

The Messenger

A COMMUNICATION MINISTRY
OF CHRIST CHURCH,
DUANESBURG, NEW YORK

◆
Summer 2025



Rector's Reflections

A Time to Mend

We are now roughly halfway through the restoration of the church. So, I thought it would be good to reflect on the phrase from the book of Ecclesiastes, "a time to mend".

To mend is to repair or restore something that is broken or damaged; to make good or to bring back to health. To mend can apply not only to buildings, but also to many aspects of our lives.

At Christ Church we are going through a season of making good. It has been exciting to see the restoration progressing, but it has also been challenging to uncover serious issues with the timber framing and to discover asbestos in the windows.

If we apply a season of making good to our personal lives, it might mean taking time to mend broken relationships with God, our families, friends and neighbors. It can also be a

time to uncover and deal with deeper issues, such as pride, greed, anger, indeed any sin that hinders us.

We, as a church, made the choice to mend our church building, as individuals, we also need to make the choice to mend our broken lives. Like the rotted beam in the tower, which needed a complete replacement, some of our more serious issues will require deeper interventions.

With what's left of the summer, take the time to reflect on what might need to be made good. Allow God, not only, to uncover the issues that need to be mended, but also, to let the Holy Spirit restore and bring you back to health.

Restoration is not an easy choice, but a time to mend.

Blessings,

Alistair

In this issue:

Birthdays &
Anniversaries

Joyful Journey
Update

Christ Church
Archives

The Poetry Corner

All Are Able

The Floating
Classroom Photos

Summer Birthdays

8/1 Ed McKinley
 Carol Gregg
 8/8 Emily Denny
 8/11 Kennedry Chandler
 8/12 Mia Moses
 8/14 Nancy Guntert
 8/15 Anna White
 8/18 Jodi Miller
 8/19 Brenda Warner
 8/21 Olivia Munson
 8/22 Curtis Rabideau
 Nora Barker
 8/23 Emma White
 8/25 Theresa Munson
 8/28 Benjamin Barker
 8/29 Laura Fischer
 9/5 CJ Palluti
 9/6 Len'a Dominy
 Rachel O'Brien
 Delany Guntert
 9/7 Zoe Gravina
 9/16 Joey Dominy
 John David Iseman
 9/18 Hannah Doell
 9/22 Barbara Featherstonhaugh



9/25 Bryan Salisbury
 9/28 Curtis White
 9/30 Art Crandall
 Paul Munson, III
 10/3 Jane Weyers
 10/10 Linda Dow
 10/12 David Haberland
 Christine Chandler
 10/14 Denna Olori
 10/15 Judy Breitenstein
 10/16 Michele McKinley
 10/18 Bobby Chandler
 10/22 Bill McHugh
 Amy Walsh
 10/23 Stephanie McKinley
 10/24 Debbie Beach
 Adam Acevedo
 Kathy Ash
 10/27 Bob Chandler
 10/28 Marge Cummings
 Jim Featherstonhaugh
 Chris Wolfe

Summer Anniversaries

8/2 Britt & Hector Elliott
 8/8 Rick & Laura Lucia
 8/10 Steve & Sherry Schrade
 8/22 Bob & Cindy Skala
 8/23 Samantha & John David Iseman
 8/24 Steve & Kathy Ash
 Drew & Carol Gregg
 8/25 Emily & Anthony Denny
 8/30 Laura & John Michael Iseman
 9/10 John & Sandra Weiler
 9/13 Edward & Stephani McKinley
 9/17 April & Mike Kosier
 9/18 Bob & Christine Chandler



9/28 Judith & Glen Doell
 10/2 Phil & Jenna Sayles
 Bruce & Heidi Bonaquist
 10/8 Paul & Theresa Munson
 10/9 John & Joan Langston
 10/13 Brendan & Amy Walsh
 10/24 Denny & Chris Wolfe
 10/30 Lisa & Bill McHugh
 Ryan & Kelly Powers

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

Joyful Journey (for PreK – 5th grade) has a "new look" this year! When Nora, Heather and myself meet early this month the conversation focused on one of consistency and the adults attending the service. So, thinking "outside of the box" Nora suggested Joyful Journey meet from 9:30 – 9:45am each Sunday.

The curriculum is based on **Sermons4Kids** which follows the lectionary for our services. You may ask what is a lectionary? It is basically a list of readings from the Bible appointed to be read at the church service. Besides allowing the adults to attend the service and consistency, it will also prepare the children for the Gospel reading. There will be special lessons which focus on our church seasons, such as Advent.

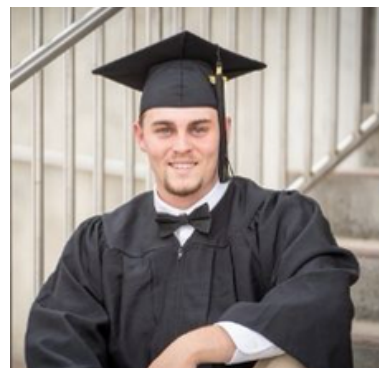
We will be meeting via Zoom Monday evenings to plan for the next Sunday. This "new look" will also allow yours truly to participate each week which I am excited about!

Depending on the activities chosen the children may be kept in one group or split up based on age. Our Safe Church policy requires two non-related adults in the room so we are always looking for volunteers! There are some on-line trainings which have to be completed to volunteer but would love to have others to help us "*Start children off on the way they should go...*". Please see one of us if you are interested.

Joyful Journey starts on September 14th at 9:30am in the preschool room!



Congratulations to Ian, who graduated from SUNY Cobleskill, and CJ, who graduated from Duanesburg who will attend HVCC in the fall!



Vestry Notes from the Past

March 1795

NYS Legislature passed legislation officially incorporating Christ Church Duanesburg. Later that year, Easter week was set as the time for the church's annual meeting and election of wardens and vestry.

April 1848

On Easter Tuesday, the following were elected officers of Christ Church Duanesburgh for the ensuing year: Benjamin M. Duane and Ralph McDougall, Wardens; Warren Fuller, Truman Case, Stephen Fuller, H.P. Allen, Hugh McDougall, George Allen, A.G. Delamater, M.D., Vestrymen.

April 1863

Resolved that \$16 be paid Mrs. Sperbeck for taking care of the church for the year. Resolved that \$4 be paid for blowing the organ. Mrs. C. Case was appointed organist at a salary of \$25 per annum.

April 1895

The annual church meeting was held on Tuesday of Easter week. Alexander McDougall and R.W. McDougall were elected wardens. The former Mott farm which had been deeded to the church and located adjacent to the church on the north side, was sold to William Waddell on contract for \$2100.

April 1937

Galen White, Merle Dunn and William Lynes were elected as delegates to the 69th annual convention of the Diocese of Albany. It was voted to insure St. Peter's Chapel, Delanson, for \$1500 and raise the insurance of the church to \$4000. It was voted also to purchase two fire extinguishers for the church. It was voted that church services would be held on Daylight Saving time this year. It was

voted to wire the church for electricity to the extent of one or two receptacles in the northwest corner of the church, one receptacle by the font and a light fixture in the Vestry room. The question of the non-payment or partial payment of pledges made in the Every Member Canvass was discussed. No action was taken.

April 1943

Rev. Diamond reported that the book of history for the church, authored by Duane Featherstonhaugh, was almost ready for the printers. The Rector asked that Mr. R.W. McDougall and Mr. R.C. Mott assist him in this work so that it could be ready for the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the church was to take place in the church on Sunday, August 29, 1943.



Christ Church Vestry 1932: 1st row sitting, "unknown", Rev. Shelmandine, John Mudge. Standing: William Matthews, Elmer Looman, Ralph McDougall, John Jarvis, Harmon Schrade, Roemyn Schrade (kneeling).

The Poetry Corner

by Camille Crandall



Elderly Reflections

Days have flown by
As they usually seem to do.
Next thing you know,
Like others, old age is now upon you.

The older we get, the more we ponder things of the past,
Sometimes wishing those days would last.
But going back is never the same;
It conjures up a whole new game.

It has been an eventful life
With joys, sorrows; ups and downs.
With tears and laughter,
And emotions that include many smiles and frowns.

Oh no, it can't be; just look at me.
My mind thinks I'm youngish,
But the mirror says I'm foolish
For the reality you see is looking back at me.

I have nothing for which I can complain
I have gone through it all, and I think I'm still sane.
Would I do it all over again?
With the trials and each tribulation?
Well, maybe not all,
Yet they all played a role in my basic foundation.

We can look to the future with much anticipation
By looking for joy in every relation.
Then dwelling on them in deep meditation
To hold them dear as in boundless fixation.





“ALL ARE ABLE”

Mission Statement: To be a resource to the Diocese, so that individuals with disabilities, feel welcome and an active participant in the worship, Christian education and ministries of their parish.

Co-Chairs: Cathy Roy (Cathyroy2007@gamil.com)

Deacon Debbie Beach (runndecac@gmail.com)



Dear Christ Church Family,

As many of you know I have been a physical therapist for over 46 years working primarily with preschool children with disabilities. I retired from full time employment at the Center for Disabilities in June 2023; but supervise the therapeutic pool there one day a week. Like many retirees I did miss the “hands on” part of what I did for so long. So now, I work part time through Spotted Zebra Early Learning Center in Early Intervention (birth to three) and providing evaluations for 3–5 year-olds.

Well, this information somehow made it to Bishop Jeremiah! He asked if I would be willing to co-chair a task force with Cathy Roy, who retired as a school counselor this year, from Christ Church in Ballston Spa.

First, I said “yes” and it is because of my secular background and of Christ Church! Because of Christ Church you may ask? Yes, because over the years I have watched how this church family has accepted those who have autism. It has not been without its challenges but we have all grown personally and as a Christian family.

This population was Bishop Jeremiah’s focus when he talked to me. Although I have much experience working with children who have autism, many consider my area of specialty as with those who have multiple significant needs across all areas of development. Those who may require some degree of specialized equipment to negotiate this world. So, I asked to expand the scope of the task force, for which Bishop Jeremiah was very supportive of, as was Cathy.

I will admit I am nervously excited about this new ministry God has led me too! We are just beginning to lay the foundation of this task force which included developing our name and mission statement (please see above). While children are our starting point, Cathy and I pray the resources this task force develops will also serve all ages with disabilities.

In closing I ask for your prayers for the “All Are Able” task force. Prayers that we all will be open to God’s guidance and be beacons of his love to show that **All Are Able** to participate in worship, **All Are Able** to participate in Christian education and **All Are Able** to participate in the ministries of their parish.

Blessings,
Deacon Debbie

“Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” (Matthew 19:14)

Annual Floating Classroom

Thank you to Heather for coordinating this amazing event in Lake George!



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<p><i>Christ Church is a worshipping community of friends, joyfully serving, encouraging and healing others in Jesus's name.</i></p>	