

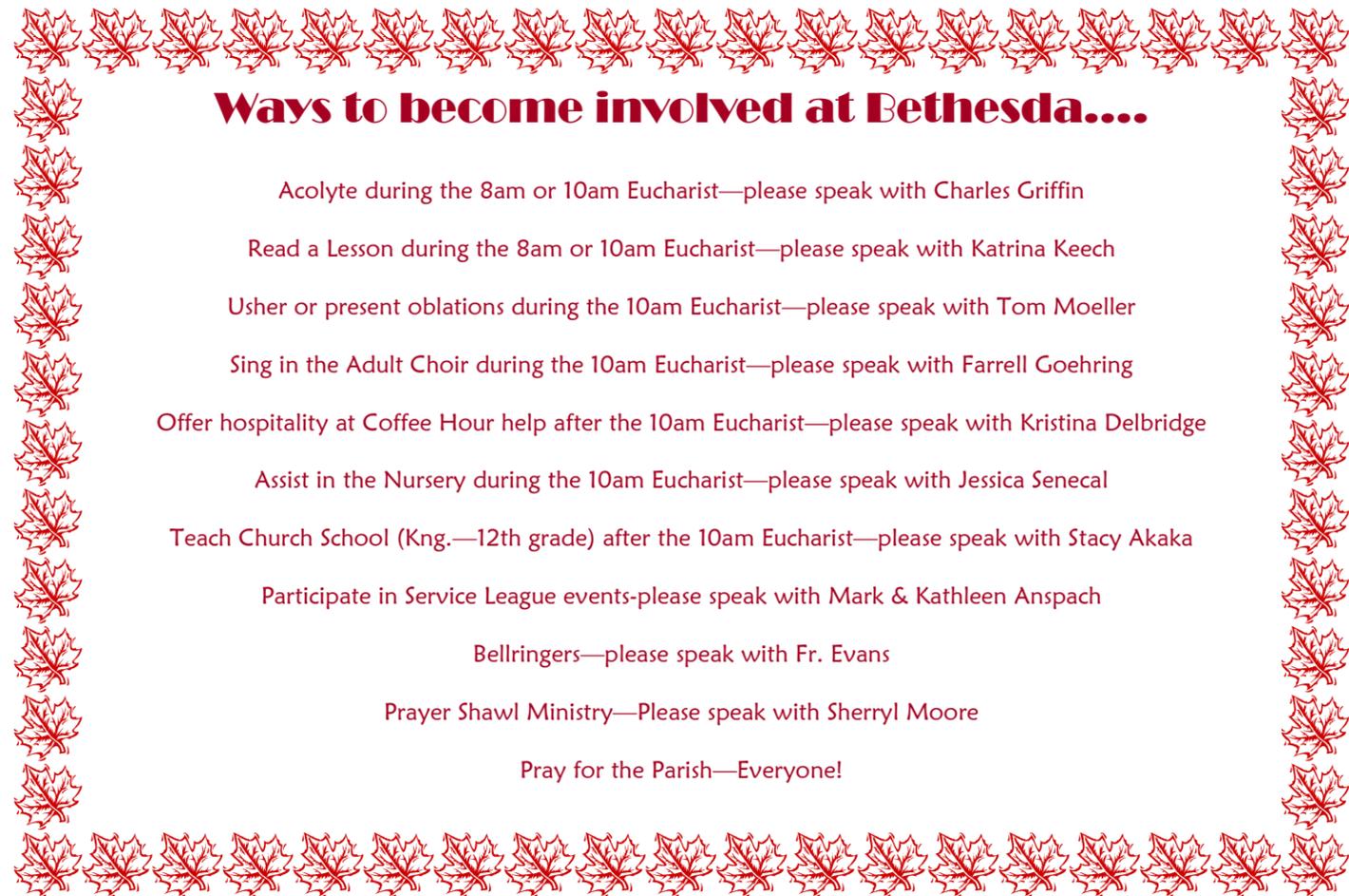
Eleison

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

September

Return Service Requested

Dated Material



Ways to become involved at Bethesda....

Acolyte during the 8am or 10am Eucharist—please speak with Charles Griffin

Read a Lesson during the 8am or 10am Eucharist—please speak with Katrina Keech

Usher or present oblations during the 10am Eucharist—please speak with Tom Moeller

Sing in the Adult Choir during the 10am Eucharist—please speak with Farrell Goehring

Offer hospitality at Coffee Hour help after the 10am Eucharist—please speak with Kristina Delbridge

Assist in the Nursery during the 10am Eucharist—please speak with Jessica Senecal

Teach Church School (Kng.—12th grade) after the 10am Eucharist—please speak with Stacy Akaka

Participate in Service League events—please speak with Mark & Kathleen Anspach

Bellringers—please speak with Fr. Evans

Prayer Shawl Ministry—Please speak with Sherryl Moore

Pray for the Parish—Everyone!



Eleison

The Newsletter of Bethesda Episcopal Church
41 Washington Street
Saratoga Springs, New York 12866
584-5980
www.bethesdachurch.org
September 2013

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

FROM THE RECTOR'S STUDY

My dear People and Friends of Bethesda:

Summer in Saratoga resurrects a vocabulary redolent of the race track, an impressive venue of entertainments, and an invasion of tourists. Choosing a line from the track – “There they are at the starting gate...” – let me acclaim: “There is Bethesda, at the starting gate, and it’s beginning to open.” You are entitled to an informative explanation.

At its meeting on Wednesday, August twenty-first, the Vestry of Bethesda Church unanimously voted to accept a contract for the purchase of the Parish Hall at 41 Washington Street. Before this action is fully realized, it is now necessary to secure the approval of the Bishop and Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany. Once obtained, then the process of closure begins. And so do new opportunities, new dreams, for our future, to be offered in the Holy Name of Jesus.

The parish will receive \$1,150,000.00 minus commission for the sale of this property, a handsome figure in today’s realty market. The purchaser, the owner and developer of the Adelphi Hotel on Broadway, intends to restore historically the current edifice and configure it as an annex of the hotel with conference rooms, and other amenities. [Personally, I rejoice that there will not be yet another apartment/condominium conversion in our very midst, a process that would delay the timely closure of the sale significantly.] Moreover, he desires to work in cooperation with us as we effect a transition of office and church school activities to the Rectory.

Many challenges now await us in order to operate from 23 Washington Street in January of 2014. The mind easily wanders in a multitude of directions as one fathoms such an undertaking. An estimate of costs to prepare the Rectory for administrative-style occupancy will be received shortly. Transferring furniture, office equipment, and musical instruments, will consume both energy and time. Securing a storage facility, and of what dimensions, will need to be determined. Professionals will be required to remove the two stained glass windows near the stairwell at 41. And much more.

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REGULAR SCHEDULE:

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

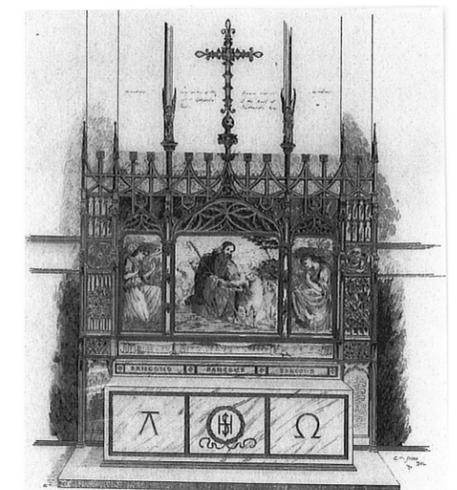
9:45-12 Noon Nursery care provided in
Parish House

Tuesday 6:30 p.m.—Holy Eucharist

Wednesday 9:15 a.m.—Holy Eucharist at
Home of the Good Shepherd Wilton

Wednesday 12:10 p.m.—Holy Eucharist
with Healing

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



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT BETHESDA

SUNDAY ADULT FORUM

Beginning September 15 at 11:30, the Adult Forum returns to our Sunday morning schedule. Grab a cup of coffee and learn about our Christian faith and heritage. On occasion information regarding parish life will be presented. Please encourage your friends to attend.

TUESDAY EVENINGS IN THE CHURCH

October 1 – November 5

6:30 P.M. Holy Eucharist
7:00 P.M. What do Episcopalians really believe?

*Holy Trinity, Holy Scripture, Holy Sacraments, Holy Church,
Prayer, Ministry and Mission*

From the Rector's Study—continued from page 1

Please know that I have spoken with the steering committee of Alcoholics Anonymous regarding the sale of the Parish Hall. An immediacy now exists for AA's leadership to identify and secure a space for their meetings in 2014 and beyond. Each of us is aware how influential Bethesda has been to the availability of this outreach to our community. They will depart, but only temporarily, with our blessing. We want our friends to return, but next time to a facility in compliance with proper codes and accesses.

Indeed, the gate is open. It is expedient that an architect be engaged to conceive designs for an edifice from which Bethesda will serve Our Lord and the City of Saratoga Springs with a renewed commitment and vigor. Such an individual has been identified, a nationally-acclaimed figure renowned for his knowledge and expertise with churches designed by Bethesda's architect, Richard Upjohn. He knows our church building well. I shall look forward to welcoming back in September John Waite of Albany and New York City.

Most faithfully and cordially,

The Very Reverend Marshall J. Vang
Interim Rector



My, how summer has flown by! A huge THANK YOU to all of those who contributed to making this year's summer "Lemonade Social" after the 10 o'clock service a success. It is a wonderful time for us to all get to know one another a little better and we were blessed to have such wonderful weather all season! Fall will find our traditional coffee hour after the 10 a.m. service back in the Parish House. It is such a wonderful opportunity to connect with old friends and welcome new faces. Please stop by if you haven't before or just haven't been taking the time to do so. If you are a regular, please extend the reminder to any new faces you see sitting around you and to those you know who haven't been coming by. If you can't stay the whole time, you may find that a quick cup of coffee and a few smiles from those who share in the same faith is just what you need to start your week off right! For those of you who are already planning to volunteer this year- Thank you!! And for you who want to get more involved, please call Kristina Delbridge, 518-321-9006, to find out more information. Many hands make light work and help is always appreciated!

You may have noticed that the overgrowth in the lot next to the church has been cleared away and grass seed sown. The lot looks so much better now. But what you may not know is that one of our parishioners, Tom Remington, keeps that area mowed as well as the lot next to the parish house. Do you like to garden? Or trim bushes? Maybe you are handy with plumbing or carpentry? How about cleaning? If you can give a little time please contact me, Mark Claverie at 584-1921 and let me know what you can do. Any amount of time that you can give is very much appreciated.

THE GIVING CIRCLE, a local non-profit, is sponsoring a benefit in the Saratoga Springs Presbyterian-New England Congregational Church Fellowship Hall (24 Circular Street) on Saturday, September 21st, from 8am-10am. The breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, and beverages, with all the proceeds going to local needy farmers. To the extent possible, food will be purchased from local farmers. The cost is \$10 a person or \$25 a family (parent(s) and their children). All tickets will be purchased at the door the day of the event. Payment may be by cash, check, or credit card. Helping local farmers the day of the Farm Aid concert at SPAC is fitting. Farm Aid not only helps a struggling group within our country but also promotes stewardship of the land and financially supports the production and marketing of local quality food. Please support this worthy cause.

The deadline for the **October Newsletter** will be **September 15TH**. Please submit material to the office by this date. You can email it to bethesdabee@yahoo.com. Thank you for your cooperation.

LOOK AHEAD
Sunday, December 22nd after Coffee Hour, we will be decorating the Church for Christmas. For more information call the Church Office at 584-5980.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8am Holy Eucharist 10am Sung Eucharist	2 The Martyrs of New Guinea 8pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall	3 Feria 12pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall 6:30pm - Holy Eucharist High Altar 7:30pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall 9pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall	4 Paul Jones, Bishop and Peace Advocate 12:10pm Holy Eucharist with healing	5 Feria 9am Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga Springs	6 Feria 11am-AA Meeting, Parish Hall 9pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall	7 BVM on Saturday
8 THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8am Holy Eucharist 10am Sung Eucharist Service League Meeting during Coffee Hour	9 Constance, Nun and her Companions 8pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall	10 Alexander Crummell, Priest, Missionary, and Educator 12pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall 6:30pm - Holy Eucharist High Altar 7:30pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall 9pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall	11 Feria 12:10pm Holy Eucharist with healing	12 John Henry Hobart, Bishop of New York 9am Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga Springs 1pm Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting, Parish Hall	13 Cyprian, Bishop and Martyr of Carthage 11am-AA Meeting, Parish Hall 9pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall	14 HOLY CROSS DAY
15 HOLY CROSS 8am Holy Eucharist 10am Solemn Eucharist with Holy Baptism October Newsletter Deadline	16 Ninian, Bishop of Gallogway 8pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall	17 Hildegard of Bingen 12pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall 6:30pm - Holy Eucharist High Altar 7:30pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall 9pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall	18 Edward Bouverie Pusey, Priest 9:15am Home of the Good Shepherd, Wilton 12:10pm Holy Eucharist with healing	19 Theodore of Tarsus, Archbishop of Canterbury 9am Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga Springs	20 John Coleridge Patteson, Bishop of Melanesia, and his Companions, Martyrs 11am-AA Meeting, Parish Hall 9pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall	21 SAINT MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST
22 THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8am Holy Eucharist 10am Solemn Eucharist with Holy Baptism	23 Feria 8pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall	24 Feria 12pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall 6:30pm - Holy Eucharist High Altar 7:30pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall 9pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall	25 Sergius, Abbot of Holy Trinity 12:10pm Holy Eucharist with healing 7pm-Vestry Meeting, Parish Hall	26 Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop of Winchester 9am Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga Springs	27 Feria 11am-AA Meeting, Parish Hall 9pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall	28 Feria
29 SOLEMNITY OF MICHAELMAS 8am Holy Eucharist 10am Solemn Eucharist	30 SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS 8pm-AA Meeting, Parish Hall					

Endowment Fund Established by Vestry

As brother and sister Christians, we have a responsibility to consider the church to be part of our family. It is appropriate, therefore, that we consider the long term financial needs of the church along with our own.

Accordingly, the Vestry June 27, 2013 established a General Endowment Fund to manage gifts, bequests and long term investments of the parish, in conformance with state and federal law. The setup of the Fund follows a model developed by the Episcopal Church Foundation, tailored to the special needs and priorities of Bethesda. Here are the key elements:

- An Endowment Committee, appointed by the Vestry, will manage the fund. Vestry appointments to the Endowment Committee will be announced in the coming weeks. The Committee will be responsible for developing and adhering to its policies, reporting to the Vestry quarterly, and to the parish annually.
- A Gift Acceptance Policy will provide guidelines for the solicitation or acceptance of gifts, whether they are received in cash, securities, real estate, life insurance, personal property or deferred gifts, such as from charitable gift annuities.
- A Donor Designated Fund policy will cover gifts of \$25,000 or more where the donor, with Vestry approval, desires the initial gift to be dedicated to a specific purpose.
- A Disposition of Bequests Policy will govern assets transferred upon the death of the donor, whether in cash, securities, personal or real property.
- A Spending Rule policy will determine what percentage of invested assets managed by the Fund can be made available for distribution each year. State law now provides the percentage to be of the total market value of the invested assets, based on a multi-year rolling average.
- An Investment Guideline will be adopted by the Committee to guide the investment managers of the Fund, a team at Merrill Lynch.

The Vestry adopted this program in order to provide a practical legal framework for accepting gifts and managing assets long term. Parishioners wishing to include Bethesda in their wills now have an opportunity to do so with confidence that the endowment will be managed in full conformance with law and good practice.

More details on the specifics of the Fund and the basic guidelines are available by contacting Dean Vang or Gordon Boyd.

Discernment Process Continuing

A million thanks are in order for the participation of so many parishioners in the June discernment meetings. A million more go to the hosts, hostesses, facilitators, recorders and vestry members who attended and made the meetings such an enriching experience for Bethesda.

The initial results were posted on the display board in the Narthex in July. But there is more yet to come.

Beginning in September, a round of discernment meetings will be held with the standing ministries of the parish: Altar Guild, Music, Christian Education, Office, etc. It is important to have the focus of these ministries on our future facility needs. Finally, we will undertake a "community audit." These meetings will be held with community organizations outside Bethesda to discern how we can better meet the needs of Saratoga Springs. We anticipate meeting with city government, downtown merchants and other business groups, others who serve the needy or homeless, etc.

Whatever shape and capacity our new Parish House takes, we want it to be seen as an asset not only for Bethesda, but for all Saratoga Springs. That is why these meetings are so important.

Participation is encouraged. If you have ideas or time to devote to these processes, please contact Gordon Boyd.

WELCOME TO BETHESDA'S CHURCH SCHOOL

Registration for this year's Christian Education offerings will take place in the Parish Hall immediately following the ten o'clock Liturgy, on September 8.

Registration forms are also available on our website. Click Newsletter, ELEISON.

Church School classes begin on Sunday, September 15, which will be kept as the Solemnity of the Holy Cross.

For further information, please contact the Parish Office.

SERVICE LEAGUE PLANNING MEETING

Please plan to **join us Sunday, September 8th, in the Parish House kitchen during Coffee Hour** to help plan Service League activities for the coming fall and winter. Newcomers are welcome and encouraged to join in the fun. Bring your ideas for outreach activities, fellowship gatherings, and fundraising projects. Call Kathleen or Mark Anspach (583-3549) if you have any questions.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will resume on Thursday, September 12th at 1pm in the Parish House. The Prayer Shawl invites others to join this fun fellowship. We knit and crochet shawls, lap blankets, and baby blankets for Baptism. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month.

If you would like more information, please call Sherryl Moore at 583-1215 or Suzanne Bishop at 587-3822.

Bethesda Building Fund Party

The response to the Building Fund Party on August 5th was overwhelming. Tom Sullivan and Beth Pachter, photographers, caught candid and posed shots of guests arriving.

One hundred twenty people anticipated the arrival of Marylou Whitney and John Hendrickson, the honorary chairs of this event. They both are gracious, enthusiastic, and supportive and it is so rewarding to see how important Bethesda is in many of our lives. There also were responses from twenty six families with a contribution but were unable to attend.

Rich and David DeVall, violin and piano, provided the most distinctive atmosphere. The surprise appearance of Peter, traveling from Baltimore and seeing his sister Jeanne support how the Church influences all generations.

Many thanks go to the numerous volunteers addressing and stamping 650 invitations, working the registration table, and the men who so willingly moved the piano over to the Saratoga Golf and Polo Club and then back to the Rectory.

The gross total as we meet the deadline for *Eleison* is \$58,795.00 after expenses we were able to deposit \$51,618.00 into the Building Fund account, \$6,500 more than in 2012

Working towards the goals of this event is certainly a rewarding thankful experience. Next year's Building Fund Party is already underway and will probably be Monday, August 4th at the Saratoga Golf and Polo Club-So mark your calendar.

The following businesses helped underwrite the Building Fund Party:

- *23rd [and Fourth]
- *Adirondack Trust Company
- *Advantage Press
- *Boyce and Drake
- *Energy Next, Inc.
- *Marshall and Sterling
- *NYS Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO
- *Saratoga Golf and Polo Club
- *Saratoga Veterinary Hospital
- *Stewart's Ice Cream Co.
- *William J. Burke and Sons