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*Jacob Beaulieu      Russell Colbert  
Helen Harris      Lynn Howe  
Karen Morgan      Sharon Yousey*



*St. Philip's Church*

# CommonLife

November 2015    Volume 5    Issue 11

## *Welcoming the weary, dedicated to discipleship*

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Matthew 11:28-29)

### *Rector's Message*



Rev. Kathryn Boswell  
Rector

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

*On November first Deacon Lora Smith was our guest preacher at St. Philip's. She came to help us with our Consecration Sunday, the final day of our stewardship program. And since it was the Feast of All Saints she gave us a wonderful sermon all about our family history, what she called “a walk down memory lane.” For all those who were there and would like to have a copy of Deacon Lora's excellent words, and for all those who weren't able to be there, here it is again. Enjoy!*

*Love and blessings,  
Mtr. Kathryn*

All Saint's Day seems an appropriate time to take a bit of a walk down memory lane and recollect how St. Philip's parish came into being, here in Norwood, New York.

It seems that St. Philip's began as a humble mission church, known as St. Andrew's Mission, and was organized by fifteen families in September of 1874. I guess that means that this parish just recently celebrated its one hundred and forty-first birthday! This early congregation met in the fireman's hall and in the Congregation Meeting house, and rectors from Trinity church, Potsdam, and Grace Church, Norfolk were dispatched to conduct services.

In 1879, the cornerstone for this church building was laid, and in 1885 the first church services were held here, even though the church's construction was not yet finished.

On May 23, 1894, the church was consecrated, a charter granted, and the name changed from St. Andrew's Mission to St. Philip's. The Rev. W.W. Lockwood became Minister in Charge of the Missions in Norwood and Norfolk. In these early days, morning prayer and evening prayer services were held in Norwood, while afternoon services took place in Norfolk. During his tenure, the rectory on Prospect Street was purchased and the Rev. Lockwood succeeded in bringing the mission church to a good financial status. A meeting was called in 1901, with the purpose of incorporation as a parish. This took place on December 6, 1901 and the following men were elected to serve as St. Philip's first vestry: P.E. Walker and W.D. Stowell as wardens, and C.E. Wilber and W. Frank as vestrymen.

The Rev. Lockwood was elected rector of the parish and he served until 1904.

In 1910, a vested choir was organized, and led worship on Easter Sunday for the first time that year. Also, the women's auxiliary was organized that same year.



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**TO:**

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It seems that in the 1920's and 1930's, St. Philip's developed a reputation for wonderful church suppers. Various locations were utilized to accommodate the large gatherings. These locations included rooms over Plummer's store and over the Norwood News building. Soon, it became evident that a parish hall would be necessary.

The first shovel-full of dirt was lifted for the existing Parish Hall in July of 1937, and the building was completed and equipped in 1938. The contractor who built the parish hall was Mr. Roy White of Norwood, NY.

From 1931 to 1945, the Rev. Leon Haley served as rector of St. Philip's, and encouraged the congregation in spreading the Gospel outside the parish. Other rectors included Frank Hughes, John Ricketson, William Mathers, Walter Read, John Higgins, David Plank, Lawrence Jones, Robert Graham, Brian Kellington, and now, Mother Kathryn Boswell.

St. Philip's was the first parish in the St. Lawrence deanery to employ the use of a deacon with the Rev. Laurie Kellington assisting her husband in ministry. Deacon Peggy Theodore took charge of St. Philip's between the time when the Kellington's left and when Mother Kathryn was ordained.

In 1964, the parish was bequeathed the Ashley House on 1 Park Street. This home served as the rectory for a number of years. This house was eventually sold and a new rectory was purchased on Prospect Street.

Over the years, this parish has seen many people come and go. There have been several changes of rectors and deacons.

The reason that I have taken you all on this little walk down memory lane and this short history lesson is two-fold.

First of all, it is a chance for us to remember and recognize those who now belong to the church triumphant—those who now hold their place in that heavenly kingdom, a place promised to all believers. This church home, this parish, was built on the foundation of the faith of those who have gone before us and have heeded God's call to bring the love of Jesus Christ to this community.

I invite you to imagine the time when this parish was a mission church, a time when folks felt the need for a Christian community. As rural as northern New York is at present, imagine what it must have been like in 1874. After the Civil War, this place must have been a mixture of rough, rural farmland and wilderness. Commerce would have been growing, but the difficulty in obtaining goods in this region of rough roads and bitter winters surely must have impeded growth. People must have been drawn together as a community, and learned the importance of counting on and trusting in each other for their very existence.

In addition, hard times seem to cause people to look for something to fill gaps in their spiritual lives. Thus a church was born here in Norwood, NY. Fifteen families banded together and formed St. Andrew's missions, which led to St. Philip's Episcopal Church.

Fifteen families called to service in Christ. Fifteen families who invested time, financial resources and whatever it took to fan this ember of the Holy Spirit and make this place grow. These families reached out to bring the love of Jesus Christ to this rural community.

I wonder if the descendants of any of these families are still here with us today at St. Philip's?

The second reason that I invited you on this walk down memory lane was to invite you, as a congregation, to renew your hope in this holy place. The fire of the Holy Spirit that fueled the organization of this parish still burns today. Spiritual needs were met in the late 1800's by the formation of St. Andrew's Mission, and spiritual needs are still being met here today. Families have been comforted here as they let go of their loved ones who now inhabit the church triumphant. Additionally, those remaining here on earth, the church militant, have been comforted in times of loneliness, financial need and other forms of hard times. The love of Jesus Christ has been preached here and has brought forth renewal in the lives of many. Hope has been magnified here, over the years, in the lives of the parishioners who sat under this roof and in these pews. Hope was carried forth from this place into the surrounding community. Even to this day, St. Philip's is known for its wonderful church suppers—a long standing tradition that this parish has employed to reach out to a needy community.

But, as in the beginning years of St. Philip's, even now the Lord is calling those in this congregation to a renewal of faith. He is asking this congregation to follow him and to listen to the beckon of his call.

## November –December 12th

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>8</b> <b>The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>10:00 am Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 0:00am Romans Bible Study Common Cents 10-2pm	<b>11</b> 10am Healing Prayer service Noon Women's Guild @ Shirley Rookey's home Common Cents work time 5-6:30 pm	<b>12</b> Common Cents 10-2pm	<b>13</b> 6:30 pm Praise & Healing service	<b>14</b> 10 am Vestry Mtg.  Common Cents 10-Noon
<b>15</b> <b>The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>10:00 am Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10:00am Romans Bible Study Common Cents 10-2pm	<b>18</b> 10:00 am Healing Prayer service	<b>19</b> Common Cents 10-2pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Common Cents 10-Noon
<b>22</b> <b>The Last Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>10:00 am Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10:00am Romans Bible Study Common Cents 10-2pm 6:30pm First Cong. Church service	<b>25</b> 10am Healing Prayer service Common Cents work time 5-6:30 pm	<b>26</b> <b>Thanksgiving</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  Common Cents 10-Noon
<b>29</b> <b>First Sunday in Advent</b> <b>10 am Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> 10:00am Romans Bible Study Common Cents 10-2pm	<b>2</b> 10am Healing Prayer service Common Cents work time 5-6:30 pm	<b>3</b> Common Cents 10-2pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> St. Philip's Christmas Bazaar 10-2 Luncheon 11:30-1pm
<b>6</b> <b>Second Sunday in Advent</b> <b>10 am Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10:00am Romans Common Cents 10-2pm	<b>9</b> 10am Healing Prayer service Women's Guild Christmas party @ Nancy Levison's home Common Cents work time 5-6:30 pm	<b>10</b> Common Cents 10-2pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Common Cents 10-Noon





## Advent! It's Coming!

The new calendar year begins on January first, and the school year generally begins right after Labor Day. But the new Church year begins on

November 29<sup>th</sup>, as we enter the season of Advent. As the world prepares to speed up and get busy with shopping and decorating and entertaining, the Church invites us to slow down and meditate on our Hope, the Lord

Jesus who came first as a tiny infant in a stable in Bethlehem and who has promised to come again in glory to gather his children and heal his Creation. It isn't easy for us to resist the world's call to be busy in the "now" - but we will be blessed if we make time to remember our true calling, our true Hope, our true Home.

**This well-known Advent hymn, originally written in Latin, has been the prayer of the Church for at least nineteen centuries.**

**It would make a great focus for some meditation!**

*O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny  
From depths of Hell Thy people save  
And give them victory o'er the grave  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
In ancient times did'st give the Law,  
In cloud, and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel*

## In Brief

### November

3rd—Kristine Layo  
Richard Layo  
Romi Sebald  
12th Carol Cavallaro  
18th—Scott Dafoe  
30th—Brook & Bekk  
Chudzinski



### December-14:

3rd—Joseph Swan  
14th—Charles Colbert



Do you have an hour to help out the Thrift Shop? We need your help!

Hours: Tuesday: 10-2pm  
Thursday: 10-2pm  
Saturday: 10-noon

On Wednesday nights we meet from 5-6pm just to hang up clothes and sort things....won't you volunteer to help when you can please. Please see Sharon Yousey or Mother Kathryn.  
Many Blessings and Thank you.

Not only is today All Saint's Day. Today is the day that you, as a congregation, have chosen as your stewardship Sunday. As we have just heard, the Lord called this place into being through the faithfulness of fifteen founding families. I can look around this place and see that there are at least fifteen families represented here. You may not be the original fifteen families, although some of you perhaps are the descendants of those original families. But you are here, serving the Lord, at St. Philip's church. The Lord is calling you to continue to immerse yourselves in the love of Jesus Christ, and then spread that love to your surrounding community.

Last weekend, I attended the diocesan Deacon's retreat at the Spiritual Life Center. Bishop Love spoke with us about the state of our society today. He spoke of living in the post-Christian era, where prayer is no longer accepted in schools and where political correctness has replaced any spirituality in our society. And yet, as he said, people in our society are starved for something that has relevance and meaning. As Christians, we possess the key to the relevance and meaning for which our society so desperately longs. And yet, we are scorned sometimes when we try to share the love of Jesus Christ.

Places like St. Philip's are uniquely able to share that love of Christ with others. Offering a meal to those in our community, and participating in the events of this community, gives this congregation a chance to reach out and touch lives. Living out our Christian faith on a day-by-day basis offers us the best chance to bring the Gospel to others. Only when we can establish a close connection with others can we be given the opportunity to share the love of Christ with them.

God has given us everything in our lives. Every breath that we take, every hug that we receive, every new day is a gift from God. The Psalm for today states, "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and all who dwell therein."

This place that we occupy today belongs to the Lord.

As we think about stewardship, I would like to ask you, "How much of what the Lord has given us should we give back to him?" Realizing that we can never out-give God is very humbling. And, realizing that we can never out-give God, we must each prayerfully answer that question.

We learn, in Jesus' parable of the ten gold coins in the Gospel of Luke, that gifts and graces are entrusted to us to be used, not for safekeeping or to be hidden away. They are not to be used for our own gain, but for the Lord's purposes here on earth. The Lord expects us to use our gifts and talents for his service. If we are to be obedient to him, we must heed that expectation.

When we give of our gifts and talents, we will find ourselves blessed by God, and his kingdom will grow. And those who are faithful with a little will find themselves entrusted with more. This is how the Christian life works; we reach out with a little faith and God blesses us and entrusts us with more. He has given us all that we have. He asks us to give back, generously, from that storehouse of gifts.

That's how St. Philip's came into being. Fifteen families reached out with a little faith, and God blessed their efforts. Others reached out a little more, in faith, and God blessed their efforts too. God is asking us to reach out today, in faith, as we make our pledge to God and to this holy place. He will indeed bless our efforts, and bless them greatly.

I would like to close with a quote that I found in the *Watertown Times*, regarding the restoration of St. Philip's stained glass window, which depicts the Annunciation. This is a quote from your own Mother Kathryn Boswell. She stated in that interview with the *Watertown Times*, "It is not just art; I'm not that into architecture and that kind of thing, but the richness of people's faith was important for them to give," she said. "It's a real gift. It's like touching the people of the past. It gives us continuity through the generations."

All Saints' Day, and New Consecration stewardship Sunday: It seems the perfect blend of recognizing all those who came before us—those who answered God's call to make this place a holy place of God. Now God is calling us to continue in that calling, and give of our own talents and resources to keep this holy place of God, for future generations. In your own hearts and minds, I invite you to respond generously to his call. Amen.

## Our Consecration Sunday Results

A total of 17 giving units (husbands and wives or single persons) completed *Estimate of Giving* cards this year.

A total of 9 of these giving units increased their financial commitment above their last year's amount.

A total of 17 giving units present to fill out *Estimate of Giving* cards today committed a total of \$ 41,860 .

Based on last year's giving records, we can expect to receive an additional \$ 1,040 during the coming year from people who have consistent giving patterns during the past twelve months.

Based on the average total of loose offerings during the past three years, we can expect to receive \$ 400 during the coming year from that source.

Church income from non-donor sources such as interest, rentals, and fees: \$ 9,615 .

Occasional hall use:	\$ <u>200</u>
AA rent:	\$ <u>180</u>
ADIT investment income:	\$ <u>3,835</u>
Thrift Store donation:	\$ <u>2,400</u>
Ladies' Guild:	\$ <u>1,000</u>

This gives us a grand total of \$ 52,915 anticipated income for the next twelve months.

The total income for our general operating budget during the last twelve months was \$ 47,706 .

Next year, we can expect our operating budget income to increase by \$ 5,209 .

This is a 10 percent increase in total giving above last year.

Thank you, thank you, brothers and sisters;  
and thanks to our good God who provides all that we need!

First of all, I would like to thank the Consecration Sunday Committee; Shirley Rookey, Cheryl Woodward, Ann Crump, Helen Harris, and Carroll Boswell for their participation and contributions in making the program a success at St. Philips. Also, thank you to our Mother Kathryn for keeping us on track and being available to answer any questions that came up during the process. Special thanks to Deacon Lora Smith for helping us to understand and implement the steps of the program. We are very thankful to have been able to have Deacon Lora come to St. Philips to be our facilitator. And most of all, thank you to my St. Philip's family for being so open and receptive to the various steps of the Consecration Sunday program. It's always been heartwarming to know that all of us at St. Philips have the same hopes and goals for St. Philips' future, and a desire to keep the church in good financial status for ourselves and future generations to come.

Yours in Christ,  
Irene Hargrave  
Consecration Sunday Chairperson

## Some Family History

Origen was born in Alexandria, Egypt, in 184 AD to Christian parents. His father gave him a standard education but also had him study the Bible. In 202, his father was martyred, probably the same persecution that killed Irenaeus on the other side of the Empire. Devout even as an 18 year old, Origen tried to follow his father in martyrdom, but was prevented when his mother hid his clothes. Their property was confiscated in the persecution and the family of nine was left impoverished. The next year Origen revived the Catechetical School of Alexandria, whose founder Clement had fled during the persecution, and made it a center of Christian education. Teaching throughout the day, he devoted much of the night to the study of the Bible, and lived a life of rigid asceticism.

By 212 the school had outgrown the ability of a single man and Origen entrusted the teaching of new converts to others. He became primarily interested in interpretation of the Bible and so studied Hebrew. In 215, unrest in Alexandria caused Caracalla to let his soldiers plunder the city, shut the schools, and expel all foreigners. Origen left Egypt for Caesarea, where he preached and interpreted the scriptures though not ordained. When the troubles in Alexandria subsided, Origen returned to Alexandria and devoted himself to teaching and writing. He began a huge commentary on the whole Bible, though much of it has been lost.

In 230, after a falling out with his bishop, Origen left Alexandria but the bishop continued to cause him trouble from a distance at every opportunity. He settled in Caesarea. Such was his fame that at one point he was summoned to Antioch to discuss Christian philosophy and doctrine with the mother of the empress.

From 251 to 266 there was an outbreak of plague; at its worst it took 5,000 lives a day in Rome. The Emperor Decius believed it was caused by Christian magic since they refused to recognize him as Divine. This time Origen did not escape. He suffered "bodily tortures and torments under the iron collar and in the dungeon; and how for many days with his feet stretched four spaces in the stocks." Though he did not die under torture, he died three years later, in 254, due to the injuries he sustained.

He was a rigid adherent of scripture as divinely inspired, and on every occasion he opposed the Gnostic teaching of the inferiority of the Old Testament. His teachings on the pre-existence of souls, the final reconciliation of all creatures (including even the devil), and the subordination of the Son of God to God the Father were controversial and later condemned. But Origen was recognized throughout the Empire by pagan and Christian scholars alike as the foremost scholar of his day.

-Carroll

### “We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing”

All are invited to the 2015  
United Thanksgiving Service  
hosted by

**Norwood United Ministries**

at the Norwood First Congregational Church

Tuesday, November 24 at 6:30 p.m.

Join our brothers and sisters of the village of Norwood  
in giving thanks to our gracious God for the blessings and comfort of  
the past year.