The Rev. Arthur Garno 2024
The Very Rev. N. Bradley Jones 2024
Christopher Cassidy 2024
John A. Hyde 2024

**Term Expires:**

RESOLUTIONS OF THE CONVENTION

**Resolution #1**
Moved by: The Rev. William Tatem
Seconded by: The Rev. Cn. Robert Haskell
RESOLVED that for 2022 the recommended clergy stipend schedule increase by 5%. All other rates will remain unchanged.

**Resolution #2**
Moved by: The Rev. William Tatem
Seconded by: The Rev. Cn. Robert Haskell
RESOLVED, that the Reduced Standard Assessment Formula, as presented in the Convention Book, be used for calculating Parish Assessments for 2022.

**Resolution #3**
Moved by: The Very Rev. Tom Malionek
Seconded by: The Rev. Cn. Robert Haskell
RESOLVED, that the Diocese of Albany Operations Budget 2022, as presented in this Convention Book, be adopted.
Every year, Christians around the world bring out their displays of wreaths, trees, boughs of holly and brilliant red or white poinsettias to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Colorful lights and brilliant-colored bows add much to these creative displays each December. It is a time of joy, hope and promise to all people throughout the world.

Congregations decorate their buildings in various ways, each attempting to make their Christmas “event” unique and welcoming to all who enter their houses of worship during the Advent season and beyond.

This year, The Albany Episcopalian’s Christmas issue is pleased to highlight many churches in the Diocese that have submitted photos of their beautiful Christmas décor - many from the recent past – a few from long past. Every congregation that submitted photos for this issue is represented, however, due to space limitations, each congregation has been limited to two photos. The photos are printed in the following pages.

This all-color printed Christmas issue is currently being mailed to more than 11,000 homes and is also available on the Diocesan website, www.albanyepiscopaldiocese.org. Those that are not on the Diocesan mailing list will be able to secure a copy by downloading the issue found in the Media section of the Diocesan website.

Special thanks go to all participating parishes for allowing us to share their precious scenes with readers of The Albany Episcopalian.

May we now take this opportunity to wish all our readers a very blessed, joyous and merry Christmas!

Editor
Bethesda, Saratoga Springs

The Cathedral of All Saints, Albany

The Choir at The Cathedral of All Saints, Albany

Christ Church, Cooperstown

St. Paul’s, Bloomville
St. John’s, Ogdensburg ca 1940

St. John’s, Cohoes

St. Paul’s, Sidney

Church of the Cross, Ticonderoga

St. Eustace, Lake Placid

Church of the Redeemer, Rensselaer

St. Philip’s, Norwood
St. Paul’s, Troy
St. Paul’s, Sidney
St. George’s, Schenectady
St. Peter’s, Albany
St. Michael’s, Colonie
St. Matthew’s Latham
Trinity, Watervliet
Church of the Spirit, Schenevus
Zion, Hudson Falls
St. Paul's, Keeseville

Trinity, Plattsburgh
St. John’s, Cohoes

Zion, Colton ca 1870’s
All Saints, Hoosick

Christ Church, Duanesburg

Grace Church, Waterford

St. John’s, Johnstown
St. John’s, Troy 1934 “Look at the size of the choir!”

St. John’s, Troy ca 1934

Church of Our Saviour, Lebanon Springs
“And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us. We looked upon His glory, the glory of the one and only from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14
(Tree of Life)

God’s glorious display of autumn leaves has come to an end, the daylight hours have grown short, and the cold weather has settled in, ushering in the season of Advent. The lengthy hours of darkness make us yearn for the light. Our thoughts turn to the advent of the Jesus; first as a vulnerable infant born into poverty, soon as the King of Glory. In the “in-between” time, we pray and wait. That is the beauty of Advent; day by day, the light grows brighter, until the skies are illumined by the brilliant star and filled with the songs of Angels. Come, Lord Jesus!

There is hope in this anticipation, there is an eagerness to see Jesus and have everything set right. But while we wait, we can look for Jesus all around us: in the brilliance, in the twilight, and in the darkness of our lives. We are waiting patiently for His triumphant return, but where might we catch glimpses of His glory, right here and right now?

We don’t have to look very far. Ask Jesus to help you see Him, and turn your eyes to gaze upon the hurting, lonely, sick, or the outcast. Jesus is always in the Mission field. If we want to join Him there, we must cross some boundaries — not necessarily physical land masses or border check points, but boundaries of our comfort zones and our life experiences.

When we really look, we realize that there are “invisible” individuals and entire populations in need all around us. Where do we even begin to serve? Pray. Ask God to reveal where He wants you to serve. God will call you to your mission field. Frederick Buechner wrote “… “the kind of work God usually calls you to is the kind of work (a) that you need most to do and (b) that the world most needs to have done. ... The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”

As the liturgical calendar moves into Advent and Christmas, the cold weather also signals the opening of many warm, safe shelters for people in need. During a recent conversation, Deacon Helene Patterson shared her passion for helping at such a shelter. The Code Blue shelter in Saratoga Springs is where Deacon Helene’s deep gladness met the deep needs of the residents. She was not an “official” volunteer last winter, but she did visit frequently and began to build relationships with the staff, the volunteers, and people who accessed services there. She spent a lot of time sitting and listening. Over time, trust and mutual respect grew.

Theodore Roosevelt said, “People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care”. Often, as Jesus has shown us, meeting the immediate physical needs opens the door for meeting the deeper, spiritual and emotional need.

Although the ultimate goal is for every shelter resident to get appropriate housing, it can be scarce. The Code Blue shelter closed as the warmer weather arrived in the Spring, but for many, appropriate housing was unavailable. So they prepared for the return to “camp”. The community offered immediate help in the form of tarps, bug spray, socks, flashlights, and other necessary items.

Within a very short time, the “tent city” was re-populated in the woods. Deacon Helene was a frequent visitor over the summer months, bringing needed items like water, socks, and small but important items that would be distributed by the residents, to the residents. She also brought an ear to listen, and a heart that loves Jesus.

When asked where she saw Jesus in this local encampment, Deacon Helene described the “tent city” as an invisible community within a community. A community of people caught up in bad situations, who may not be willing or able to access other life-changing services. But she described how certain members of the community watch out for others, the best that they can. They share limited resources. They help to pitch the tents. They take others in, sharing a very limited space, so that everyone has shelter. Life is incredibly difficult, but there is respect, love, and kindness. She sees Jesus in the small group gatherings, in the respect and the kindness they are able to show to each other, and to her.

In this city, there is hunger, thirst, fear, danger, sickness, and
darkness. That is true. But there is also Jesus. We are reminded in John 1:14, that Jesus “pitched His tent, and dwelt among us”. When Jesus moved into the neighborhood, he brought light, life, hope, and community. This tent community is one place where we catch glimpses of God’s glory through simple acts of service, prayer, fellowship, and personal sacrifice.

As you wait in the “in-between” in this season of cold and darkness, look for Jesus. He may be found in places you might not expect. The invisible people and communities are not unseen by Him. The lost are found, the broken are healed, and His light shines in the darkness... and the darkness has not overcome it.

“The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.

We saw the glory with our own eyes,

the one-of-a-kind glory,

like Father, like Son,

Generous inside and out,

ture from start to finish.”

John 1:14  The Message

The Reverend Patti Johnson is Priest-in Charge at St. James Church, Ausable Forks and member of the EDOA Mission Committee.
Clergy In Transition

**Appointments**
The Rev. Nathan Ritter has accepted the call as Rector at Christ Church in Cooperstown.

**Departures**
The Rev. Dr. Christopher Brown has accepted the call of Canon to the Ordinary in the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas.

**Openings in the Diocese:**

**Full time:**
- St. Peter’s, Albany
- St. Luke’s on the Hill, Mechanicville
- St. Paul’s, Albany
- St. Sacrement, Bolton Landing

**Part time:**
- Christ Church, Greenville
- St. James, Lake George

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

**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)
Nine ladies dancing .............Fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness,
                              Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control (Galatians
                              5:22-23)
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.”
Please join us for our upcoming events!

WEEKLY HEALING SERVICE
EVERY TUESDAY | 10 AM | IN PERSON

Held in our St. Michael’s Chapel, the healing service features outstanding talks from clergy and laity throughout our Diocese, anointing and opportunity for individual prayers for healing. Talks are recorded and can be found on our website.

Community Dinner Series
EVERY FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH | 5-7PM | RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

A monthly meal highlighting local community farms and products. To see what’s on the next meal’s menu, what farm we are partnering with, or to make a reservation visit our website.

Adults $18.99 | Kids 12 & under $12.99 | 2 and under are free

Women’s Retreat
APRIL 1ST-2ND

Ladies! You are invited to gather at Christ the King Center for a rejuvenating retreat in the heart of gorgeous Washington County. Visit our website and follow us on Facebook to stay up to date on event details like who the speakers are and the theme.

Moonlight Hike
JANUARY 15TH

In cooperation with our local Boys Scouts troop we will be hosting a night of moonlight hiking and snowshoeing. If you have been considering a stay with us this is the perfect night to book a getaway.

Parish Leadership Conference at CtK
JANUARY 8TH

The Episcopal Diocese of Albany’s annual conference open to all parishioners. Lunch is provided. Please register with the diocesan office.

Pre-Lenten Retreat
FEBRUARY 8TH-10TH

A retreat designed for anyone preparing their heart to lead a congregation through the season of lent, to begin focusing on the major themes of the lessons from the RCL. Gather with other leaders for study, fellowship, and focus for the season.

To find more information on schedules, dates, menus, speakers, and to register visit CTKCenter.org!

Follow Us online!

COME REST, RENEW, AND FIND PEACE

Christ the King Center is available to serve you. We are here for you to host stay over and one day events for your vestry, mission team, personal retreat, and more.
More than a Summer Camp

We had a blast with you at our Fall Edition retreat in October! Visit our website to see more about the programs offered below.

**JAN**
Summer Camp Registration Opens

**FEB**
Jr. & Sr. Sonshine || Feb. 18th-21st || Grades 3-12

**MAR**
Mother & Daughter Retreat || March 18th-19th

**APR**
Spring Break Camp || April 18th-22nd || Grades K-8

**Other Events**
- Monthly Young Adult Bible Studies
- Monthly Game Nights
- Mission Days
- & More: Ask Us To Host Your Youth Event

Merry Christmas!

Contact Daniel Hyde: dhyde@ctkcenter.org | 518.692.9550 ex. 114
Summer 2022

Day Camp

Each camp week is structured around exciting creative themes. Hot lunches & field trips are included. Registration is available for early drop-off and includes a hot breakfast.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>Regular Rate</th>
<th>Sibling Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/6-7/8</td>
<td>K-8</td>
<td>$140</td>
<td>$130</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/11-8/19</td>
<td>K-8</td>
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Overnight Camp

<table>
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<th>Sibling Rate</th>
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<td>K-2nd</td>
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<td>Discoverers</td>
<td>3rd-5th</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/17-7/22</td>
<td>Adventurers I</td>
<td>6th-8th</td>
<td>$490</td>
<td>$420</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/22-7/24</td>
<td>Adventurers Weekend</td>
<td>6th-8th</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Adventurers II</td>
<td>6th-8th</td>
<td>$490</td>
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<tr>
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<td>9th-12th</td>
<td>$490</td>
<td>$420</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/1-8/6</td>
<td>Pioneers Weekend</td>
<td>9th-12th</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/7-8/12</td>
<td>Pioneers II</td>
<td>9th-12th</td>
<td>$490</td>
<td>$420</td>
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</table>

We truly believe in the power of camp and the importance it can have in a camper's life. For this reason we don't want financial strains to stop youth from building community in Christ with us. If you need help paying for a camper to attend PLEASE contact us for a scholarship.

Register at WWW.BEAVERCROSSMINISTRIES.ORG TODAY
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 Smith’s VISITATION SCHEDULE

April
11 Chrism Mass, Cathedral of All Saints, Albany
12 Chrism Mass, St. James’, Oneonta
13 Chrism Mass, St. Thomas, Tupper Lake

May
14 Regional Confirmation, Cathedral of All Saints, Albany