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*Romi Sebald      Helen Harris*

*Vestry:*

*Charlie Colbert      Lynn Howe  
Karen Morgan      Sharon Yousey*



*St. Philip's Church*

*Rector's  
Message*



Rev. Kathryn Boswell  
Rector

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*St. Philip's Church  
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**TO:**

# CommonLife

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## *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)

Dear brothers and sisters,

It is late summer now, so it is the perfect time for a garden metaphor! Gardens have always been a big part of our summer life. Summer at the Boswells means sitting on the patio, surrounded by the abundance and sweetness of the fruits of our labors. And, of course, summer also means the labor – of digging and weeding and picking and monitoring the activities of the wildlife that sometimes claims more than its share of the harvest. Perhaps best of all, the summer garden means delicious food, the likes of which is not to be found in the chilly aisles of the grocery store, even in high summer. There is absolutely nothing better than a summertime dinner salad of fresh lettuce and ripe tomatoes and cucumbers and peppers and all kinds of tasty herbs.

But on the hot, dry days of August it often happens that the lettuce begins to taste a little bitter. And there are a few different ways to deal with that problem. We can start buying our lettuce from Perry's or Price Chopper. We can pour on extra salad dressing to cover up that bitter-lettuce aftertaste. Or we can go out to the garden in the cool of the evening and drench the thirsty lettuces right down to the roots with a good, cool shower of water, so that the leaves begin to grow crisp and sweet and bright green again.

There are times in our lives when sorrow and anxiety and responsibility beat down on us like the hottest rays of July sunshine. In those times our spirits droop and our joy gets a little dry and brittle. And in those times we might well find ourselves a little bitter.

Our tendency in such dry times is often to head out in search of something that will take our minds away from our troubles, and help us forget the bitterness for a little while. It is a good and helpful thing to go places and to busy ourselves with things that take us out of ourselves for a time. But real refreshing comes, not by distractions and indulgences, but by drinking deeply of the ever-flowing grace and love of God.

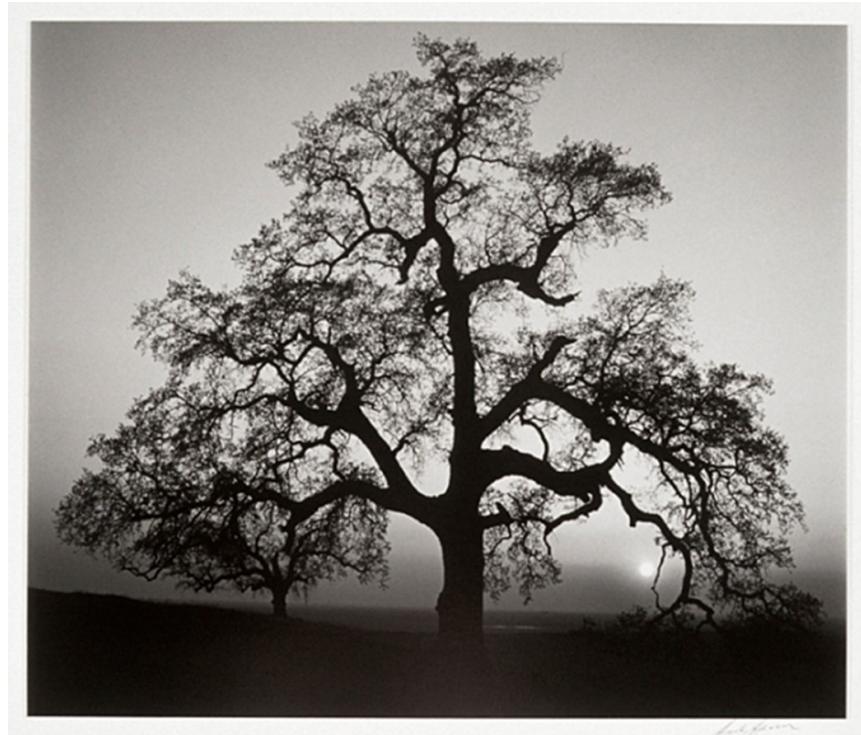
Psalm 1 speaks of the man of God who “is like a tree planted by streams of water, that yields its fruit in season and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does he

prospers." In the most severe droughts of our lives the grace and love of God never dry up, never fail, always run fresh and clear to nourish and restore those whose roots are parched and thirsty.

King David wrote Psalm 52 at a time of danger and intense discouragement, facing hostility and betrayal from his enemies and remorse for the harm he had caused. But his faith in God continued to be his refuge and strength. "I am like a green olive tree in the house of God." he wrote. "I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever. I will thank you forever, because you have done it. I will wait for your name, for it is good, in the presence of the godly." (Ps. 52:8-9)

For all of us who have been feeling the pressures and sorrows of the world beating down hard, I pray that we may have times of real refreshing in the days to come. I pray that we may have time to sit quietly in God's presence in the cool of the evening – or the morning – recalling his words that bring us peace and comfort, and meditating on them. Let's call to mind his faithfulness to us in days past; let's count the blessings of today. Let's drink our fill from the unquenchable fountains of his mercy and forgiveness.

with love,  
Kathryn+



*"O thou lord of life,  
send my roots rain"*

Gerard Manley Hopkins

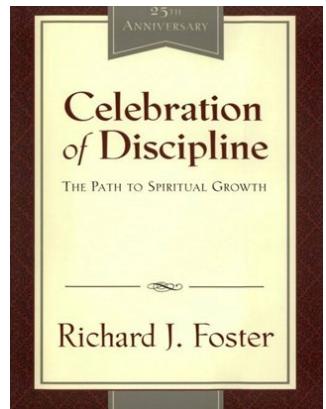
## August 2016

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2 10am Bible Study  Common Cents 10-2pm	3 Holy Eucharist United Helpers Canton 10:30	4 Common Cents 10-2pm Bag Sale	5	6 Common Cents 10-Noon Bag Sale
7 The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost Proper 14 10 am Holy Eucharist	8	9 10:00am Bible Study  Common Cents 10-2pm	10	11 Common Cents 10-2pm	12	13 Common Cents 10-Noon
14 The Thirteenth Sunday of Pentecost Proper 15 10:00 am Holy Eucharist	15	16 10:00am Bible Study  Common Cents 10-2pm	17	18 Common Cents 10-2pm	19	20 Common Cents 10-Noon  2pm Joe Hargrave Ashley Gilbert Wedding
21 The Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost Proper 16 10:00 am Holy Eucharist	22	23 10:00am Bible Study  Common Cents 10-2pm	24	25 Common Cents 10-2pm	26	27 Common Cents 10-Noon
28 The Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost Proper 17 10 am Holy Eucharist	29	30 10:00am Bible Study  Common Cents 10-2pm	31 Holy Eucharist United Helpers Canton 10:30  Community Dinner 5-6:30 pm			



**August Birthdays:**

8th—Sharon Yousey  
 20th—Mtr. Kathryn Boswell  
 Mildred Weaver  
 24th—Cheryl Woodward  
 28th—Janice Casselman



“A farmer is helpless to grow grain; all he can do is provide the right conditions for the growing of grain. He cultivates the ground, he plants the seed, he waters the plants, and then the natural forces of the earth take over and up comes the grain...This is the way it is with the Spiritual Disciplines - they are a way of sowing to the Spirit... By themselves the Spiritual Disciplines can do nothing; they can only get us to the place where something can be done.”

Richard J. Foster, *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*

The Tuesday morning Bible study is coming to the end of our study of Paul's letter to the Romans. It has been a long and wonderful journey. For our next study we have chosen a book that is considered a modern Christian classic, Richard Foster's *Celebration of Discipline*. Discipline doesn't have a very appealing ring to many people, but over the centuries God's people of all denominations have found certain practices and habits, also known as “disciplines”, to be useful in creating an environment in our lives within which God, who is the **only** Creator and source of spiritual growth, can more easily transform us according to his will and plan.

Foster's analogy of the farmer and the growing grain is one that Jesus himself used again and again. In one of Christ's parables, we are only the seed, growing by the grace of the Sower. In another we are only soil, prepared to receive the Sower's implanted word. And yet, although we have no power in ourselves to bring forth life, we do have the ability and the responsibility to participate in the work of the Sower. We can open ourselves to the sun of his love and the rain of his grace. We can seek to cultivate and soften the rocky soil of our hearts. That is the purpose of the Christian disciplines. This study will be an exercise class, an opportunity to work alongside one another as each of us seeks to develop those habits and strengths in ourselves that bring us nearer to the heart of God.

Mtr. K+

**In Brief**

## August Community Dinner

August 31  
 5-6:30

Hot dogs and hamburgers  
 Salads and baked beans  
 Chips and pickles

and for dessert....  
 Ice Cream!



Community Dinner

### A quick update on St. Philip's old Rectory, 6 Prospect St.

This summer we have made slow but steady progress towards our goal of selling the old Rectory on Prospect St. With the help of our wonderful realtor, Nikki Coates, we have secured a buyer. He and his family are ready to move in in August, as soon as the legal paperwork is in order. Our buyer, who is a contractor, has already put a new roof on the house and is proceeding with some other necessary work before he takes possession.

Please pray for the buyer, who has a brand new baby in the family, and for St. Philip's as well, that all will go smoothly for the blessing of all.



## Outreach Update From St. Philip's Vestry

Karen Morgan

As many of you know and observe – because you are part of it all – St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Norwood, NY, has been growing in our role of servant hood. We share many things with our neighbors in Norwood and the surrounding communities:

Common Cents Thrift Shop

Monthly Community Dinners

Neighborhood Center Food Pantry

Head Start

Angel Tree

Seaman's Institute

and most recently, the Norwood Community Summer Lunch Program

I'm not sure this is a complete list; however, this paints a picture of what we are doing in our community.

Last year the Vestry voted that we would use the offerings that the congregation gave in the "Special Envelope" for the various seasons, i.e. Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, and share these gifts with those who could use them: for example, to defray unexpected expenses in a time of crisis, or to help further the sorely underfunded education of preschoolers, readying them for the big adventure of attending school.

Here are a few examples of outreach over the past year, as our members have given of their time, treasure and talents for love of our God and our neighbors.

Half of the money donated to our Community Dinner each month goes directly to benefit the Neighborhood Center and Food Pantry. (the remainder is used to purchase supplies for future dinners.)

In March, a special offering was taken to give to one of St. Philip's families to defray travel costs to the hospital for a major surgery.

We have continued our pledge support to the Lowing Mission of the Community of St. Mary, Malawi, Africa. In addition, when offerings are designated, we have supported Fr. Shaw and Mtr. Julie Midge and the Online Anglican Theological College (OATC).

A dedicated group of women in the church prepared meals to share with the DE LaGrange family when they were going through a very, very difficult period when their beloved wife and mother, Margaret DE LaGrange, was dying of cancer.

The Special Offering for Pentecost was given to the family of little Natalie TeRiele, who is going through back surgery as part of her long recovery from a devastating car accident.

Our Common Cents Thrift Shop was also able to give a gift to Stephanie McKee, the courageous young woman who recently received a double lung transplant and who graduated from high school this spring.

The prayer of St. Francis tells us "it is in giving that we receive." We look forward joyfully to the year ahead, a year even more full of giving and being blessed, remembering the words of our Lord:

*'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'* (Matthew 25:40)