

ELEISON

The Newsletter of Bethesda Episcopal Church
41 Washington Street
Saratoga Springs, New York 12866
584-5980
www.bethesdachurch.org
May 2012

The Very Rev'd Marshall J. Vang, *Interim Rector*
The Rev'd Paul Evans, *Priest Associate*

DEAN'S DOINGS

MEMORIAL & THANK OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES

My Dear People and Friends of Bethesda:

Someone window shopping on Broadway in our fair city, glancing upon a display of the next season's finery, recently commented, "Thank God Easter is over!" One might respond to such a declaration in a variety of ways. "What is it you are looking for?" is but one. Rightly phrased, however, we would express "Whom are you seeking?" It is the Church's understanding that the proclamation of Jesus, risen from the grasp of death, has not ceased. One cannot micro-manage the power of the Resurrection, for it is too encompassing, too powerful, too miraculous.

Spanning a period of fifty days, we shall soon pause on the fortieth day to celebrate the Feast of Our Lord's Ascension, his return to the Person and Place of his origin. May seventeenth will be a special time for us here at Bethesda. A Solemn Eucharist will be celebrated in the church at 6:30 pm. Immediately thereafter we will proceed to the Parish House where a Pot Luck Supper will be offered. [Many, many thanks to the Service League for coordinating the catering.] Prior to dessert a special meeting of the congregation will be conducted by the Vestry. Five months have passed since Bethesda's Annual Meeting, and much has occurred since then. Your elected leadership desires to be very candid in making communicants aware of items that concern the entire parish family. The agenda will consist of three items:

Bethesda Finances – a presentation of a budget: What efforts need to be taken to augment income? If it is necessary to adjust expenses to match receipts, what ministries and programs might be affected?

Rector Search – a careful inspection of a time-line which will lead to the election of the next Rector: Who will guide the search process? What role will the congregation have? What can we expect until the arrival of a new priest and pastor?

Bi-Centennial Celebration – revealing of plans and concepts to honor our parish's two-hundred years of witness: What might be our priorities for Bethesda's third century?

I urge each of you to do everything possible to assure your presence at this significant gathering. Your questions and opinions will be welcome.

Most cordially in Christ,

The Very Reverend Marshall J. Vang
Interim Rector

REGULAR SCHEDULE:

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

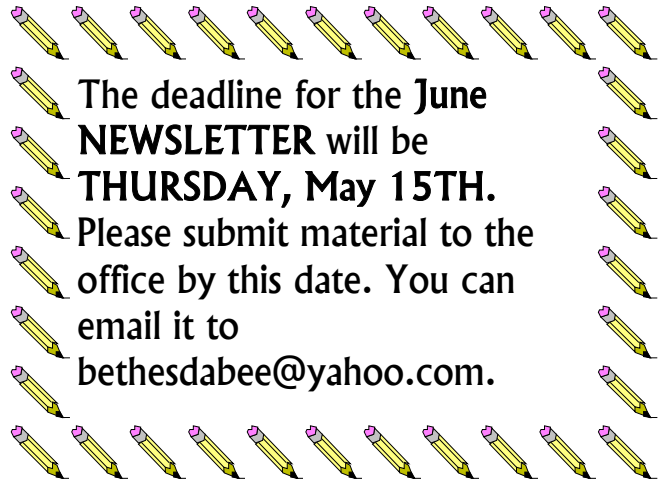
10:00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

9:45-12noon Nursery care provided in
Parish House

Wednesday 9 a.m.—Eucharist at Home
of the Good Shepherd Wilton

Wednesday 12:10 p.m. Eucharist &
Healing Service

Thursday 9 a.m.—Eucharist at Home of
the Good Shepherd
Saratoga Springs

The deadline for the **June NEWSLETTER** will be **THURSDAY, May 15TH.** Please submit material to the office by this date. You can email it to **bethesdabee@yahoo.com**.

THE VESTRY REPORTS

Condensed Minutes

At its meeting on March 21, 2012, the Vestry of Bethesda Church

- began with devotions led by Darren Miller, Treasurer;
- amended Minutes from the previous meeting of February 15, 2012;
- welcomed the Interim Rector's Report, noting Bethesda's superb witness to the Resurrection made at Father Parke's funeral, an invitation-styled mailing to the parish for Holy Week, the return of former parishioners to Bethesda at both 8 and 10 o'clock, 28 visitations to communicants thus far, and a re-designing of our website by Beth Moeller;
- discussed Senior Warden Doug Huston's review of the effects of the current transition upon our staff, thanked David Painter for the new Vestry photograph, and, at the recommendation of Junior Warden Mark Claverie, approved unanimously the extension of Father Vang's Letter of Agreement with Bethesda to 2015, the conclusion of the BiCentennial;
- received encouragement from Gordon Boyd, BiCentennial Chair, for all parish organizations to participate fully in events and programs currently under review;
- learned from Hillary Tucker [Christian Education Commission] about plans for September's opening of Church School, which will include a family picnic, calendar, and in the introduction of offering envelopes to all children who participate;
- noted joyfully that pledge income had increased since last month [\$10,000], a consolidation of all accounts at Adirondack Trust was about to occur, \$6,000 has been paid against our Diocesan Assessment, and that expenses exceeded income by \$3,800;
- accepted Mark Claverie's Property Management report and a proposed inspection of all properties, including the Ensley Estate, and the replacement of all locks;
- heeded Mary Withington's comments regarding a timetable for the Rector's Search and the expansion of her commission;
- identified with the Stewardship Commission's need to create an updated giving list and its plans to re-do this year's efforts in May/June; and
- scheduled a special meeting of the Bethesda congregation on Ascension Day, May 17, following Mass and Pot Luck Supper, with three agenda topics: current parish finances and stewardship, the BiCentennial, and Rector Search.

Mark Griffin, *Clerk*

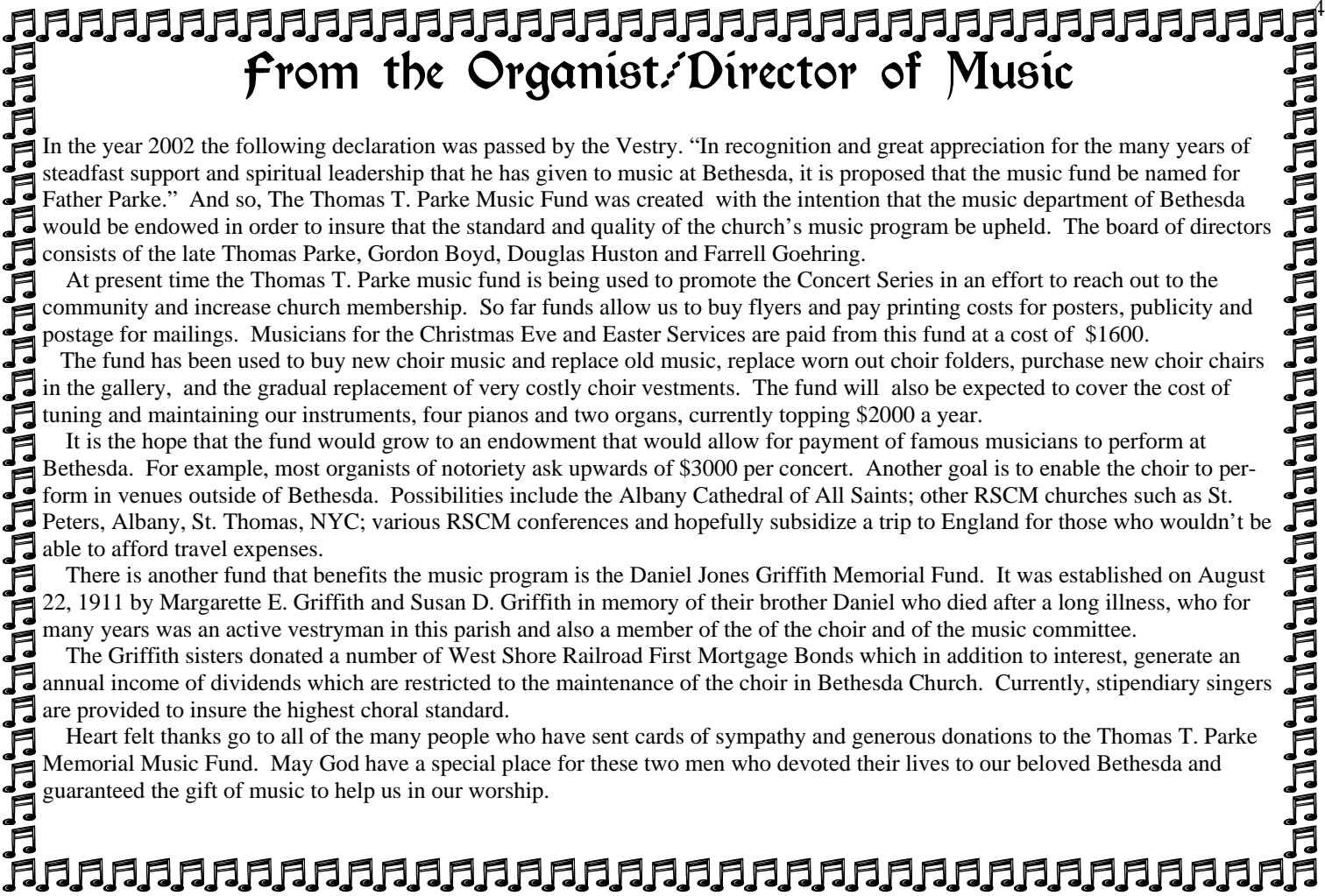
THE VESTRY REPORTS

Condensed Minutes

At its meeting on April 18, 2012, the Vestry of Bethesda Church

- began with devotions led by Mark Griffin, Clerk;
- amended Minutes from the previous meeting of March 21, 2012;
- welcomed the Interim Rector's Report, noting Bethesda's superb Holy Week observances and the outstanding attendance on Easter Day, a gift of \$25,000 from Mary Lou Whitney, designated for the Building Fund only, and plans for the special meeting of the congregation on Ascension Day;
- noted Senior Warden Doug Huston's reminder of June's Diocesan Convention in Speculator and a review of contents from a recently opened safe-deposit box at Bank of America, which has now been closed;
- learned from Gordon Boyd, BiCentennial Chair, that Easter of 2014 would be the expected date for release of a Parish History, for which candidates for editor are being solicited and interviewed, and that a logo design for communications will soon be underway;
- received concerns from Hillary Tucker [Christian Education Commission] regarding Church School, staff, and future direction;
- noted thankfully that pledge income had increased yet again to a new level of \$133,000, that frustration exists with regard to the implementation of Quick Books and delays in receiving updated information, that since March 16 expenses exceed income by \$11,122, that \$12,000 was designated as seed money for BBC [Bethesda Bicentennial Commission];
- understood of Leisa Brockett's plans to review samples of employee job descriptions, letters of agreement, salary reviews and compensation benefits
- acknowledged Mark Claverie's Property Management report that a locksmith review of the church and parish house is forthcoming;;
- revisited the agenda for a special meeting of the Bethesda congregation on Ascension Day, May 17.

Mark Griffin, *Clerk*



From the Organist/Director of Music

In the year 2002 the following declaration was passed by the Vestry. "In recognition and great appreciation for the many years of steadfast support and spiritual leadership that he has given to music at Bethesda, it is proposed that the music fund be named for Father Parke." And so, The Thomas T. Parke Music Fund was created with the intention that the music department of Bethesda would be endowed in order to insure that the standard and quality of the church's music program be upheld. The board of directors consists of the late Thomas Parke, Gordon Boyd, Douglas Huston and Farrell Goehring.

At present time the Thomas T. Parke music fund is being used to promote the Concert Series in an effort to reach out to the community and increase church membership. So far funds allow us to buy flyers and pay printing costs for posters, publicity and postage for mailings. Musicians for the Christmas Eve and Easter Services are paid from this fund at a cost of \$1600.

The fund has been used to buy new choir music and replace old music, replace worn out choir folders, purchase new choir chairs in the gallery, and the gradual replacement of very costly choir vestments. The fund will also be expected to cover the cost of tuning and maintaining our instruments, four pianos and two organs, currently topping \$2000 a year.

It is the hope that the fund would grow to an endowment that would allow for payment of famous musicians to perform at Bethesda. For example, most organists of notoriety ask upwards of \$3000 per concert. Another goal is to enable the choir to perform in venues outside of Bethesda. Possibilities include the Albany Cathedral of All Saints; other RSCM churches such as St. Peters, Albany, St. Thomas, NYC; various RSCM conferences and hopefully subsidize a trip to England for those who wouldn't be able to afford travel expenses.

There is another fund that benefits the music program is the Daniel Jones Griffith Memorial Fund. It was established on August 22, 1911 by Margarette E. Griffith and Susan D. Griffith in memory of their brother Daniel who died after a long illness, who for many years was an active vestryman in this parish and also a member of the of the choir and of the music committee.

The Griffith sisters donated a number of West Shore Railroad First Mortgage Bonds which in addition to interest, generate an annual income of dividends which are restricted to the maintenance of the choir in Bethesda Church. Currently, stipendiary singers are provided to insure the highest choral standard.

Heart felt thanks go to all of the many people who have sent cards of sympathy and generous donations to the Thomas T. Parke Memorial Music Fund. May God have a special place for these two men who devoted their lives to our beloved Bethesda and guaranteed the gift of music to help us in our worship.



ASCENSION DAY AT BETHESDA **Thursday, May 17th**

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga Springs

6:30 p.m. Solemn Eucharist
Pot Luck Supper
Special Meeting of the Congregation
Nursery Care will be provided.

May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>6 THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 8am Holy Eucharist 10am Choral Eucharist 3pm Evensong</p>	<p>7 FERIA</p>	<p>1 SAINT PHILIP & SAINT JAMES, APOSTLES</p>	<p>2 Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria 9am Home of the Good Shepherd, Wilton 12:10pm Holy Eucharist with healing</p>	<p>3 The Finding of the Holy Cross 9am Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga Springs</p>	<p>4 Monica, Mother of Augustine of Hippo, Abstinence Dispensed</p>	<p>5 Conversion of St. Augustine</p>
<p>13 THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Rogation Sunday) <i>Mother's Day</i> 8am Holy Eucharist 10am Choral Eucharist</p>	<p>14 Pachomius, Abbot (Rogation Day)</p>	<p>8 Dame Julian of Norwich</p>	<p>9 Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishop of Constantinople 9am Home of the Good Shepherd, Wilton 12:10pm Holy Eucharist with healing</p>	<p>10 FERIA 9am Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga Springs</p>	<p>11 FERIA Abstinence Dispensed</p>	<p>12 BVM on Saturday</p>
<p>20 THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY 8am Holy Eucharist 10am Choral Eucharist</p>	<p>15 FERIA (Rogation Day) Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>16 FERIA (Rogation Day) 9am Home of the Good Shepherd, Wilton 12:10pm Holy Eucharist with healing</p>	<p>17 ASCENSION DAY 9am Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga Springs 6:30 p.m. Solemn Eucharist Pot Luck Supper & Special Meeting of the Congregation <i>Nursery Care will be provided.</i></p>	<p>18 FERIA Abstinence Dispensed</p>	<p>19 Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury</p>	<p>26 Augustine, First Archbishop of Canterbury</p>
<p>27 THE DAY OF PENTECOST: WHITSUNDAY 8am Holy Eucharist 10am Choral Eucharist Holy Baptism</p>	<p>21 FERIA</p>	<p>22 FERIA</p>	<p>23 Vincent of Lerins, Priest 9am Home of the Good Shepherd, Wilton 12:10pm Holy Eucharist with healing 7pm Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>24 Jackson Kemper, First Missionary Bishop in the United States 9am Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga Springs</p>	<p>25 Bede, the Venerable Priest, and Monk of Jarrow Abstinence Dispensed</p>	<p>31 THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 9am Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga Springs</p>

Vacation Bible School



When: July 9th-13th

Time: 9:30am-12:30pm

Who: Ages 3-11 (students);

Ages 12 and up (volunteers)

Questions: Call or email Jessica Senecal
584-5980 or bethesdabee@yahoo.com

For more information and to register visit
<https://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/bethesdachurch>

You can also register by filling out a form in the Church

ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

Benefit for local pet shelters--Donation of new
or gently used pet supplies for
dogs, cats, bunnies, birds, fish, guinea pigs. Items include:

TOWELS, BLANKETS, BEDS, TOYS, BOWLS,
LEASHES, COLLARS, GROOMING BRUSH-
ES, FOOD

KIDS’ QUEST NEWSLETTER

Kids’ Quest students have been very busy. Every year during Lent, we perform various service activities. This year our Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders participated in the “Chore Card” program. Each child chose a chore to be performed daily at home. Parents “paid” 25 cents for each chore completed, and we collected over \$20 for a total of 80 chores performed by our young students. Our 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th graders took charge of the Children’s Clothing Drive and delivered dozens of bags of clothing to various drop boxes around town.

Later this spring, our 6th and 7th graders will host a benefit for local animal shelters-they will collect donations of new or gently used pet supplies. More information is found in the announcement.

Easter is such an important time, and our students experience it in very different ways. The youngest students look forward to egg hunts and bunnies while the high school kids begin to contemplate the miracle of resurrection. Before Holy Week, Dean Vang spoke with the students in our beautiful Children’s Chapel. He explained the tradition of travelling the Stations of the Cross, then teachers guided their students through the Stations with age-appropriate explanation and prayers.

The BYG held another fun filled Lock In on Maundy Thursday, keeping the watch during the Good Friday vigil. These high schoolers will be prepared by Fr. Vang and Tracy Parke for their confirmation in the fall.

We look forward to an active exciting spring for our children. Please try to bring them weekly so they can join in on the fun at Kids’ Quest!

We are here FOR THE KIDS!



*** FR. PARKE MEMORIAL GARDEN**

* Plans for the garden are well underway. We began last fall with a small ground-breaking in the side yard of the Parish House. So far there are dozens of daffodils blooming and a small evergreen shrub, but there is much more to come. This season, we hope to install the wrought iron fencing around the yard, to prepare the next bed and plant a dozen perennials. Eventually, we hope to create a “Garden Committee” who will tend the garden.

* Kids’ Quest recent bake sale raised money for plants and soil preparation. We will visit several nurseries in Saratoga Springs to ask for donated perennials or supplies. One generous parishioner has come forward to offer to pay for the fencing.

* We plan to expand the garden annually, one bed at a time. The children will continue to make stepping stones for a commemorative walk way; we hope to have at least one bench installed as a place for reflection, and we would like a dedicated plaque with Fr. Parke’s name and dates. This will be a beautiful memorial and a special place for all of us to enjoy.



Eleison

*Bethesda Episcopal Church
41 Washington Street
Saratoga Springs, New York 12866*

May

Return Service Requested

Dated Material

Ways to get involved at Bethesda....

Usher or present elements during the 10am service—please speak with Tom Moeller

Acolyte during the 10am service—please speak with Matthew Griffin

Read a Lesson during the 10am service—please speak with Katrina Keech

Treble Choir or Adult Choir during the 10am service—please speak with Farrell Goehring

Coffee Hour help after the 10am service—please speak with Kristina Delbridge

Bethesda Bees (Pre-k Program) or Nursery—please speak with Jessica Senecal

Church School (Kng.—12th grade) after the 10am service—please speak with Denise Limoli

Youth Group grades 7th-12th—please speak with Tracy Parke

Service League—please speak with Paul Ruzicka

Bellringers—please speak with Fr. Evans

Prayer Shawl Ministry—Please speak with Sherryl Moore