Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A Blessed and Holy Lent to each and every one of you! Once again, we approach this holy time with great anticipation. Lent is a time of anticipation, a time of preparation and often a time of wonder. We are reminded each year that the word Lent means “to lengthen.” The days grow longer; the sunlight stays with us a few moments more each day; signs of Spring appear.

Lent is also a time to prepare for the holiest day of the church year – Easter. Part of that preparation requires that we pray. Daily prayer is important for all of us. But at this time of year it seems more vital. Prayer is part of our lives as Christians. In many ways, prayer is our life, our most intimate connection to God. I encourage each of you to deepen your prayer lives this season through individual and corporate prayer. I encourage you also to take part in the many educational programs offered in your parish churches. Many churches offer weekly courses in church history of spirituality. Others offer seders or other special events. Taking part in these programs will deepen your experience and serve as yet another way to prepare for Passiontide and the Day of the Resurrection.

Ecumenical Progress

Many of you are already aware of the 2020 Joint Synod. It is only eleven months away. Once again, the Joint Synod will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Atlanta, Georgia. The dates for the Joint Synod are January 13-17, 2020.

The 2017 Joint Synod was memorable, historic and spiritually uplifting. Those of us who were there will never forget the powerful feeling of coming together under the one banner of the Classical Anglican church. Though we were all very impressed by this gathering, Anglican men and women were not alone in their enthusiasm for the progress made in the Joint Synod. Representatives of other churches attended and expressed their enthusiasm as well. One church represented was the Polish National Catholic Church.

The PNCC, as it is often called, was formed in the late Nineteenth Century. Organized
from dioceses and churches that broke away from the Roman Catholic Church over (among other issues) Papal infallibility, the PNCC retains its orthodox beliefs and non-papal structures. Two representatives of the Polish National Catholic Church attended the Joint Synod. This past week, I had lunch with the Very Reverend Rob Nemkovich in Rhode Island. Father Rob, as he prefers to be called, told how he and his bishop traveled to Atlanta to attend the synod. They, like many archdeacons and bishops, attend many such events. They expected that this synod would resemble so many others. What they witnessed far surpassed their expectations and they returned home filled with a spiritual enthusiasm that moved them.

What followed is yet another example of what can happen when we do the work of God faithfully and transparently. Father Rob, his bishop, Bishop Paul, and the other PNCC bishops invited the G-4 bishops to discuss communion possibilities. When the four of us received their letter inviting us to join with the discussions, we rejoiced at yet another opportunity to bring orthodox Christians together.

Our discussions began several weeks ago. Once again, we journeyed to Atlanta. We met at St. Barnabas Church in Dunwoody for two days of very productive talks. There is very little that separates us theologically. There is no intent to absorb either church into the other. Rather, there is a desire in both the G-4 and the PNCC to work together for God's church, God's people and God's work on earth.

Though these talks have just begun, they show great promise. We have become friends in Christ with men and women we had never known before.

The Polish National Catholic Church has 127 parishes nationwide. The PNCC diocese based in New England has eighteen parishes. That is almost exactly how many parishes the ACA has in New England. The number of parishes in New York are roughly equivalent between our jurisdictions as well. What is more astonishing is the fact that there is very little overlap. Where the ACA is strongest in

Anglican Church In America
(a part of the Traditional Anglican Communion)

Diocese of the Northeast

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northern New England, for example, the PNCC is strongest in southern New England. Bishop Paul and I shared maps of our parish locations. We agreed we had the territory pretty well covered.

Please pray for the success of our ecumenical work. May the work of God be accomplished through our labors.

-----

Your Brother in Christ,

+Brian

**Notes from the Secretary**

Warm greetings from me to you as I write this on a cold, blustery, winter evening. It happens to be Valentine’s Day – a day to celebrate not only our love for others, but also our love for the Lord and His love for us.

Thanks to all who have submitted their 2018 annual parochial report. If you haven’t done so, please return the completed form to me promptly (see my address on the report notice or in the NEA directory) so that the diocesan report can be submitted to the National Church on time.

A reminder that voting communicants are those parishioners over 18 years of age who are actively involved in the life of the parish, i.e., regularly attend services, support the parish financially (e.g. tithe, pledge or plate) and participate in church activities, as they are able. Only members meeting these criteria should be counted as voting communicants.

Please include the updated lay reader, vestry and synod delegate sections. Annual meeting dates and parish elections vary throughout the diocese. If your annual vestry elections haven’t been held yet, please update me when the names and contact information are available.

Those of you who have not yet paid 2018 Diocesan and/or National Support are asked to do so without delay.

The Standing Committee met in January and welcomed Casey Grow, a young aspirant who attends Holy Redeemer. Some items of interest follow:

Upcoming Ordinations: Dcn. Mark Black (Priesthood), Dcn. Jim Hogan (Priesthood), David Coir (Diaconate)

Vicars Appointed: Fr. David Leo (Holy Redeemer), Fr. Stephen Rugg (Trinity, VT)

New ACA website is online

The 2019 DNE Synod will be hosted by St. Luke’s, Amherst, September 25-28. Clericus will meet on Wednesday in conjunction with the synod. Workshop topics are under discussion.

The next ACA Joint Synod (G-4) will meet in Atlanta, GA (Crowne Plaza Hotel), January 13 – 17, 2020.

St. Luke’s Camp is tentatively scheduled for August 4 –10, 2019 at Beaver Cross Camp on the grounds of Christ the King Spiritual Life Center in Greenwich, NY. Once confirmed, information and registration forms will be posted online. Help is needed. Contact Fr. Matt for additional information or to volunteer at:

Fr. matt.mirabile@trinity-anglicanchurch.org

or by phone at (office) 603-332-4121 (mobile) 203-243-8050.

-----

Peace, a Blessed Lent, and a Joyous Easter,

Linnea

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Old photo from Fr. Kevin

DNE Clericus - Notre Dame Spiritual Center, Alfred, ME. Winter 1995
Left to Right: Fr. John Heslin (RIP), Fr. Dean Steward, Fr. Angelo D'Ondio (RIP), Br. Kevin LaMarre, O.S.B., Fr. Harold MacEwan (RIP), Fr. William Worzala, DCM David Clark, Fr. James Davis (RIP), Frank Gray (Candidate for Holy Orders), Fr. David Bradley (RIP), & Fr. Stephen Springer
**Around the Diocese**

****Leominster, Mass.****

New Mission in Formation

Fr. Robert Hansen, recently ordained at St. Luke’s, is in the process of organizing a new mission. This letter has been sent out with regard to the organizational meeting:

Dear Brothers and Sisters In Christ,

**INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR FIRST OFFICIAL MEETING: THE NEW ANGLICAN CHURCH**

We cordially extend this invitation to you and your family to come and attend the first open meeting of a new Anglican Church on Saturday 30th of March 2019, starting at 11a.m. Our Lord said, “Where two or three have gathered together in my name, I am there in their midst.” (Matthew 18:20). We are not alone; we are united with each other and with Jesus Christ our Savior. Together, we are the Anglican community in this Northeast Diocese.

Everyone is welcome to join us as we kick off our first opening meeting at 62 Maple Avenue, Leominster.

**Agenda:**
01. Opening Prayer
02. Brief Report
03. Committee for the new Anglican Church
04. The new Anglican Church in Northeast Diocese.
05. Financial support for the new Church.
06. Closing Prayer
07. Adjournment

We look forward to your attendance and participation. Please do not hesitate to give me a call at 978-340-0908 for more details. Your presence will be highly appreciated. Thank you and God bless you.

Yours In Christ,
Fr. Ronald Hansen Priest-In-Charge

**West Seneca NY**

Saint Nicholas Anglican Church

Lenten greetings to you from Saint Nicholas’ Church in West Seneca, NY. We have had an extreme, bitterly cold winter since our last publication – but we didn’t close a single Sunday – Thanks be to God! The events began in December with a visit just before Saint Nicholas Day from our good friends with the Buffalo Silver Band who came to perform for their annual celebration of our patron saint.

Later on in the month a pastor friend from the Anglican Orthodox Church, Fr. Christopher Little, joined us for several Advent, weekday and Christmas celebrations as he and his wife visited their son here in Western New York.

**CHRIST CHURCH Buffalo**

As you probably already know Saint Nicholas shares a church building with the Covenant United Methodist congregation here in Western New York. As their numbers have begun to decrease it was important for us all to find yet another congregation to share our building space.

By the time this newsletter is published we will have welcomed a new Presbyterian Church plant called Christ Church Buffalo and their pastor, Rev. Jim Furey and his wife, Carol. We met Jim through our association with the West Seneca Community of Churches. Having them onboard will help alleviate some of the struggles with keeping a large building lit and with heat. Christ Church Buffalo will be meeting on Saturday nights in our shared sanctuary.

Lent begins this year, as usual, with our Annual Pancake Breakfast with butter-milk pancakes prepared by Fr. Ed and Barbara Ihde and served with WNY maple syrup and honey. What a great way to start a fast!

This year in Lent we will continue our second ‘annual tradition’ of joining in the West Seneca Community of Churches ‘Lenten Journey’, this year themed ‘O for a closer walk with God’ where we will visit each others’ churches during the five Wednesdays in Lent. Fr. Ed will travel to Saint John Vianney Roman****
Catholic Church to give a Lenten homily on March 27th. Pastor Al Robinson (a pastor friend who Fr. Ed met in Israel a few years back) pastor of Spirit of Life Ministries will preach here at Saint Nicholas Church on Wednesday April 3rd. Last year we had approximately 158 visitors. This year we hope to have standing room only for this event.

On a more sobering note, our curate of three years, Fr. Phillip Cunningham, resigned recently as priest in the Anglican Church in America in order to join Saint Luke’s Parish, an ACNA Church in nearby East Aurora. This apparently was a long time coming and we wish him well in this new role for him and his family.

- Fr. Ed Ihde

White River Junction, Vermont
Trinity Anglican Church

I recently watched a detective story based on Agatha Christie’s ten day disappearance from public view. We don’t seem to know a lot about why she voluntarily dropped out of sight, but the drama posed that she had encountered so-called writer’s block and was seeking a remedy for same.

Our illustrious, highly valued, and apparently well travelled editor is merciless in his schedule and insistence of compliance and I must confess to a bit of writer’s block myself just now but I dare not fail him. -------- [Am I THAT bad? ---ed]

Our late-Trinity / Advent / Christmas / Epiphanytide has been leading us once again toward Easter in the yearly living of our lives with our Lord. We’ve done it so many times, but each time it seems new and something different comes to us from it. The rituals are often the same, but we are a year (or more) older and it all means something different each time.

We’ve been challenged throughout these seasons to see and consider several themes presented not only in the Gospels, but also in our Bible study in Hebrews, and also our Advent study of the structure of the mass (which has extended into Epiphany and probably beyond). It is fortunate that we do not get to ask questions during the sermon as we might never get to coffee hour. However, sessions after coffee hour often extend beyond the appointed ending.

The enthusiasm for Fr. Rugg’s teaching has been reflected in the continued attendance of nearly everyone in the parish.

In another initiative, we have taken up Fr. Mirabile’s (of the other Trinity!) advice from two synods ago and have begun work on a new website. We’ve observed, probably like most others, that none of our visitors have come via traditional advertising. We’ve been a bit slow to get on with the task, but, like so many projects, beginning is half done and we are looking forward to a more inviting web presence. --------Alan Wylie

Mechanic Falls, Maine
Transfiguration

DECEMBER/Advent

A Family Christmas Concert was held on Sunday, Dec. 2nd. The Vaillancourt family of five are popular in the Lewiston/Auburn area. They play many musical instruments. Because of a snowy day in Maine it held down attendance. The parents and children are very talented and it was a wonderful afternoon of festive Christmas music. We look forward to the group coming again this December.

Christmas Eve Service began at 4:30pm with a light supper following the service. The service was well attended as was the supper. The church was decorated with fresh wreaths that were made by some of the ladies of the church. Two wreaths were also made for the front doors.

Plans for a New Driveway are underway Two huge trees have been taken down; one on the front lawn and the other at the end of the driveway. Those who attended the Evensong Prayer service at Transfiguration during Synod could see the challenge we face with the lack of adequate parking. We are currently working on another Capital Campaign within the town to help raise the necessary funds to expand our parking for the community and church. We will resume progress on the project once the snow clears in early spring. This will be our last large project since we took over the church building in December 2016. The church has been blessed in accomplishing many improvements in the past two years. Thanks be to God and our member support.

JANUARY

Winter Services are being held downstairs, occupying half of Fellowship Hall. It is set up with a lovely altar, full size organ and rows of chairs arched around the altar. Due to the cold winter, we decided to conserve heating our large sanctuary upstairs to conserve energy.

Ladies New Year’s Luncheon was well attended by church parishioners and the quilting group. Every-
one brought a dish which made for a nice variety on our large buffet table. We also prayed for our organist, Jean for her recovery.

**Our Dear Organist**, Jean Bunnell, had major heart surgery on Monday, January 14th and is slowly on the mend at Maine Med in Portland. Parishioners, family, and friends have been reverently praying for her daily. We wish her a healthy recovery and ask for your prayers as well. Sadly, our singing of hymns do not sound the same without Jean playing them at the organ. Please get well Jean!

**A Proposal for a Lay Leadership Conference** is in the planning stages for the Laity of the Diocese. We have sent a proposal to the Bishop and Mr. Alan Wylie, President of the House of Laity about the possibility of Transfiguration sponsoring and organizing the Leadership conference. It would offer various workshops covering topics like church financial management, marketing, and other business topics to help our member churches operate more efficiently. We have received an initial positive feedback about the idea from the Bishop. He presented the proposal to the Standing Committee and the Bishop mentioned it was well received at their meeting. We will keep you posted as the concept is being developed.

**Yorkie’s Closet** - Many items were brought to Deacon Jim Hogan in Poultney, VT who is moving to a new main street store facility. Fr. Gary Drinkwater and Fr. Jeff Monroe also packed an altar onto Fr. Gary’s trailer. They left very early in the morning on Wednesday, January 15th for a 5 ½ hour trip. Many prayers and blessings be to Deacon Hogan for a successful beginning at the new location.

**FEBRUARY**

**A Shrove Pancake Supper** is planned for Tuesday, March 5th at 6pm in our Fellowship Hall. The menu is pancakes, sausage, bacon, eggs, juice, fruit cup, toast, tea, and coffee. Being in March, we should have a good turnout for the supper with weather permitting.

**St. Patrick’s Day Dinner** - We are beginning to plan our second St. Pat’s traditional corn beef and cabbage dinner for Saturday, March 16th. It was well attended last year and many of our parishioners have asked for us to repeat it again this year. It will be open to the public as well.

**Note Cards** - Our Rector’s Mom, Ruth Drinkwater, 92 years young this January, did a painting of our church building and had it framed. We liked it so much that we had our local printer produce note cards. Very well done with quite a steady hand of perfection. She proudly attends church services when she can.

**Our Annual Meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, February 10th after the Sunday service with a pot luck luncheon to follow. We have had a good attendance through the winter months regardless of the weather. --------Elaine M. Vaill

**Proposed**

**2019 Lay Leadership Conference/Workshop**

As we all know, our Clergy meets three times a year with educational seminars and get togethers that are called “Clericus”. Presently, there are no similar get togethers for the Lay Leadership to learn new tools/exchange ideas to more effectively manage the Business Administration of our Diocese parishes and missions. Therefore, Transfiguration is now proposing to put together a Conference that would cover topics like:

- Effective Church Financial Statements / Accounting Systems
- How to use Accounting Systems (like Quickbooks) more effectively and Budgeting
- Bank Financing (if and when needed)
- Audits (what churches should be doing)
- Fund Raising
- Marketing
- Expense Control/Competitive Shopping
- Capital Campaigns

We would like to know your level of interest in a conference such as we are proposing. We have asked The Bishop for his OK and he has run it by the Standing Committee as well. We have received positive responses about the idea.

**Length of Conference**

We see this to be patterned somewhat like the Clergy Clericus. They gather late afternoon on one day allowing for travel time to the venue. We would have workshops/programs the next day allowing attendees to travel home or they could stay an extra night if they wish. Some could just attend the day’s planned events depending upon distance. It would be our intent to keep the cost low so it would be affordable and would not prevent anyone from attending.

**Timing**

We are thinking of having it in May 2019 (preference May) or in October 2019. This is the very best time to get the best rates for lodging (if necessary) and food.

**Your Input**

If you like the idea and think you would attend, please complete the form below so we can measure the level of interest and come up with more definitive plans. Thank you in advance for considering coming to the Conference.

Thank you in advance. We hope you are as excited as we have been planning for this conference.
Name___________________________________
Position at your Church_____________________
Parish/Mission/Location____________________
I would likely attend   yes______
I would like to see these other topics covered ___________________________________________
________________________________________
I have this area of expertise that I would be willing to share with the group

Please send this back to me:____________________________________________
________________________________________

Barry Vaill   (email:  bcvaill39@gmail.com)
5 West Shore Drive
Otisfield, ME 04270
You can also call me at 207-539-4076

Portland, Maine
St. Paul’s

Winter’s cold has not abated the warm renewal of parish life at Olde St. Paul’s under Father Andrew Faust’s guidance, as we look forward to another year at “the friendly Church on the Hill.”

At long last, the cross is again at the peak of the church’s roof, looking down at the varied throng of people daily passing below it on Congress Street. (This bronze cross had been completely buried in the churchyard for a year, after the heavy coping-stone to which was fastened, toppled from its gable during the windstorm of October 29, 2017.) The symbolism here may not be clear to the seagull who now rejoices to have his convenient perch restored, but we of St. Paul’s—and others who may look up to that cross—should see a reminder of Our Lord’s burial and resurrection.

The word “Resurgam” [Latin, for “I shall rise again!”] is, not only the official motto of this city of Portland, Maine, but has particular relevance to our parish.

The glories of the Anglican musical tradition are constantly being realized in many ways by our organist, Dan Mickool. Not only does the 1875 pipe organ sing out joyfully at his gifted touch, but through his agency, guest instrumentalists and singers come to share their talents with a congregation which loves to ‘make a joyful noise unto the Lord’.

The Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols

filled the Church, and Dan has already announced that there will be a trumpeter among the musicians on Easter Day. We hope that an ongoing program of services and concerts in the unique setting of St. Paul’s will link us with classical music-listeners as well as church-goers in our community.

With perhaps half the Maine winter weather behind us, we have only once had to cancel the Sunday service. But it’s the “little big things” that make a parish run well. The servings of ice cream at coffee hour after the church service [a monthly “Ice-cream Sundae Sunday”] come courtesy of Father Andrew and Brenda, and there is now a donated refrigerator to keep the ice cream cold. In December, the parish hall was the scene of our successful Christmas Fair. That day, parishioners’ talents were on display with handmade articles, quilted items, and baked goods by many of the ladies of the parish. With renewed energy, the parish is planning for a series of fund raisers, including a yard sale with a book-sale component.

At our Annual Meeting on February 3, everyone enjoyed a meal of roast pork, German potato salad, and casseroles, salads, and dessert s, before dealing with the day’s business. The hall was arranged so that everyone could see and talk to the group. Our long-time organist and parish officer, Dr. John Ser rage was voted Senior Warden Emeritus in recognition of his many contributions to St. Paul’s. We look forward to even more improvements in parish life and increased Christian sharing.

----------Shyla Spear

Concord, N.H.
All Saints

The Advent Season is filled with occasions to celebrate the Faith that a secular society has appropriated for its own use. At All Saints in Concord, New Hampshire, the Feast of St. Nicholas on December 6, was celebrated with a ‘Nicholas Tea’ for children of every age. The evening started with a humorous catechesis on the origin of ‘Santa Claus’ and the real persona of St. Nicholas of Myra, a Church Father of the Council of Nicea. Interspersed
A fitting end to the 12 Days of Christmas was the Baptism of two little ones on the Feast of the Epiphany. Madison Elizabeth Goss-Briggs, and John Paul Briggs, III (cousins) were incorporated into the Body of Christ by the Mystical regeneration of Holy Baptism. Their great extended family jammed the church to witness the event, and while adding new faces to the congregation, more importantly two new Saints were added to the Church.

March for Life on January 12, was held at the State Capitol in Concord, New Hampshire. Fr. Christian, who is the Educational Trust Chairman for New Hampshire Right to Life, coordinates the state-wide event. Pro-life supporters gather in the cold to publicly witness to the sanctity of Life. This year hundreds prayed, marched, and honored the memory of the untold thousands of innocents who have been denied life in the womb. Though the yearly commemoration is somber, the faithful who brave the cold, are joyous in their demeanor as prayer and song accompany their march. Every year a reminder is made to “offer blessings” to those that vocally disagree and stand in counter protest with those that march for Life: a visible sign that kindness can be used to conquer hate, and conversion comes from love.

On March 30, All Saints will be offering a forum from 10 AM to 2 PM entitled, LIFE: the greatest Gift. A discussion of current issues and trends. During the Vestry meeting, differing topics for Lenten seminars were discussed, and it was decided to use the talent present. It may be remembered that Jane Cormier is a past president of New Hampshire Right to Life, Fr. Christian is the chairman of the Education Trust Fund of NHRTL, and Joann Sampson, Senior Warden, holds a doctorate in biology. With all the current political intrusion into the Life spectrum, this Lenten offering for the city and diocese was deemed timely and appropriate. The conference is free.

Lenten exercises at All Saints are as follows: All Wednesdays: Mass at 5:30 PM followed by Bible Study, All Fridays: Mass at 5:30 PM followed by Compline and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Please see the website www.allsaintnh.com for more information.

### Northern New England Deanery & Yorkie’s Closet

Frs. Jeff Monroe and Gary Drinkwater traveled to St. David’s in Poultney VT. to deliver furniture and other items to the parish necessary to initiate regular Sunday worship on March 3rd. Dcn. Gary manages Yorkie’s Closet and delivered a "chapel in a trailer" with Fr. Monroe to Deacon Jim Hogan. They also visited with Fr. Alexander Stringer, a WWII vet and retired rector of St. David’s. The parish will be worshipping in a commercial space on Main Street. Our prayers for a successful new ministry.

-----Capt. Jeff Monroe
****Poultney, Vermont****

St. David

Greetings from the slate valley countryside of Poultney, Vermont. By the time of publication we shall be worshipping God at our new location on Main Street right smack in the middle of Poultney village. Since September we have been holding two Sunday afternoon services each month at the local senior center on the edge of town. While the financial cost has been ideal (no charge), we felt the need to have a more visible presence, and have rented a former storefront on very good terms, and from a very gracious landlord. Our new overhead sign is seen every day by Main Street passers-by. A beachhead for Christian truth is being landed.

With our new location, and (starting March 3) administering Holy Communion every Sunday, we trust we are in God’s place and time; praying for the same anointing of the Holy Spirit that all of our parishes need. “Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it” (Psalm 127:1).

Poultney has many needs, spiritual of course being the greatest. But the last few years the village has been hard-hit economically. Once a thriving place, Poultney has seen the loss of the town’s only bank (suddenly just pulled out), a very popular and much-needed discount food store (burned down), the only drug store (could no longer compete with the large pharmaceutical chains), and some other shops which could no longer stay in business. Once a rarity, there are now a number of empty storefronts.

The biggest loss, however, is the imminent closing of Green Mountain College in May. The college is by far the largest employer in town. Economically speaking, nobody wins here. As I get about town these days and sense the pain that is coming up in discussion, I’m able at least to say one storefront is now filled - St. David’s Anglican Church. May it be so that with God’s blessing, St. David’s has come along at just the right time, for the Gospel of Christ is always relevant in every situation of life.

Doors are already opening. In our last newsletter I mentioned being invited to speak on God’s love at a joint Thanksgiving service in town last November. Other opportunities for outreach have also come our way, seemingly out of nowhere (we know what “nowhere” means here, don’t we?). The secretary of the Poultney Area St. David’s Society has taken a shine to us, and there is a connection. Our area has many people of Welsh descent, and the Society exists for the express purpose of furthering interest in Welsh heritage and culture. St. David of course was the first Bishop of Wales, and honored as the patron saint of Wales. I intend to read up more on leeks and daffodils.

This kind woman, on her own initiative, recently approached a local radio station and asked if the station would have me on-the-air for a live interview on St. David’s Day, March 1. She is also circulating any news from St. David’s on the Society website which is visited by hundreds of people with ties to their Welsh heritage and to Poultney in general. Most recently, she has arranged to have news of our March 3 opening put on the website of the Welsh Society of Western New England. We have not asked for any of this.

As for our website, it’s up and running with the able assistance of Bonnie Turner at Good Shepherd Church in Charlestown. Word is getting out in favor of historic Christianity and traditional Anglicanism. Still, none of us are engaged in a merely human endeavor, and I can only repeat the passage, “Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it.”

We feel ourselves so blessed to be part of the Northeast Diocese, not only for website assistance but for everything else we need, in order to get off the ground for Jesus’ sake. Bishop Marsh and everybody in the Diocese have been nothing short of encouraging. Frs. Jeff Monroe and Gary Drinkwater visited in January with what they called “church-in-a-box,” literally a trailer full of assorted Anglican-ware, all courtesy of Yorkie’s Closet. We have experienced the blessing of this ministry first-hand, and I would encourage anyone with the means to do so to contribute to it for the sake of the Gospel.

It was a great time of fellowship unloading things, sorting through what was most needed, my “practicing” the Communion Service (think, migrating Baptist pastor here), lunch together, talking shop...
and having laughs along the way. Last, we paid a visit to our retired priest emeritus Fr Alexander Stringer, who will soon celebrate the 66th (!) anniversary of his Ordination to the priesthood (1953).

Thank you all for your interest and prayers for St. David’s. We have, like yourselves, great needs, but we serve a great God with whom nothing is impossible. “And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life” (1 John 2:25).

-----The Rev. Mr. James R. Hogan
Pastor & Deacon-in-Charge

Extracts from the Welsh Society Publication

Following a successful W A L E S  W E E K  I N  L O N D O N, the founders announced Wales Week Worldwide; a call went out across the globe to Welsh Societies and organisations, asking them to host their own weeks in order to promote Wales’ culture and industry to an international audience.

The Welsh Society of Western New England took on that challenge and Wales Week in New England was born. Other cities also heeding the call are New York, Washington, New Mexico, Los Angeles as well as Ottawa, Canada and Paris, France. It’s actually a two week period, February 23 - March 9, 2019, surrounding the National Day of Wales (St. David’s Day) on March 1st.

M A R . 3  S T .  D A V I D ’ S  A N G L I C A N
C H U R C H  -  V E R M O N T
-  R E S U M I N G  R E G U L A R  S E R V I C E S
I N  P O U L T N E Y  V E R M O N T

The church, at 150 Main St., proudly bears the name of the 6th century patron saint of Wales, recognized by several traditional denominations. A native of Wales, he was responsible for the care of the Welsh Church as its Archbishop.

The March 1st date of his death in 589 became celebrated as his feast day. For more information on St. David’s Anglican Church contact its pastor, Rev. Mr. James Hogan at 802-265-2206.

Halfmoon, New York
St. Thomas of Canterbury

Everyone had laid out his or her finery in anticipation of Bishop Marsh’s visit Sunday, Epiphany II. For once the weatherman called it correctly.

Near zero, a heavy snowstorm, and wind struck Halfmoon. Knowing that our intrepid Bishop would brave the Berkshires we dissuaded him from making the journey. Our congregants persuaded themselves to risk salvation by remaining safely at home. The warden, fearing that a wayfarer might seek shelter from the storm opened the church and put on coffee. But wayfarers, too, stayed home.

A new member, a gentleman not of our tradition, in Bible class, insists upon reading passages assigned to him from the King James version while others of us read from contemporary ones. He reads deliberately, verbally underlining words no longer in common usage. He illuminates the KJV better than does a smooth, skilled reader.

Terry, the wife of our good Father Bassett, who tends to our souls, tends to our stomachs. Good cheese, lo-cal crackers and fruit juice compete with stickies, chocolate and Lisha Kill doughnuts. The spread offers a choice between width and height.

Our priest is away this Sunday, the 17th. We shall read Morning Prayer but with a twist. The Rev. Joshua Michaels, minister of the Seventh Day Baptists who share our church Saturdays, will speak and lead us as we discuss the appointed readings for Septuagesima. And we’ll sing a couple of rousers. Spiritual, intellectual and joyful. Praise the Lord!

----------David Bullard

Waterville, Maine
Holy Trinity Mission

On December 9, 2018 Deacon Kevin Kelly celebrated a deacon’s mass at Woodlands Nursing Home in Waterville.

On January 13, 2019 he celebrated the deacon’s mass for Epiphany, a feast of much symbolic importance. The Magi, as Gentiles likely to be involved in the occult and sorcery were unlikely candidates to be chosen by God for such a significant event. Despite this, and their likely lack of knowledge of Hebrew Scripture, they recognized something unique about our newly born Lord! They were a sign of the extension of the Kingdom of God to Gentiles living in ignorance of the True God of Israel. God did not abandon the Gentiles to idolatry forever, but sent his Son to bring salvation to Jew and Gentile alike. Romans 15:12, quoting Isaiah 11:10, speaks of Christ thus: “In him the Gentiles will find hope.” Glory to Jesus, to whom we owe everything!

Deacon Kelly was unable to celebrate deacon’s mass on February 10 due to personal sickness, but plans to celebrate on March 10.

-----Blessings to all! Deacon Kevin Kelly

Raymond, Maine
Our Benedictines

This has been such a strange winter here in the Northeast and most of it has been spent just trying to keep up with Mother Nature’s whims. Fr. Kevin’s work with the Meditation, spiritual direction, and counselling, thankfully keep him mostly indoors. Sr.’s work with the animals at the farm keeps her outside a good part of the day, which on most days, is wonderful. The animals are confused at this juncture as to whether they should keep their winter coats or start going into spring shedding mode especially since Phil the groundhog, put out the word of an early spring! We took in 4 handicapped ducks recently, two that are blind and two with foot/leg handicaps
who don’t seem to care about the weather no matter what comes about. ...Sr. has brought quite a few humans and animals together this winter who were looking for each other as well. So long story short, winter in Maine, is winter in Maine, and we do what we can with it and try to enjoy all of its beauty. We are especially grateful for those individuals and a few of the churches who have also given funds for the care and upkeep of these animals that come to our door. We could not do what we do without you all and you are appreciated. Lent is just around the corner and we will continue to pray for those people, whose kind generosity makes the lives of these animals better and we will also continue to pray for the animals who don’t get help in time. What you do makes a difference! God bless you all!

-----Sr. Mary Francis

Ellsworth, Maine
St. Thomas

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. 3 John 1:2

Fr. Kalish continues to heal and improve since he had a stroke last September, and it has been a source of admiration and wonderment for the rest of us. When he first returned to the pulpit on 16 Dec, Fr.Kalish apologetically told us he would be giving a sermon written in years past. He explained that when he had sat down at the computer to prepare a sermon, he found he couldn’t connect his thoughts to his fingers; thus, the formally written sermon. We all knew that would have been frustrating and disappointing, yet that realization fueled our sense of being blessed he pushed through his human frailties to lead us in worship and teach us from the pulpit. While he may well have worried whether he could serve us adequately, we worried about the stress and strain on him. In January, Fr. Kalish asked his wife, Linda, to try “interpreting” his intended thoughts to the keyboard. Their description of that attempt was far more humorous than is possible to repeat. Needless to say, both quickly opted for a different option. One can only imagine the prayers emanating from both of them, and it didn’t take but a couple of weeks for those prayers to be answered. It took an entire afternoon of trying, powered by his love of the Scriptures for Fr. Kalish to push past the mental obstacles caused by the stroke and produce his first post-stroke sermon the end of January. God’s presence and guidance through Fr. Kalish’s challenge has been readily apparent on both sides of the pulpit. Fr. Kalish and Linda have taught all of us the power behind prayer, faith, and reliance on God.

We now eagerly await the beginning of Lent, during which St. Thomas will be meeting after each Mass to ask for God’s help and guidance to grow our congregation. We know His love and want others to know and be thankful for His love too.

St. Thomas sends wishes for a blessed Lent and Easter to its brothers and sisters in the DNE.

-----Valerie Brown McCadden, Clerk

Conway, N.H
St. Margaret

Greetings from St. Margaret’s. Well, looking out the window at the 10” of snow which fell this morning, its hard to believe that spring is only 5 weeks or so away.

By the time this edition comes out, who knows, we may be seeing the first hint of bare ground.

In the last edition, I erroneously listed Synod attendees and delegates. The correct information was: Peter Thomas, Loretta Whitehead, and Rebecca Harrington as delegates, and their spouses Mary Thomas, Bob Whitehead, and Jim Harrington as alternates.

Our Christmas Fair right before Thanksgiving was again a hit. The basket which the ladies make were a fast sell, and our baked goods brought in a goodly amount as well.

We also held our annual “Kirkin O’ the Tartan”, where those of Scottish descent, or who want to join in the fun, can wear their favorite Scottish regalia. We have no objection to cultural appropriation, and are pleased when folks enjoy our dress and traditions. This is particularly appropriate at St. Margaret’s, since she is the patron Saint of Scotland
Christmas eve High Mass services were well attended, and the altar was resplendent in poinsettias. The church was darkened, all our candles were lit, and hymns were sung. There was also a low Mass on Christmas day for those who do not enjoy night travel.

Women’s Bible study resumed again after Christmas, led by Marian Santy.

Father Monroe took his vacation on January 28, and we have been ably led by Father Brad Mathias from Bangor, most recently Tennessee. Father Brad has been a delightful substitute while Fr. Monroe is away, and gives warm and personal sermons. Every once in a while that Tennessee accent creeps in, which is quite charming. Father Brad and his wife Paige are getting settled into northern New England, which must be a significant change for them. Hopefully, the beautiful coast of Maine, and the delightful summer and fall season will bring an appreciation of what this region has to offer.

We have been happy to welcome back Greg and Carol Davis, who after relocating to central Florida, decided they missed our cold snowy winters and have returned. Imagine! Whatever their motivation, we are thrilled to welcome them back. Carol was a great help on the altar guild before she left us, so I’m sure the ladies who take on that task will be happy to have her back.

We also praise God for the recovery and continued recuperation of those of our parish who have had health challenges. We pray for John, Charlotte, Dick, Richard, Harry, Peter, Ann, and Linda and all those of our parish who need our healing prayers.

We wish all our Christian friends a safe and warm rest of the winter, and we look towards Lent, the renewal of spring, and the hope and promise of Easter morning.

---In Christ, Maureen Ferguson, Ladies Guild

Chaplains

In December, Bishop Marsh presented Fr. Gary Drinkwater and Fr. Jeff Monroe with their licenses to serve as Port, Maritime and Veteran Chaplains in the Church. Fr. Drinkwater is a USCG veteran and recently became chaplain for the Portland Propeller Club, the seaport’s primary industry group. Fr. Monroe is a Navy veteran and US Merchant Marine Master Mariner. He is in the US Navy Merchant Marine Reserve and is a chaplain for the American Legion.

Mystic, Conn.
St. Matthias

The big news for us in southeastern Connecticut is that, after consultation and with approval from Bishop Marsh, we are ceasing to conduct services for St. Peter’s Church in Deep River. Regrettably, there had been no significant local interest in our presence there, and since resuming year-round Sunday morning services in Mystic last year, many afternoons I was the only one showing up in Deep River. Conversely, there has been more interest by both locals and visitors to St. Matthias in Mystic, which has been so integral to the life of the DNE for nearly thirty years.

It has been an otherwise quiet quarter of the year for us; Olde Mistick Village and the chapel are tastefully decorated each year.

Several visitors attended the Christmas Eve service there, which we hold at 4 PM so as to accommodate those who come from a distance from driving too much after dark. The time lends itself wonderfully also, as the sun setting during the course of the service beautifully ushers in the mystery of the Incarnation which is celebrated that night.

Unlike most areas of the diocese, we have had little snowfall so far this season, only one Sunday service has had to be cancelled. May our Lord bless us all with a holy Lent, and joy in the coming Easter season!

-----Faithfully, Fr. Merrill Perkins
Tuxedo, N.Y.
Saint Elizabeth’s

We hope all of you had a joyful Christmas season. We began December with our annual 3-day poinsettia and wreath sale. Even though those items are readily available just about everywhere these days, many loyal friends come to St. Elizabeth’s to purchase them every year and we are so thankful for their support. In mid-December we had our Sunday School Christmas pageant and, although we have only a small group of children at this time, they warmed our hearts with their meaningful Advent messages and scripture readings of our Savior's birth. We all returned home filled with the Christmas spirit! The week before Christmas, our wonderful “green team” volunteers once again did a magnificent job decorating St. Elizabeth’s for Christmas—thank you, volunteers! We were blessed to have Bishop Langberg with us to preside over our Christmas services in our beautifully decorated chapel.

Shortly before Christmas, several St. Elizabeth’s folks enjoyed a festive evening of carol-singing and delicious goodies at the home of Fr. Bob and Pat. The atmosphere was set by Fr. Bob’s great sense of humor that brightens the room for everyone with his smile and despite his limitations due to his past stroke, stilloperating at home and are doing well. We pray that God will bless JT, Dawn and George with beautiful, healthy and happy days ahead, filled with lots of love to share together for years and years to come.

Our prayers also go out to Christine Oetzel, sister of Betty Langberg, who recently suffered a serious stroke and has begun the lengthy process of rehabilitation. May God bring her healing and provide her with the faith, comfort, and patience needed during her recovery in the months ahead.

We’re looking forward to Bishop Marsh’s visit with us on March 3rd. His compassion, wise council and Godly advice are wonderful blessings he shares with all of us in our Diocese. We extend our thanks to Fr. Merrill Perkins who has recently traveled many miles from his home in Connecticut to celebrate Holy Communion services with us. On Sunday, Feb.17th, we will welcome Fr. John Westcott to St. Elizabeth’s as well. Fr. Westcott also resides in Connecticut and will join Fr. Perkins in serving as supply priests for our Holy Communion services for the next few months. In addition, we’re fortunate to have Raymond Davison, an Anglican seminarian from Tuckahoe, NY, conducting our Morning Prayer services as needed. We’re very grateful to Bp. Marsh

Scarborough, Maine
St. Augustine of Canterbury

St. Augustine’s History In 2008, Fr. Jeffrey Monroe met with several folks from the Biddeford-Saco area who had been attending Bible study at St. Paul’s Church about the possibility of a parish in Southern Maine. Talks began in early 2009 between the Most Rev. Dr. Brian R. Marsh, Bishop Ordinary of the ACA Diocese of the Northeast, and Fr. Monroe, then Vicar of Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Fairfield, Maine, about the possibility of a mission church. This eventually led to the idea of founding a church to minister to the needs of the people between the New Hampshire border and Portland and along Maine's south coast. At the time, the closest Anglican Church to the Southern part of Maine was St. Paul's in Portland, and travel between this area and Portland, particularly in winter, was a concern. After a diligent search by David Brennan, a member of St. Paul’s, a location was identified at St. Mary’s Catholic Church who was willing to share space for the mission. St. Mary’s closed later that year and a new location had to be found.

Once again, David Brennan, who was a funeral director, identified a funeral chapel known as Hope Memorial Chapel Annex as a possible location. Fr. Monroe and David Brennan met with the owners of the chapel who were willing to allow the mission to use the seldom used space for services. The Cathedral Pines Funeral Chapel in Old Orchard
Beach was negotiated as our start-up location. To accommodate Father Monroe's schedule, it was decided that Sunday Mass would be celebrated at 3:00 pm. Fr. Monroe had been called to St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Conway, NH and would cover both communities. With the approval of Bishop Marsh, the proposed mission church was granted status as a start-up mission of the Diocese and named “St. Augustine of Canterbury Anglican Church” and our first Mass was celebrated by Father Monroe on October 18, 2009 with 45 members and well-wishers in attendance. Since the “Beginning” in 2009, we have had weddings, baptisms and four confirmations. By 2011, the church had made the decision to change the Mass time to 10 a.m. to encourage growth. A series of temporary priests was assigned to St. Augustine's since then. Our growth, as with any mission church, has been slow but steady. Our average Sunday attendance (ASA) in 2011 was 11.98, in 2012 was 14.62. For the first quarter of 2013, it has climbed to 16.7. However, with the vagaries of church attendance, ASA figures tend to wander in the short term. The trend, however, was decidedly up. Parish clergy consistency has been an issue since 2013. In 2013, Fr. Monroe stepped down as the Vicar and first Fr. Joseph Bizimana and then Fr. Kevin LaMarre filled the pastoral gaps. In late 2013, Deacon Al Ryan was assigned as the Deacon in Charge.

In the summer of 2014, due to the sale of the Cathedral Pines Chapel, the parish home was moved to the Grange Building in Saco, Maine. Deacon Ryan remained Deacon in Charge until later that year when Fr. Andrew Faust became the Priest in Charge. Fr. Faust left in early 2015 to become the interim priest at Trinity Rochester (NH) and Fr. Monroe was asked to return as Vicar. Deacon Ryan was assigned as curate. Since moving to the Grange Hall, attendance has not grown and may have, in fact, gone down slightly. During Deacon Ryan’s tenure, the service was changed from the Altar Service Book format to the Missal format. In addition, the challenges of the Grange Hall not having the atmosphere of a church as well as having to work around their function hall rentals increased the challenges.

In late 2015, Fr. Monroe met with the Church Council of the West Scarborough United Methodist Church in regard to possibly sharing space. The parish had several services there during Lent in 2016 and decided in April, 2016 to accept the Methodist's invitation to church-share with them. We had our first service in the church on May 1 and have enjoyed the facility since then.

The Town of Webster, established in 1840, is a suburb of Rochester, NY, USA, with Lake Ontario as its northern border.

Our building dates back to 1839 as a one-room school house. In 1977, we leased the abandoned school building to house our newly formed Anglican parish. The first official Sunday service was on June 4, 1978 using the 1928 Book of Common Prayer, which we still revere and use today.

We are a congregation that values the church beliefs, music, and prayer in a worship Mass that encourages participation with family and friends based on the 1928 Book of Common Prayer liturgy for Holy Communion and Morning Prayer. We strive for a spiritual and personal relationship with god, interaction with each other and the community surrounding our church.

----from the parish web site

Amherst, N.H.
St. Luke

We had a wonderful Christmas season here at St. Luke's and extend our wishes to all for a blessed new year.

Our annual meeting was held on 27 January with one worship service followed by the annual meeting and a potluck lunch. Thanks to all who brought food (delicious!) and helped with the meeting. We have a new slate of members on the vestry and are looking forward to a wonderful year.

Bible studies continue on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings. The new study on Saturday is "Falling Upward" which is a study of spirituality in the second half of life. Very interesting.

Healing prayer is offered one Saturday a month and also after each of the Sunday services. Thanks to our prayer team for their faithful service.

--------Submitted by: Lee Garre

Rochester, N.H.
Trinity Anglican Church

November at Trinity found us welcoming five new members to the church after worshipping with us for a while and having completed the new members’ classes led by Fr. Matt. We give thanks to our Lord for bringing new people into His family.

We had a special Veterans Day service as well and a lovely reception afterward hosted by Sean and Sarah Harrington. The parish hall was beautifully decorated to honor our veterans – delicious food and a specially decorated cake were enjoyed by all.

December began with the completion of our third Reboot Combat Recovery rotation. A graduation ceremony and celebratory dinner prepared by Butch Lewis featuring prime rib and seafood chowder was enjoyed by all. We give thanks to God for the healing of the soul for those who have served our country and suffer from combat PTSD.

Webster, N.Y.
Holy Cross

Holy Cross ACA was established to maintain original Anglican traditions and values using the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.
St. Anne’s Guild held their annual Christmas Fair which was the most successful ever! So many items to choose from! There were also several gift baskets raffled off and the ladies served lunch to the hungry shoppers as well.

Our Music Director, Carlos Martinez, orchestrated our first annual Messiah sing along concert. Amazing, incredible, fabulous, wonderful are just some of the words we all heard from people who attended. The church was packed, including the choir loft! Our choir members sang with the chorus and there were four professional singers leading the concert.

A team from Trinity prepares and serves a meal to those in need the third Thursday of every other month in Rochester. December was our turn and gave us yet another opportunity to provide a hearty meal along with various clothing, personal items and household items. The ladies especially love the cosmetics donated! It is a time of getting to know our neighbors in need and brighten their day.

Our two Christmas services were joy filled with Kelly Wagner laying the baby Jesus in the manger at the beginning of the family service. The church sang out the traditional hymns of old ending with Silent Night sung by candlelight. In between the two services those who participated in both services dined on a delicious spread of food at the rectory.

Our Annual Meeting was held on January 27th after service with a potluck luncheon. A time to review 2018 and look ahead to 2019 focusing on phase 2 of becoming a Parish on Purpose - becoming Parishioners on Purpose. Meetings always go better with a full tummy!

In February we said goodbye to two parishioners, Dr. Susan Smith on February 9th and Alice Wheeler on February 16th. We shall miss our dear sisters in Christ. Susan always sat in the front pew with her Great Dane service dog, Barnaby, at her side. The last time Susan and Barnaby were at service Barnaby went up with Susan as usual to the Communion rail – this time crossing his paws and Fr. Matt gave him a blessing. It is a picture etched in many of our minds.

In the midst of all the above, we continue with the following:
Weekly spiritual formation group – reading Catching Fire, Becoming Flame
Ongoing confirmation classes with three young people
Monthly men’s breakfast – reading Celebration of Discipline
As we head into the Lenten season, we wish everyone a most Holy and Blessed Lent.

Kathy Lewis

Charlestown, NH
Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd

The Winter season has been a busy one for Good Shepherd. At the beginning of Advent, we participated in an Arts and Crafts Exposition in Charlestown by having a display of 14 crèches in our parish hall. We were fortunate to just have received the gift of a very large and ornate crèche that took up much of a large table and served as the focal point for our exhibit. We were visited by 50 people during the day.

In January we started our first Sunday School with four young people ranging from 10 to 17 years of age. We started by looking at the Book of Common Prayer and its contents and then looked in some detail at the structure of the service of Holy Communion. This will be followed by analysis of the Lord’s Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the three Creeds. The kids are interested, enthusiastic, and full of questions that take a semester course in seminary to answer. It is a real joy to minister to them.
Our Bible Study group, under the leadership of Fr. Art Bennett completed a study of the Book of Daniel and in the process reviewed the history of ancient middle Eastern empires. We are now looking at “The Easter Experience” over the next 6 Wednesdays of Lent. We will then study the writings of St. Paul, using Timothy Luke Johnson’s Teaching Company course as a guide.

Our “icon project” is moving ahead rapidly as our artist, Sean Kramer, finishes the detailed sketches, of his work of art that will hang above our church altar. Sean is trained in the writing of traditional icons and has combined elements of both Eastern and Western artistic traditions in his work. His work, “Christ the Good Shepherd” will be 2.5 feet wide by 4 feet high. This project has engaged the parish in ways that we did not anticipate. We examined many traditional images of Christ the Good Shepherd extracted from the Internet and debated styles, sheep, and the image of Christ Himself. Bishop Marsh had to gently guide his sheep back to meditating and praying on what these images, and particularly the image that Sean had sketched for us, rather than focusing on what these images, and particularly the image that Sean had sketched for us, rather than focusing on details. Eventually, Bishop Marsh pointed out, you have to trust the artist.

On Septuagesima Sunday, Sean worshipped with us and afterwards presented a full-scale drawing of the “icon” to the parish. He described the process that he uses in determining the placement of major elements in the drawing and explained their significance. We were impressed with the results of what promises to be a unique work of art that glorifies God and that speaks to our hearts as to the beliefs, identity, and mission of our Church.

On the same Sunday, we also greeted our youngest attendee on his first birthday with a blessing by Bishop Brian. Of course, the young man was presented with a birthday cupcake at coffee hour to the delight of his grandparents.

We will end Shrove tide with a traditional Pancake Supper in our parish hall followed the next day by Ash Wednes-

day services. During Lent, Bishop Marsh will lead a discussion entitled A Christian Pilgrim’s Journey to Salvation after a light evening meal. We hope some members of the public will join us in order to learn what Anglicans believe. This will be followed by several evening discussions of our Lenten journey in late March and early April.

We pray that all our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Diocese of the Northeast will find the peace and love of God in their Lenten journeys and great joy on the Sunday of the Resurrection.

-----Submitted by the Rev. David W. Moody

Canandaigua, New York
Holy Redeemer Anglican Church

At our Christmas Eve service, two visitors came, bearing a gift of a framed picture of the Last Supper. Their presence, and their present, was an unexpected gift as we celebrated the birth of Jesus with hymns and candlelight and the fragrance of balsam.

Although this is a slower time of year, the seasons still pass quickly. Epiphanytide has ended, and we are now in the Pre-Lenten Season, or Shrovetide. Soon we shall prepare to examine our lives and repent for our sins, and then celebrate and make merry on Shrove Tuesday by eating up all the foods that won’t last the next forty days of Lent. It’s what we usually do before embarking on a big diet.

February in the Finger Lakes is a bi-polar month: alternating lows and highs, freezes and thaws, frigid and then moderating temperatures. In this great northern region of the country, we are hardy folks, not letting the weather stop us from going about our lives, as we scrape the windshields, warm up our cars, sprinkle ice-melter, watch the plows, and shovel when necessary. Then we go off to work or school or play. We know that when a snow day finally comes, forcing us to stay inside, and school and church are cancelled, it must be really bad out there.

We cancelled church in mid-January, when a huge winter storm enveloped half of the country. It roared in on a Saturday afternoon, and I watched in awe on Saturday night as the closings scrolled by: hundreds of churches, it seemed. That was the weekend that Standing Committee was held; Wally Jones and Casey Grow travelled with Jim Siebold, from St. Nicholas. Jim loves to drive, and ably chauffeured Wally and Casey on the 300 mile trip from Canandaigua to Western Massachusetts, after already having driven 90 miles from Buffalo to Canandaigua. Their return trip was a bit longer, hampered by that incoming storm pushing through into the Northeast, and we all breathed easier when everyone was home safe.

This was Casey’s first attendance at Standing Committee. He is interested in being a Postulant. He attended in order to introduce himself to, and to get acquainted with, the members of the Standing
Committee, and all three bishops. He had been a bit apprehensive, but was pleasantly surprised by the friendly and welcoming nature of the committee members, and he enjoyed observing as they conducted their business. We believe that he will meet with the Board of Examining Chaplains at the May meeting of the Standing Committee. Casey is a valued member of Holy Redeemer. For many months, he has participated fully in our services, and has done well. He recently celebrated his 21st birthday, and it is nice to have the average age of the congregation lowered! His easy, outgoing nature, friendly smile, and great sense of humor make him a pleasure to be around. And, true to his name, he has worked to grow our parish, by inviting friends to attend, and, now, by following his own path to study for the ministry.

As I write this, we are just past the mid-point of February, still riding that roller-coaster of Northeast weather: down/freeze, up/thaw, down/snow, down/sleet, down/ice, up/sleet, down/icier, down/frigid, then, finally, up/warm (how can 35 feel warm in February when it’s almost intolerable in August?)

Despite its inconveniences, winter is a special time of year. I enjoy the stark monochromatic beauty of a winter landscape: gray, brown, black, white, and white, and more white, interrupted only by an occasional slash of red as a cardinal alights on a branch, or on the feeder, against the snowscape.

With our snowbirds gone, church attendance has been light. There are so few of us here on a regular basis. But there is something special that takes place in these winter months. Our worship is more intimate, more meaningful, richer, somehow. Perhaps it is because of the silence of the season, as snow falls gently outside our unstained glass windows, and the sounds of the few cars that pass by are muffled by the snow. Perhaps it is because we are not distracted by the frenetic pace of spring and summer months, and the attendant activities we all strive to juggle. Or, perhaps, it is because we are not distracted by simply having more people in the congregation. Certainly, the richer worship is a result of the gifts that we receive each week: not only the gifts of Christ, of communion, of the Holy Spirit, but the gifts of the sermons that we receive from our priest, Fr. Dave, who adds the gift of his voice as he chants parts of the mass; and the gifts of our dean, Fr. Ed, who inspires us with thought-provoking words when he visits us periodically, and when he keeps a thoughtful eye out for us even when he does not visit. And it is the gifts of fellowship as we sit around the table at the coffee hour, sharing our lives with our church family. Bonds become stronger and deeper when distractions lessen. Commitment is made more readily to strengthen the core when it is smaller. Our family ties bind us together, and we are bound by our faith to enrich our lives, and the lives of others. -- Diane S. Jones

Brooklyn, New York

St. Joseph

Greetings in the name of the Lord from St. Joseph’s Anglican Church in Brooklyn, NY.

I am writing to you on behalf of the congregation of St. Joseph’s Anglican Church. The following is a quick listing of some of the events that have transpired during the last few months.

In January, a number of our members celebrated their birthdays. Although pictures are not available I would like to wish Mrs. Mavis Baptiste and Mrs. Jenny Linton a most blessed and belated Happy Birthday.

In February we celebrated the birthday of a few of our parishioners, Mr. Mahon, George and Greg Banner and our very own Deacon Herby M. E. Rodney (pictured with one of our choir members, Ms. Undine Bennett and yours truly bringing up the rear, having just delivered his birthday blessing).

We had a post-Valentine’s Day celebration after church on Sunday, February 17, in which the members brought in covered dishes. Certificates were given out to some of our members for going above and beyond the call of duty.

Our blessed are as follows: Mr. Vanroy Mahon (pictured to the left), who had just turned 93 years old (bless the Lord for that); George and Greg Banner and Mrs. Lisa Mullings-St. Omer for always being available when there’s a need; Mrs. Lisa Mullings-St. Omer for always being available when there’s a need; Mrs.
Myrna Mullings, accepting it on her behalf and my little one, Ms. Violet Black who decided that she was going to photobomb as much as possible but it’s all good because she’s smiling. Mr. Raymond Usher received one for always volunteering to cook and making himself available whenever there was a need and last, but not least, Mrs. Barbara Usher for making sure that Raymond stayed focused and for working with him to supply the church’s needs.

At the time of this excellent publication Lenten distribution, yours truly will have been blessed to have received the Laying on of Hands by Bishop Marsh and have been ordained into the Sacred Order of Priests. I’m a bit nervous as the day approaches and am hoping and praying that I don’t choke up in front of everyone. There were many trials and tribulations that occurred but I discovered that the light at the end of the tunnel was not a train racing towards me but the Love of God guiding me towards where He wanted me to be. His love, and the comfort given to me by those who supported me, allowed me to get from where I was before to where I am at now.

As Lenten season is almost upon us, we are dealing with the usual winter hazards such as snow, ice and cold which hinders our congregation from coming in. We are continuing steadfastly in the path that the Lord has set before us and pray that, through our faith and works, we will continue to do what is beneficial to our members and all who come across our path in this thing that we call Life.

With that said and done, we wish all of our brother and sister parishes a Happy Lenten Season and may they prosper in the upcoming days, months and years that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ allowed us to have through the shedding of His most blessed and precious blood.

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Sincerely submitted,
Mark Black, Ordinand & Webmaster.

News Notes

It is sadly noted that Fr. Philip Cunningham has abruptly resigned from ACA and his work at St. Nicholas to go elsewhere and that consequently he stands under a writ of inhibition of exercising his ministry among us. Pray for him.

On a happier note, longtime deacon Mark Black will, by the time you read this, have been ordained to the sacred priesthood.

Poughkeepsie, N.Y.
Holy Comforter

Our Benedictines History: Part II
By Br. Chip of the Raymond Benedictines
(continued from the December 2018 issue, in which the community had its beginnings)

This was just the beginning. The easy part was over. Now, each brother had to earnestly adhere to and live the vows that he had made before Almighty God, the Bishop, Prior, and Brothers. Obedience had to be followed, the Holy Rule lived daily, and assignments accepted as the community began to find its footing. This group of brethren were known in monastic parlance as “foundation members”; the very first men in a new community that had not come from another existing community, and therefore no history or traditions...yet. The new community had to formulate and develop an identity as to what kind of contemplative community it was to be. It would become a process that would take years, much prayer and work, and the desire to listen to that “still small voice” that comes from love and trust in Almighty God and His Son Jesus Christ.

The first year was perhaps the hardest year. Prior Robert kept in constant communication with each brother, monitoring their progress in their monastic vocation and assisting as needed. Most Benedictine communities, are allowed a great amount of autonomy by their diocesan bishops, as they are usually a part of a Congregation, a type of federation of Benedictine priories and abbeys that share some common bond and support one another. Our community had no such connections and in reality, we were ‘our own mother-house’. Technically, Br. Robert was a minor abbot, but he suffered no pretensions and often shuddered at being called a prior! Such was his humility. Each brother lived within their own established circumstances, so a common place of living wasn’t needed, but community worship was another matter. The rector of Old St. Paul’s in Portland, at that time, Fr. Harold MacElwain, offered the parish Church and facilities for the community to use until its circumstances improved. St. Paul’s had been for the most part where the men had been coming together from 1991...
to 1993, and it was already a good fit. It was during this period, that the community began to develop many of its traditions, most especially its liturgics and offices, very important aspects to a contemplative community. The High Anglo-Catholic liturgics and ethos of St. Paul’s dove-tailed nicely with the emerging identity of the community.

The community showed its gratitude to the parish by holding periodic “quiet days” . . . days of Mass, prayer, and reflection, open to the parish and public, and helping out where it could. One brother assisted the sexton in grounds-keeping and light maintenance. The relationship between community and parish became a good one with one helping out the other.

The first two years for the Servants of the Holy Family Community of Benedictine brothers were much like a ‘shake down’ cruise for a new ship. It’s not always smooth sailing. So it was with us. The direction that the community was to take became clear to most of the brothers, but not all. There were personality frictions, and for more than one man, the adherence to St. Benedict’s Holy Rule became difficult and burdensome. Two men left the community. This is not an uncommon occurrence within a foundation membership. Prior Robert worked diligently with the brothers, but as a seasoned monk himself, had to make some severe pronouncements when and where they were needed, but not after exhausting all other possible avenues. His consistency and fidelity in following both the Holy Rule and community constitution were never questioned. Bishop Chamberlain maintained open communications with the Prior, especially when matters became difficult. It speaks highly of the Bishop’s character in that he gave allowances to Br. Robert’s office as Prior considering that Br. Robert was not an ordained clergyman. The superior of a religious community, in most cases, holds the priestly office. Our Brother Prior labored under no pretenses and constantly described himself as just: “A simple lay-brother called to do the work of a father . . . reluctantly.”

Nevertheless, being a ‘father’ to a group of men which fondly called themselves “The Dead-End Kids of the Order of St. Benedict” was starting to take a toll of his own hermetic vocation and his health.

1994 and 1995 saw two new men enter our community. First, was Br. John Heslin, a religious from another traditional order. This man fit in immediately with the community in that he had already been living a very rigorous rule of life and understood Benedictine spirituality well. His postulancy was waived and he entered the novitiate, where he moved along quickly. He was also at the time studying for the Sacred Priesthood, and it’s remarkable what he accomplished. Around the same time Mr. William Morrell was accepted into the community and served his time as postulant and later was accepted into the Novitiate. “Br. Bill” was also studying for Holy Orders to the perpetual Diaconate, and everyone within the community helped him where they could. Both new men fit in as though they had been with us from the start. Things were looking pretty bright.

1995 until the Priory chapel was built in the Summer of 1995 at its present location in Raymond, Maine.


The occasion was Fr. John’s ordination to the Sacred Priesthood.

We have shared with our readers, up to this point, the story of how the community came to be, from its inception in September of 1991 to its official foundation on October 16th, 1993, when the brethren made their final profession of vows, a Prior (superior) was blessed and given his charge by the Bishop, and the official blessing and approbation of the community was given by Bishop Bruce S. Chamberlain, Bishop Ordinary of the Diocese of the Northwest of the Anglican Church in America. Bishop Chamberlain would serve as the community’s Bishop Visitor, and worked with Prior Robert Herrick during the first years that the community began its existence. We shared photos and names of all the brethren who were present on that happy day in October of 1993. But not all were present, and we’ll introduce the two members who made their professions at about the same time, in different places.

We’ll also tell you how the Blessed Mother helped us decide upon the name our Priory would go by!

Susan A.M. Lamarre is known to our readers as Sr. Mary Francis Benedict. She had been living a quiet and hidden contemplative life long before she met her future husband (Fr. Kevin, our Prior). She, in fact, she had made her personal oblation to Our Lord and
Fr. Kevin had also been a long-distance Benedictine Oblate with another community for some years, and when our community began its formation, he was invited to join. Belonging to a community closer to home made sense in many ways, but the question arose: how could he go from being an oblate to a professed Benedictine monk, being a married man? This was indeed a good question, as married monastics do not exist within the framework of professed contemplative life. Everyone associated with our forming community was stumped, and had no desire to break with tradition and the universal Canons regarding this matter.

Enter our good scholar-monk Fr. Adrian! He presented to both the Bishop and Prior that it was recorded in Europe during the 7th century, that men who considered themselves in bad marriages, left their wives to join monasteries. The problem was especially severe in England. Pope St. Gregory the Great, not wishing to break the sacramental bond that is marriage, decreed that if the wives joined women’s monastic communities, the men could stay in the monasteries, if not, the men had to go home and “tough it out” (*our words, not Pope Gregory’s*!). Fr. Adrian advocated that if Susan felt she was called to live under the Benedictine vows of Stability, Obedience, and Conversion of Life (Poverty & Chastity are implied in these vows), and enter religious life in agreement with her husband, the question would be resolved. He suggested that their little farm could serve (at least temporarily) as the location of the Priory, thus satisfying some other matters involving location, jurisdiction and legal identity. She underwent a Novitiate process specially-tailored to her station in life, and upon approval of completion in her Novitiate by both the Prior and Bp. Chamberlain, was privately received into the community at a time when Bp. Chamberlain stopped by the Priory to visit. Preferring to remain quietly in the background, she assisted in taking care of the community at a time when Bp. Chamberlain stopped by. Br. Kevin received a call on the day of pick up, from Prior Robert which went something like this:

**Br. Robert:** Did Fr. Mac tell you anything about this statue?

**Br. Kevin:** No he didn’t, other than where to get it.

**Br. Robert:** Did he tell you its size?

**Br. Kevin:** No. I just assumed it was like any other statue you get at a religious store.

**Br. Robert:** Well, you won’t believe what I’ve got resting in the car! It’s the Blessed Mother, all right, but she’s life size and I barely got her in. she’s solid plaster and it nearly killed me!

**Br. Kevin:** No kidding.

**Br. Robert:** I wouldn’t kid about this! I’m on my way to your place. You better make room for her as I have no place to keep her at my hermitage and I’ll need your help getting her out of my car. (*Br. Robert owned a Volkswagen!*)

When Br. Robert arrived at the farm, and Br. Kevin helped him get the statue out of the car, they, along with Sr. Mary Francis agreed that it was a thing of beauty – and we had been given our identity at the same time, for the statue was of **Our Lady of Seven Sorrows**, not just your every-day statue of the blessed Mother!

Upon seeing her, the rest of the brothers agreed unanimously that we had been blessed with a wonderful grace in this gift. Our community would take the name and be under the patronage and protection of **Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory**.

This lovely statue stands life-size and was fashioned in the great quality that religious statues were made in the very early 20th century. An expert dated this statue around 1910-15. The statue was placed in the farmhouse at Raymond and a grotto was fashioned to honor Our Blessed Mother. Daily prayers were said at this spot by the LaMarre family until the adjoining garage/chapel building would be built a year or so later, when it would be moved to its permanent location in the chapel, where she stands today overlooking her own altar.

**Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory – The Blessed Mother Intervenes**

The community had been in existence for about a year, and the brethren had not decided upon a name in which the community would be known. A formal name was needed for diocesan and legal purposes. We were already known as The Servants of the Holy Family of the Order of St. Benedict. This was to distinguish ourselves from other Benedictine communities that existed or would come along, but a legal name for the community had eluded everyone. Br. Robert and Sr. Mary Francis had begun the paperwork earlier in the year, but the lack of a name had put completion on hold. Br. Prior requested, at a Chapter meeting, that the community come up with something that all could find agreement on. The process took longer than planned as names were offered and in turn rejected. Nothing seemed to fit this group that had been brought together in a unique and special way. Nothing as yet reflected a unity in our identity. A phone call changed everything.

Fr. Kevin (At that time, a lay-brother serving St. Paul’s Parish in Portland, Me.), received a phone call from the rector of St. Paul’s, Fr. MacElwain, (Fr. ‘Mac’). He asked Brother if he or the community would like a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Br. Kevin replied that on behalf of the community he’d accept, and was told by Fr. Mac that someone would have to go to the Roman Catholic Church in Saco to get it. Prior Robert agreed to go pick it up as he lived near-by. Br. Kevin received a call on the day of pick up, from Prior Robert which went something like this:

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Thoughts at a Quiet and Intense Communion

Sometimes
the presence of the Lord shines forth
in ways we mortals can know,
in ways we can feel,
in ways beyond what we see
in the ordinary times of our daily lives.
Sometimes
the routines of religion catch fire
and the veil twixt earth and heaven is rent,
and we know
Shekinah,
unmerited grace,
His presence in our midst,
and we are moved,
and stand in awe;
and, yes, we know,
and, yes, we feel,
but do we hear,
do we change?
Or do we recognize His glory,
acknowledge His presence,
and go our way unchanged?
Sometimes
His presence is manifest among us,
and we behold His glory,
but when we do not see,
when we do not feel,
His is with us,
always with us.
Do we know Him,
hear Him,
and follow Him
in our daily living?
Do we?

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Approximate location of churches

Diocese of the Northeast
Parishes and Missions

Connecticut
Mystic: St. Matthias—(at Old Mistick Village, Coogan Blvd.) Sun 10:30AM
Fr. Merrill Perkins 860-581-0484

Maine
Brunswick: Fr. Andrew Faust,
Camden: Resurrection Mission (at members’ homes.) Dcn. Leroy Weed
lay contact David Bardon (207)336-2421.

Deblois: St. Francis
Fr. James Dumond 1069 Rt 193 (207)638-2441

Ellsworth: St. Thomas - Sun 10am
(373 Bangor Rd., Rt. 1A) (207)667-2001.
Fr. Ed Kalish, Fr. Frank Gray, Dcn. Kevin Kelly,
Dcn. Leroy Weed

Mechanic Falls: Transfiguration, 64 Elm St.,
Sun 10am, Wed 9.30am
Fr Gary Drinkwater 207-312-7318

Portland: St. Paul
Sun 8 & 10 am (279 Congress St.)
(207)828-2012.
Fr Andrew Faust,

Raymond.: Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory
for service times call ahead (4 Shaw Road)
(207)655-4441 Rev. Prior Kevin LaMarre, OSB

Saco: St. Augustine of Canterbury -
Sun 10.30am, (United Methodist Church, 2 Church St.),
(207)799-5141
Father Robert Menas

Waterville: Holy Trinity - (Woodlands Home). 2nd
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Dcn. Kevin Kelly (207)990-0085

Massachusetts
Belchertown: occasional services
at the bishop’s oratory (21 Sherwood Drive)
contact Bishop Marsh (413)323-7869

Leominster: New mission under development
Initial meeting March 30, 11am 62 Maple Avenue,
Leominster. Father Ronald Hansen (978-340-0908)

New Hampshire
Amherst: St. Luke - Sun 8.30 & 10am
(3 Limbo Lane) (603)672-6054.
Bp. Alexander H. Webb

Charlestown: Good Shepherd - Sun 9am
(20 Summer St.) (603)835-6279
Bishop Brian Marsh.

Concord: All Saints’ - Sun 9am
124F Hall Street (603)545-9079
Fr. Christian Tutor OSA.

Conway: St. Margaret of Scotland - Sun 10am
(85 Pleasant St.) (603)447-2404
Fr. Jeffrey Monroe, Dcn. Harry Wellsman

Rochester: Trinity - Sun 8 & 10am
(180 Rochester Hill Road) (603)332-4121
Fr. Matthew Mirabile 203-243-8050

New York
Brooklyn: St. Joseph - Sun 11am (123-131
Arlington Avenue). Canon Neville Brathwaite
(718) 756-1258, Dcn. Herby Rodney,
Dcn. Mark Black

Canandaigua: Holy Redeemer - Sun 10am
(4575 Rte 364 - East Lake Road).
Fr. David Leo, 585-978-5236

Halfmoon (Clifton Park): St. Thomas of
Canterbury—Sun 10am (242 Grooms Road)
Fr. John Bassett 518-584-6812

Poughkeepsie: Holy Comforter, (18 Davies Pl) Fr.
James Gordon, (845) 471-2286

Tuxedo: St. Elizabeth - Sun 10am
(38 Chapel Turn, Eagle Valley)

Webster: Holy Cross - Sun 10am
(615 Bay Road). (585) 671-0411
Fr. Edward Ihde, Fr. Tom Stone

West Seneca NY: St. Nicholas. Sun 9.30am
(539 Main Street) Fr. Edward Ihde 716-804-2615,
Fr. Eugene Bagen

West Winfield: St. Lucy Mr. Greg Conklin, 145
State Route 51, West Winfield, NY 13491, 315-822-5314.
Fr. Richard Dibble

Vermont
Poultnay: St. David: Sun 10am. (150 Main Street)
Dcn James Hogan (802-265-2206)

White River Jct.: Trinity—Sun 11.15am
(At Valley Bible Church, 851 Fairview Terrace.)
Fr. Stephen Rugg (603-523-9640)
Clergy Anniversaries

My list is woefully incomplete and probably inaccurate. Please help me get it right. ed.

Mar
01 - Fr. Kevin LaMarre OSB, D 1997
10 - Dcn Harry Wellman, D 2012
11 - Fr. Frank Bartlett, D 2006
31 - Bp. Hendy Webb, P 1979

Apr
16 - Fr. Christian Tutor, birthday
17 - Bp Robert Harvey C 1980
23 - Fr. Robert Ley, D 1994
23 – Fr. Matthew Mirabile, birthday

May
03 – Dcn. Rob Philp D 2010
02 – Fr. Ronald Hansen M 2009
07 - Fr. Robert Ley, P 1998
07 – Fr. Rich Dibble P 2011
10 – Fr. Ed Kalish D 2009
21 – Fr. David Moody D 2005
25 – Bp. Owen Williams, B 2013

Projected regular deadlines will be the 15th day of Feb, May, Aug, & Nov

Next Issue in June
Deadline for submissions will be around May 15.