

The VOICE

of Bethesda



Fall 2019

LONDON MOORE ORDAINED A PRIEST



By dawn's early light, i.e. about 6 A.M. on August 24, a cheerful band of Bethesda parishioners, friends and family boarded a Yankee Trails motor coach in front of the Ballston Avenue Price Chopper, on a pilgrimage to the Church of St. Mark, Crown Heights, Brooklyn, for the ordination of Landon McCord Moore III to the Sacred Order of the Priesthood.

Bethesda parishioners included Jim McColl, Mary Withington, Nancy and David Wilder, Field Horne, Doug Huston, Diane Huston, Helen and Lewis Bruce, John Vander Veer, Sharon and Gordon Boyd. Also gathered were friends and relatives of Landon's proud mother, Amy Moore, including her mother Maureen Hartman, sisters Lori Hartman and Lisa Bates with her husband Abe Bates, plus Amy's sister-in-law Sheila Skinner and friends Michele Daley and

Jerry Dawson. From Bethesda's extended parish family, members of the late Father Parke's family also journeyed to Brooklyn to bear witness: Allison Parke, daughter-in-law Tracey, daughter Emily and son-in-law Dan.

Making our way through the Williamsburg neighborhood to Crown Heights, from the bus windows we were able to witness the diversity of faiths in New York City, as dozens of Hasidim made their way along the sidewalks to temple, adorned in traditional shawls and hats.

The Church of St. Mark, where Father Moore is now Assistant Rector and teaching in the parish's day school, was established in 1835. It is the largest parish in the Diocese of Long Island. The church building has beautiful woodwork and stained glass windows, including one each depicting Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and Absalom Jones, together providing a fitting setting and heavenly witnesses for Deacon Moore's ordination to the priesthood.

Honoring Landon, the service included three bishops: Diocese of Albany Bishop William Love, who ordained Landon; Long Island Bishop Lawrence Provenzano, the celebrant; and Right Reverend Carl Wright, Bishop of the Armed Forces of the United States, who had met Landon at a recent conference and was invited to take part. Dean Vang, Bethesda's interim rector, lead the Litany for Ordinations. Presenters were The Rev. Thomas Pettigrew (himself a former Bethesdian), The Rev. Christian Wood, Nathaniel Robinson and Gordon Boyd, both of Saratoga Springs.

Preaching was The Rev. Dr. Andrew McGowan, Dean and President of Berkeley Divinity School, who knows Landon well and provided a stimulating message, drawing on scripture and church history, inaugurating Father Moore's ministry.

The service was graced with a wonderful choir, organ accompaniment, and soloists, as well as a congregation of singers making a joyful noise! The service fell on the Feast of St. Bartholomew the Apostle and was rich in ceremony conveying meaning. Hymns, selected by Father Moore, included "For All the Saints," "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus," "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus," "Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending," "Come With Us O Blessed Jesus," and "Praise To The Lord, The Almighty." At the offertory the choir sang a moving arrangement of the spiritual "Order My Steps" with soloist and choral responses.

Landon, the object of so much ceremony, adulation and mild teasing, went through it all with a calm dignity and focus. If he was at all nervous, it did not show. And when at last he blessed the congregation and said a few words, he revealed his wonderful self, even being the object of a joke by Bishop Provenzano, a Yankees fan, about Landon's affinity to the New York Mets.

After the service, everyone enjoyed a sumptuous West Indian buffet on the patio of St. Mark's Day School. St. Mark's parish is a center of West Indian culture in Brooklyn, with members from more than a dozen Caribbean nations. The rector, Rev. Kino Vitet, is, like Landon, a graduate of Berkeley Divinity School at Yale.

Father Moore's mission at St. Mark's will be a blessing to all concerned. He will be assisting the rector, as well as teaching religion to the junior high school students in the day school. A vivid example of the warm relationships he has fostered occurred at the end of the service, when so many people came to the communion rail to receive a blessing from the newest priest in the Episcopal Church. I wish all could have seen the sweet, shining faces of the little boys smiling up at him. His ministry is well under way. A grandmother said to me that she loves the freshness of the energy Father Moore brings to his mission—we at Bethesda know it well.



Landon honoring his mother, Amy.

We wish him Godspeed and congratulations. With love and blessings to Amy and thanks to all his friends and supporters at Bethesda.

Sharon Boyd

Christian Education News

Bethesda's Church School is looking forward to starting the 2019-20 calendar of classes and events! The schedule can be found in the back of the church or on Bethesda's website. New families are welcome to register any-time throughout the year by contacting the church office.

Sara Manny

The Rector Search Update

Only five priests submitted portfolios indicating an interest in becoming the next rector of Bethesda Episcopal Church. The members of the vestry who attended the diocesan convention in June learned that all the parishes that are looking for a new rector are finding very little interest from possible candidates. We suspect that priests may be wary of coming to the Albany Diocese while the bishop is in conflict with the national church.

Before we had gotten very far in the search process, two of the five priests informed us that they had accepted calls to become rector of other parishes. The search committee felt that one of the priests was too inexperienced. We decided to pursue the other two possibilities. The first step was to have two or three members meet with priest. After that meeting, one of the priests decided to remain in his current position. The other remains interested in becoming Bethesda's next rector.

We have just completed the required background check with positive results. The next step will be for the whole vestry to meet with the candidate. I am currently working to schedule that meeting and hope to find a mutually agreeable date before November.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we work to discern whether this candidate is the right priest for Bethesda and whether Bethesda is the right parish for their next ministry.

Kate Berheide, Junior Warden

\$25,000 Memorial Gift from New York Thoroughbred Horsemen Benefits Mercy House

Mercy House's plans to accommodate 22 beds for Saratoga Race Course backstretch workers received a ringing endorsement on July 17 from the New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association (NYTHA) in the form of a gift of \$25,000 toward capital costs, accompanied by high praise for the project.

The gift was conveyed by way of the Backstretch Employee Service Team (BEST) which will lease the 4th floor

accommodations for workers who are in substance use recovery or are recuperating from injury. At the July 16 press conference on Washington Street next to the church, NYTHA Chair Joe Applebaum described the gift as "an initial" one. He and Paul Ruchames, executive director of BEST, praised Bethesda and Mercy House for their mission to provide a place where workers separated from their work can recover, and especially at a location central to the Saratoga Springs community.

Gordon Boyd, president of Mercy House, announced that the board of Mercy House had approved dedicating BEST's fourth floor suite in memory of Rick Violette, a leading Thoroughbred trainer, president of NYTHA for 10 years and a board member for 25. Violette died in 2018 from lung cancer. "Rick Violette set an enduring example for all of us through his care and attention for backstretch workers. We intend to make Rick's example a permanent fixture in downtown Saratoga Springs," Boyd said.

Later the same day, Violette's legacy in racing was highlighted with a memorial race in his honor. The following day, BEST celebrated its 30th anniversary serving the needs of the backstretch, with a breakfast in the clubhouse honoring retired announcer Tom Durkin. About 20 members of Bethesda showed their support for BEST by attending the breakfast.

Keep informed on the development of Mercy House at www.mercyhousesaratoga.org.

Gordon Boyd

Choral Evensong for The Feast of the Dedication of the Church

Sunday, October 6, at 3 o'clock,
sung by the
Schola Cantorum of Bethesda
Church.

From the Interim Rector's Study

My Dear People and Friends of Bethesda:

During this past Lent, we awaited anxiously as the High Altar Reredos underwent cleaning and restoration. On Easter Eve the veils were lifted, and we beheld one of Bethesda's greatest art treasures in all its glory. The Feast of Christ's Resurrection was indeed special. This undertaking illustrated to the parish how crucial it is to maintain the parish's furnishings in an optimal fashion.

We now move to yet another endeavor: the repair and professional polishing of brass adornments which beautify our liturgical offering on Sundays and weekdays. Two months ago the Churchwardens and Vestry Members sponsored an annual fund-raiser with the specific intention of addressing certain brass memorials in need of attention. The eventual disappearance of some of these objects will soon begin. Their absence will be noticeable. Let me outline for you what O'Connor's Church Goods of Latham has proposed.

Requiring immediate and skilled attention will be the Eagle Lectern, a gift of the Trask family. The desk of the lectern has snapped from its base, making it insecure and a challenge to those who serve as Bethesda's lecturers. Brass polishing over the years, decades in fact, has marred in appearance the base upon which the eagle rests. Directly above the lectern is a lantern which, because of its awkward placement, makes regular cleaning dangerous at best. While these items are being professionally packed and then shipped to Chicago, a wooden lectern will be put in place near the Rood Screen, together with microphone and lighting. [A color photograph of the Trask Memorial can be found on page 185 of our parish history.]

Next on the agenda will be the repair and re-conditioning of the four brass candlesticks at the High Altar. Dented and missing pieces of ornamentation, these will be sent out in pairs and returned in pristine condition. Candle sockets will be replaced to guarantee equality of size and ease of care for the Altar Guild and our Sexton.

A furnishing posing the greatest challenge at the moment is the Communion Rail at the High Altar. As many of you notice week by week, dents in the brass appear in each of the six sections of the rail. I hope to receive further information from O'Connor's very soon so this task can be completed in a timely manner.

The goal for welcoming back the above items is Advent Sunday. Please know that there are other brass articles that will require attention. If you have any questions about this project or would be interested in making an offering to further the cause, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Most cordially and gratefully,



The Very Reverend Marshall J. Vang
Interim Rector

Stewardship

The 2020 stewardship campaign will begin soon. Vestry members will be making presentations during services, and pledge cards will go out in November.

Parish Finances

Weekly averages	
June pledge & plate	\$10,589
July pledge & plate	\$ 4,053
August pledge & plate	\$ 8,687*
Three-month average	\$ 7,993*
To meet budget in 2019	\$ 5,000

*These amounts are high due to large annual gifts made all at once

The Door Project

A wonderful priest I knew well, Fr. Herbert Sanderson, once visited the Anglican Cathedral in Montreal. He took some fine photographs, one close-up in particular of a gargoyle. He entitled that photo, "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You!"

We have a very fine church edifice and, if its exterior architecture is magnificent, the interior reredos, high altar, and fittings are even more so. But most Saratogians have no idea what is inside. The street front is fortress-like, massive stone with few windows. And for a number of years

the main doors have been non-functional.

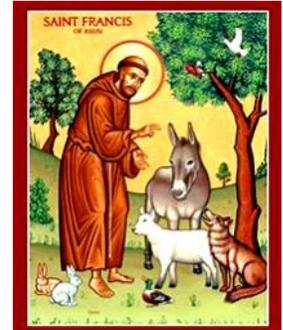
In 2018 the church garden party receipts were designated for the doors, and at last that project will begin in October. The exterior doors will be refinished and re-hung using the impressive hardware. United States and Episcopal Church flags will be hung and lighted above the doors.

On the inside, and this is what we hope will help create greater interest in our parish, the center pair of the three double doors will be replaced with plate glass. (The historic wooden doors will be incorporated in our new building.) This glass door will be lockable, so that during business hours and when someone is present, the outer doors can be thrown open, in effect welcoming the community into our midst. *Field Horne*

The Annual Blessing of Pets

**Saturday,
October 5
11:00 a.m.
Bethesda
Churchyard**

**Invite your
friends!**



New Parish Office

As many of you know we have relocated the church office. The new location is quiet and much larger with rooms for meetings. There is also an occasional bunny, plenty of birds, a cat and sometimes a roaming dog. Please come visit us at 96 Ballston Ave. We are across the street from the Price Chopper in the back of the Ginley & Gottman Law firm building.



Bethesda Episcopal Church
43 Washington Street
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

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If you no longer wish to be on our mailing list, please contact the Parish Office at (518) 584-5980.

Weekly Parish Schedule

Sunday

7:30 A.M. Morning Prayer
8 A.M. Holy Eucharist
10 A.M. Sung Eucharist

Tuesday

6:30 P.M. Holy Eucharist

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. (1st and 3rd weeks)
Holy Eucharist: *Home of The Good Shepherd Wilton.*
12:10 P.M. Holy Eucharist with healing, *Transept Altar*

Thursday

9:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist, *Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga*
10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist, *Home of the Good Shepherd Memory Care, Saratoga*

Upcoming Bethesda Celebrations

Saturday, October 5

The Blessing of Pets

Sunday, October 6

Choral Evensong for the Feast of the Dedication of the Church 3 pm. Sung by the Schola Cantorum Reception immediately following.

Sunday, October 13

No church school
